PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
26 January 2009—12 February 2009

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26 January 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 26 January 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Social Work Taskforce

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy, published last month, set our ambition for significant reform in social work to be supported by a Social Work Taskforce. Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I are announcing the full membership and remit for this taskforce.

The Social Work Taskforce will undertake a nuts and bolts review of frontline social work practice and make recommendations for immediate improvements to practice and training as well as long-term change in social work. It will report to both the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and to the Secretary of State for Health.

Social workers carry out highly challenging work, often in extremely difficult circumstances. They have a vital role in protecting children and young people from harm and in supporting adults. Enabling social workers to deliver consistent high quality practice and services is a key priority for this Government. Our ambition is for social work to be a high quality, self-confident profession, with the support and esteem of the public.

The taskforce builds on the Government's significant investment in the workforce over the past 10 years. It also builds on the current investment of over £73 million to improve social work training, induction, practice and recruitment.

The taskforce will be chaired by Moira Gibb, chief executive of Camden Council. Andrew Webb, director of Children's Services, Stockport and Bob Reitemeier, chief executive of the Children's Society will be the deputy chairs. The taskforce will be small and action-focused. It will include individuals with a range of backgrounds and experiences including service user perspectives, frontline social workers, social work leaders and academics. The taskforce will meet for the first time in early February 2009 and will publish findings in summer 2009.

The taskforce will root its work in a thorough review of evidence and will build on Lord Laming's review of safeguarding. It will be crucial that the taskforce listens carefully to the experiences, needs and views of frontline social workers and service users. The taskforce will look at all of the factors that impact on frontline social work practice including a survey of workloads and pressures facing social workers. We have asked the taskforce, as an early priority, to look specifically at the integrated children's system including how it helps to deliver quality support to children and families, procurement and IT issues, how well social workers are supported to use the system and its impact on social worker workloads.

The taskforce will also engage closely with stakeholders including delivery partners, social work employers, unions, providers of social work training and academics to identify the key issues affecting social work practice and to ensure that the taskforce's recommendations will secure excellent frontline practice. It will work in close partnership with the key organisations delivering improvements in social work, including the Children's Workforce Development Council, the General Social Care Council and Skills for Care.

We are very grateful to the people listed below for agreeing to be members of the taskforce and contributing to this important work.

Chair

Moira Gibb, CBE, Chief Executive, Camden Borough Council

Deputy Chairs

Andrew Webb, Corporate Director, Children and Young People, Stockport

Metropolitan Borough Council

Bob Reitemeier, Chief Executive, The Children's Society

Members

Celia Atherton OBE, Founder and Chief Executive of Research in Practice

Anne Beales, Director of Service User Involvement, Together—Working forWellbeing

Kim Bromley-Derry, Director of Children's Services, Newham

Sue Butcher, Head of Children and Young People's Services, Gloucestershire

Richard Jones, Director of Adult Services, Lancashire

Diane Mallett, Senior Social Work practitioner, Barnsley Adult Social Services

Helga Pile, National Officer for Social Care, Unison

James Riley, Director of Adult Services, Hammersmith and Fulham

Bridget Robb, Professional Officer, British Association of Social Workers

Deidre Sanders, Agony Aunt: The Sun

Professor Sue White, Professor of Social Work, Lancaster University

Neil Wragg MBE, Chief Executive Officer, Youth at Risk

Maxine Wrigley MBE, National Coordinator, Voice

I am placing in the House Library copies of list of the full membership and remit for the Social Work Taskforce.

ContactPoint

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I can confirm to the House that the first steps to activate the Government's online directory of children's services—ContactPoint—will begin today.

ContactPoint, developed in response to a key recommendation of the Laming inquiry into the tragic death of Victoria Climbié, is a directory to support better communication among practitioners across education, health, social care and youth offending in the statutory and voluntary sectors. It will provide a quick way for those practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person. It is a vital tool to help keep children safe because it is absolutely crucial the right agencies are involved at the right time and get even better at sharing information. And it will also help practitioners to improve outcomes for all children.

Under current child safeguarding arrangements, if a professional believes a child is at risk they may have no immediate way of knowing whether other services are already in contact with that child. The Government believe a fully operational system could save at least 5 million hours of professionals' time, currently wasted trying to track down who else, if anyone, is helping the child.

The first stage of delivery of ContactPoint will enable 19 early adopter organisations—17 local authorities in the north-west of England and two national voluntary sector partners, Barnardo's and KIDS—to train their ContactPoint management teams. It also allows all local authorities to start to shield a small proportion of records on ContactPoint. This additional precautionary measure is appropriate for records of children who are at risk of significant harm. These might include children with particular vulnerable circumstances, such as children from families on witness protection schemes, or where one parent has been the victim of domestic abuse, or in certain cases where the child has been adopted.

These are significant steps on the journey to making ContactPoint fully available. We are taking a steady and incremental approach to implementation, ensuring we evaluate as we progress and adapt our approach if required.

No information on children's cases will be held on ContactPoint and it will not be possible to download content. It is a simple online tool containing:

minimal identifying information for each child in England: name, address, date of birth, gender, and contact details for parents or carers. Each child will also have a unique identifying number;

contact details for the child's educational setting and GP practice and for other practitioners or services working with the child; and

an indication as to whether a service or practitioner holds an assessment under the common assessment framework, or whether they are a lead professional for that child.

Security is of paramount importance. We have put in place comprehensive arrangements to prevent inappropriate access to the information on the system and ongoing security will remain a priority.

ContactPoint is backed by major children's organisations, such as Barnardo's and Action for Children, teachers' unions like NASUWT as well as the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Children's Inter-agency Group whose members include NSPCC, the LGA and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

I will provide an update to Parliament in the spring.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Severn Tidal Power

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Further to the launch of the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study in January 2008, I am pleased to inform the House that the Government have today issued a public consultation on the conclusions of the first phase of the study.

The huge, renewable resource of the Severn estuary tides is a means of generating nearly 5 per cent. of UK electricity. It can contribute to meeting the UK's renewable energy targets and the progressive decarbonisation of our electricity supply. But Severn tidal power must be considered in the wider context of alternative options as well as its impact on the environment and the economy. Energy saving, and other low carbon and renewable sources of supply are all means of achieving our goals. The consultation makes the comparison to these alternatives.

Tidal power development in the Severn estuary has benefits, costs, and risks and the consultation paper sets out a provisional assessment of these, in order to promote an open public debate. Studies by external consultants are published today alongside the consultation paper, including technical and engineering assessments, advice on financing and ownership structures, an assessment of regional economic impacts, and initial studies on environmental impacts.

The consultation seeks views on:

the process used to move from a long list of potential schemes (following a call for proposals last summer) to a short list of feasible schemes;

the proposed issues for further investigation by the feasibility study, including the scope of strategic environmental assessment

the proposed shortlist of:

1. *Shoots Barrage*—(1.05GW scheme located downstream of the new Severn road crossing with an estimated construction cost of £3.2 billion)
2. *Beachley Barrage*—(625MW scheme further upstream of the first Severn road bridge with an estimated cost of construction of £2.3 billion)
3. *Bridgwater Bay Lagoon*—(1.36GW impoundment on the English side of the Estuary with an estimated construction cost of £3.8 billion)
4. *Fleming Lagoon*—(1.36GW impoundment on the Welsh bank of the estuary with an estimated construction cost of £4.0 billion)
5. *Cardiff-Weston (Lavernock Point to Brean Down) Barrage* (8.64GW scheme, commonly known as the "Severn Barrage", with an estimated cost of construction of £20.9 billion)

The Government are keen to continue to consider other innovative schemes. However some of those that have been submitted to the feasibility study are not sufficiently developed at this point for more detailed evaluation. We hope to see these develop further with the benefit of Government financial support and new public funding of £500,000 is being made available (in addition to existing support) to speed their development. The Government will consider their progress alongside shortlisted schemes before taking decisions on Severn tidal power generation.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries and are also available at: http://severntidalpowerconsultation.decc.gov.uk. The consultation period is 26 January to 23 April 09.

I expect to hold a further public consultation at the end of the feasibility study, probably in 2010, to seek public views on whether Government could support a Severn tidal power scheme and if so on what terms. This will include considering the development of alternatives to the shortlisted scheme which are not currently sufficiently technically developed for further evaluation. The option remains open not to proceed with any scheme.

A meeting of the Severn tidal power Parliamentary Forum is being held at 5.00pm this afternoon in the large Ministerial meeting room.

HEALTH

Written Answer (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I regret that the written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 178W, was incorrect with respect to the 2009-10 weighted capitation targets per weighted head provided in the third column in the table. The correct information is as follows:

Table: 2009-10 weighted capitation targets per unweighted and weighted person by primary care trust (PCT)

PCT	*Weighted capitation target per unweighted head* £	*Weighted capitation target per weighted head* £
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,757	1,535
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,810	1,535
Barnet PCT	1,444	1,572
Barnsley PCT	1,877	1,548
Bassetlaw PCT	1,673	1,535
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,288	1,546
Bedfordshire PCT	1,340	1,535
Berkshire East PCT	1,315	1,535
Berkshire West PCT	1,235	1,537
Bexley Care Trust	1,488	1,535
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,713	1,542
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,719	1,535
Blackpool PCT	1,938	1,539
Bolton PCT	1,714	1,539
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	1,548	1,542
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	1,598	1,535
Brent Teaching PCT	1,629	1,553
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,572	1,541
Bristol PCT	1,485	1,544
Bromley PCT	1,405	1,535
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,260	1,535
Bury PCT	1,578	1,535
Calderdale PCT	1,531	1,544
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,314	1,549
Camden PCT	1,610	1,535
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1,419	1,537
Central Lancashire PCT	1,571	1,543
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2,009	1,535
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,586	1,539
County Durham PCT	1,826	1,545
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,622	1,542
Croydon PCT	1,494	1,539
Cumbria Teaching PCT	1,572	1,538
Darlington PCT	1,651	1,542
Derby City PCT	1,562	1,540
Derbyshire County PCT	1,589	1,539
Devon PCT	1,454	1,539
Doncaster PCT	1,775	1,547
Dorset PCT	1,497	1,535
Dudley PCT	1,592	1,540
Ealing PCT	1,557	1,535
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,366	1,546
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,672	1,535
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	1,464	1,535
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,497	1,535
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,576	1,535
Enfield PCT	1,569	1,535
Gateshead PCT	1,840	1,540
Gloucestershire PCT	1,378	1,535
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,649	1,535
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,727	1,535
Halton and St Helens PCT	1,837	1,549
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,625	1,535
Hampshire PCT	1,335	1,540
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,706	1,540
Harrow PCT	1,439	1,535
Hartlepool PCT	1,860	1,543
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,720	1,535
Havering PCT	1,572	1,535
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,639	1,542
Herefordshire PCT	1,489	1,548
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,743	1,535
Hillingdon PCT	1,451	1,535
Hounslow PCT	1,539	1,535
Hull Teaching PCT	1,689	1,535
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1,651	1,535
Islington PCT	1,913	1,551
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,377	1,535
Kingston PCT	1,242	1,535
Kirklees PCT	1,536	1,535
Knowsley PCT	2,020	1,535
Lambeth PCT	1,731	1,535
Leeds PCT	1,506	1,535
Leicester City PCT	1,649	1,543
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,327	1,543
Lewisham PCT	1,678	1,545
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,553	1,546
Liverpool PCT	2,007	1,543
Luton PCT	1,553	1,550
Manchester PCT	1,889	1,548
Medway PCT	1,456	1,535
Mid Essex PCT	1,316	1,535
Middlesbrough PCT	1,819	1,541
Milton Keynes PCT	1,360	1,546
Newcastle PCT	1,719	1,541
Newham PCT	1,963	1,595
Norfolk PCT	1,505	1,546
North East Essex PCT	1,561	1,542
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	1,595	1,535
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,599	1,535
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,561	1,535

PCT	*Weighted capitation target per unweighted head* £	*Weighted capitation target per weighted head* £
North Somerset PCT	1,464	1,552
North Staffordshire PCT	1,586	1,535
North Tyneside PCT	1,697	1,539
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,380	1,535
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	1,379	1,535
Northumberland Care Trust	1,635	1,539
Nottingham City PCT	1,638	1,541
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1,538	1,543
Oldham PCT	1,715	1,535
Oxfordshire PCT	1,261	1,538
Peterborough PCT	1,539	1,572
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,602	1,568
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,485	1,542
Redbridge PCT	1,512	1,535
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,777	1,540
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,215	1,535
Rotherham PCT	1,758	1,544
Salford PCT	1,879	1,549
Sandwell PCT	1,821	1,540
Sefton PCT	1,747	1,535
Sheffield PCT	1,619	1,542
Shropshire County PCT	1,469	1,539
Solihull Care Trust	1,404	1,545
Somerset PCT	1,461	1,541
South Birmingham PCT	1,664	1,542
South East Essex PCT	1,534	1,535
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,260	1,548
South Staffordshire PCT	1,480	1,541
South Tyneside PCT	1,849	1,535
South West Essex PCT	1,492	1,535
Southampton City PCT	1,504	1,542
Southwark PCT	1,755	1,535
Stockport PCT	1,483	1,535
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	1,585	1,541
Stoke on Trent PCT	1,845	1,535
Suffolk PCT	1,382	1,541
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,873	1,535
Surrey PCT	1,282	1,536
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,384	1,535
Swindon PCT	1,433	1,559
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,709	1,535
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,540	1,553
Torbay Care Trust	1,725	1,548
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,917	1,546
Trafford PCT	1,476	1,540
Wakefield District PCT	1,771	1,540
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,734	1,540
Waltham Forest PCT	1,700	1,535
Wandsworth PCT	1,482	1,535
Warrington PCT	1,509	1,545
Warwickshire PCT	1,427	1,535
West Essex PCT	1,447	1,552
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,348	1,542
West Kent PCT	1,376	1,538
West Sussex PCT	1,438	1,537
Western Cheshire PCT	1,493	1,544
Westminster PCT	1,452	1,535
Wiltshire PCT	1,321	1,535
Wirral PCT	1,787	1,538
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,764	1,541
Worcestershire PCT	1,431	1,539
England	1,540	1,540

Cross-border Health Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The House of Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee published its interim report "The provision of cross-border health services for Wales" on 10 July 2008. We are today laying before Parliament the Command Paper (Cm 7531) setting out the Government response to the report.

We have carefully considered the Committee's interim report. The Command Paper discusses the wider context of cross-border health care, including arrangements to co-ordinate service provision, the commissioning, funding and quality of services, and provides the additional information requested by the Committee.

The Government agree with the Committee that the border between England and Wales does not represent a barrier to the provision of health care. The core principles of the national health service continue to apply across the UK and an inevitable and healthy consequence of devolution has been some divergence in health policy between England and Wales.

The Government and the Welsh Assembly Government operate a protocol whereby responsibility for a patient who lives on one side of the border and is registered with a GP on the other can be determined. The protocol has been renewed annually and is currently in place until April 2009. It is supported by an annual transfer of funds from the Department of Health to the Welsh Assembly Government to cover the costs of providing secondary care for the greater number of patients who live in England but have a GP in Wales. Negotiations on the renewal of the protocol are almost complete.

JUSTICE

Victims Champion

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Home Secretary, the Attorney-General and I are today pleased to announce the appointment of Sara Payne MBE as Victims' Champion.

The role of Victims' Champion will be to:

listen to the views and concerns of victims and witnesses

represent the views of victims' and witnesses to Ministers, Government officials and in the media challenge criminal justice agencies to further reform their practices in relation to victims and witnesses.

The Victims' Champion will be a new, time limited appointment for one year to ensure continuing focus on victims' issues while Parliament considers proposals in the Coroners and Justice Bill in relation to the separate office of Victims and Witnesses Commissioner. That Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 14 January.

After the murder of her daughter Sarah, Ms Payne started a campaign to change the way in which sex offenders were dealt with and supervised in the community. Ms Payne has since worked closely with the Home Office on increasing the right of public access to information about known sex offenders.

Ms Payne was also instrumental in establishing the Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) which ensures that a risk management plan is drawn up for the most serious offenders.

Ms Payne currently delivers training to specially trained police family liaison officers and has recently been awarded an MBE for her services to protection and work with Phoenix.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 27 January 2009

TREASURY

Finance Bill (Manufactured Interest)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Legislation will be introduced in the next Finance Bill to prevent a recent decision of the High Court from affecting the tax treatment of real payments of manufactured interest. The legislation will ensure that tax treatment follows the treatment of the payments in company accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice ("GAAP").

The recent High Court case involved the tax treatment of deemed manufactured payments, but the decision cast doubt on the tax treatment of real manufactured payments for both payers and recipients. The decision could result in payers being able to claim additional deductions for tax purposes that bear no relation to their economic position, and recipients being taxable on amounts in excess of their actual income.

Before the High Court decision, the tax treatment of real payments of manufactured interest had never been questioned. To ensure the decision does not have adverse consequences either for the Exchequer or for taxpayers this legislation will apply to past payments relating to open accounting periods as well as to payments made on or after today, and will ensure that existing practice is followed.

The legislation will not apply to deemed manufactured interest (which was the subject of the High Court case) treated as paid before today. Unlike actual payments, the tax treatment of deemed payments has been in doubt for some time. Accordingly for deemed payments the legislation will apply only to payments made on or after today.

A copy of the draft legislation together with draft explanatory notes and full background material will be published today on HMRC's website.

DEFENCE

Military Training (Dartmoor National Park)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) and I wish to make the following statement:

Military training takes place within part of the Dartmoor National Park under the terms of a licence granted by the land owner, the Duchy of Cornwall. The current 21-year licence is due to end in 2012. The Ministry of Defence wishes to continue to use this land to deliver military training for the Royal Marines and other armed forces based principally in the south-west of England.

The Government have a duty to ensure that the armed forces are provided with first class training facilities. The rugged terrain and at times hostile weather of Dartmoor provides an ideal environment in which service personnel, particularly Royal Marines, can acquire and maintain skills that enable them to carry out difficult and dangerous tasks across the world.

Our two Departments agreed that prior to the renegotiation of the licence, the Ministry of Defence would establish that there is a continuing need for military training on Dartmoor and that the land would continue to be managed in a sustainable manner. Two separate assessments of military need both concluded that there was a long-term defence requirement and that no suitable alternative land was available within mainland UK. An environmental assessment carried out by independent consultants in 2006-07 considered the economic, social and environmental effects of continued military use at current permitted levels. The reports identify that defence use is carried out in a sustainable manner and with regard to national park purposes. Accordingly, we agree that the licence renegotiation can proceed in order to put in place a licence for a further 21-year period.

In support of the Ministry of Defence's continuing use of the estate for that period, DEFRA has asked the Ministry of Defence to provide a report at the mid-point which would be a stocktake of the training area's environmental management system, which includes environmental management tools and monitoring, usage data and public access. It will not include a further justification of continuing military need. During the stocktake the Ministry of Defence will consult with relevant stakeholders.

In coming to this decision, both Ministers have taken into account the ongoing constructive engagement of the Ministry of Defence in improving public access to, and the environmental conservation of Dartmoor. DEFRA looks forward to the Ministry of Defence building on its record of support for national park purposes and for local communities through the sustainable management of the Dartmoor estate.

We confirm that the Dartmoor Steering Group, which is sponsored by both Departments, will continue to act as the best forum for reconciliation of the requirements of military training, conservation and public access and take forward the good work that has already been undertaken under its auspices.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New Nuclear Power Stations

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 83WS, the then then Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton) announced the publication of a consultation document on the Strategic Siting Assessment process and criteria for new nuclear power stations and an accompanying environmental study.

A year on from the Nuclear White Paper I am pleased to announce today the publication of the Government response to the consultation and study, which sets out the process for taking forward the siting of new nuclear power stations.

The Strategic Siting Assessment (SSA) is a process for identifying and assessing sites that are strategically suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power stations by the end of 2025. The SSA will provide an opportunity for the Government to assess the suitability of nominated sites at the national level. Sites that have been assessed as being suitable will be listed on the Nuclear National

Policy Statement (NPS), which will provide guidance to the forthcoming Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

The Government response contains an outline of the key themes that arose from the consultation on the SSA process and criteria, and the environmental study in relation to the criteria, together with the Government's response and the finalised criteria. It also summarises comments on the habitats screening report and the Government's response. The screening report was not the subject of public consultation. Views were instead sought from interested parties.

In response to points made in the consultation, the Government response contains guidance to nominators who wish to nominate a site to be assessed within the SSA, and a nomination form. Nominations to the SSA are due by 31 March 2009.

The Government will publish nominations and the public will have a month to give the Government their initial comments, prior and in addition to public consultation later in the year.

The assessment will be made by Government using the advice of specialists including regulators and others. The output of the SSA will be a draft list of the sites that Government have assessed to be strategically suitable, and these will form a key component of the draft Nuclear NPS, which will undergo public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny.

Today's announcement underlines the Government's commitment to the development of new nuclear capacity and maintains the necessary momentum towards our climate change and energy security goals.

Copies of the Government response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses immediately following publication.

Nuclear Regulatory Review

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): In January 2008, following publication of the White Paper on Nuclear Power the Government asked Dr. Tim Stone to conduct a review of nuclear regulation. Dr. Stone has now reported his findings, and today, 27 January 2009, we publish the recommendations of his review and the Government's response.

Dr. Stone agrees with the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency's conclusion that the UK's nuclear regulatory arrangements are mature and transparent, with highly trained and experienced inspectors. However, in the context of a rapidly changing nuclear environment, Dr. Stone was asked to provide a comprehensive assessment of the nuclear regulators' immediate and longer-term needs. He recommends that in the short-term that the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) should have greater ability to recruit effectively in order to meet the short-term challenges of new build, such as generic design assessment, alongside the work on existing installations. Dr. Stone recommends that in the medium term, the NII and the wider nuclear directorate of the HSE be structured to give it greater financial and organisational flexibility so that it can remain a world-class regulator.

In response to Dr. Stone's proposals, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Work and Pensions recognise that the NII, in order to meet its challenges, will need additional resources to boost recruitment and retention of staff and the recommendations are targeted at improving this. We have worked with colleagues at the Department for Work and Pensions, and at HM Treasury, to put the appropriate facilities in place to ensure that effective recruitment and retention measures can be taken. The Government also recognise that the organisation needs greater operational and financial flexibility within the auspices of the HSE to meet the challenges of nuclear regulation into the future. To this effect, the Government expect to bring forward legislative proposals that will address these issues.

Copies of the Dr. Stone's summary recommendations and the Government's response are today placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Prospects for the European Union in 2009

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper on Prospects for the European Union in 2009. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. Additional copies can also be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

This Command Paper provides an overview of the priorities of the Czech presidency for the first half of 2009, as set out in their Work Programme, which is available at: www.eu2009.cz. Under the overarching theme of "Europe without Barriers", the Czech presidency will focus on three key priorities: the economy, energy policy and "Europe in the world".

The top priority for the Czech presidency is the EU's response to the financial crisis. The presidency will promote market liberalisation as a fundamental means of boosting growth and competitiveness and thereby meeting the challenges of the economic downturn. The UK will work closely with the presidency to drive forward timely and targeted measures to lessen the impact of the downturn on families and businesses across Europe. A concerted and co-ordinated European approach will deliver a far greater impact on jobs and growth in each country than that which any country could achieve by acting alone.

In order to develop the foundations for the EU's long-term energy security, the UK will work with the Czech presidency to hasten progress towards a well functioning internal market, the diversification of supply and the promotion of energy efficiency. Following the historic agreement on the 2020 climate package at the December European Council 2008, the presidency will also maintain the momentum on international negotiations in the run up to the United Nations framework convention on climate change in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The Czech presidency has a varied external agenda, including a strong focus on the eastern partnership and the western Balkans. The UK fully supports the presidency in its commitment to strengthen co-operation between the EU and eastern Europe and the Caucasus. The presidency has also committed to holding summits with key partners including the US and Pakistan. The UK will be working closely with the Czech Republic to carry forward agreed priorities with these and other key international partners.

HEALTH

Autism

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I wrote to a number of hon. Members in response to their letters regarding the Autism Bill. In my response, I set out details of section 64 funding my Department has provided for the National Autistic Society's project "Brighter Horizons, Moving Towards Employment". Funding has been committed over three years.

Due to an administrative error, I regret that the amount of funding was given incorrectly. The figures quoted in that letter should have read: £49,600 was provided in 2007-08, £50,500 will be provided in 2008-09, and £56,300 in 2009-10.

Personal Expenses Allowance

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): There have been calls by a number of organisations for us to significantly increase the level of the personal expenses allowance (PEA). The PEA is the amount that people whose care in a care home is arranged by a local authority are allowed to keep for personal expenditure on items not covered by the local authority contract.

The PEA was introduced in 1948 and since then successive Governments have taken steps to ensure it has maintained its value. We had undertaken to consult to seek views on whether the existing level of PEA is appropriate, in order to inform consideration of the future of the level of the PEA.

My priority is to transform the adult social care system to ensure people have greater independence, choice and control over their lives. In December 2007 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health announced an extra £520 million of ring-fenced funding to transform social care over the next three years through the introduction of personal care budgets.

My aim is to focus finite social care resources on measures to extend services, improve the quality of care, and protect service users from abuse and neglect because these are what we see as the greater priorities. Work we have undertaken, so far, to achieve this includes:

the dignity in care campaign, to make compassion in care one of the core values of the NHS and social care;

work to develop the first ever national dementia strategy, to improve awareness and diagnosis of dementia and improve the quality of care for people with dementia;

the "No Secrets" consultation about how society enables adults to be safe from abuse or harm;

"Valuing People Now—A Three-year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities", which aims to improve services for people with learning disabilities across health, housing, employment and community care services, to ensure they get the healthcare they need and the support they want to live the healthy lives and give them more choice an opportunity; and

extending the scope of the Human Rights Act to cover people receiving publicly arranged care in care homes.

The need to use finite resources to maximum benefit has removed any possibility of an increase to PEA of more than the annual uprating in line with average earnings.

I have, therefore, decided not to consult on the level of the PEA. A part 1 equality impact assessment relating to this decision has been placed in the Library and is available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Residentialcare/index.htm

We are committed to reforming the care and support system. The forthcoming Green Paper on the future of care and support will consider how care should be funded in the future; some different systems for funding and delivery may not include the need for a PEA.

The estimated cost of raising PEA to £40 a week, as some organisations are calling for, is £250 million pounds a year. None of this extra expenditure would increase the availability choice or quality of care services or support the transformation of adult social care provision which must be our priority for the future.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 28 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Chair Appointment (Royal Mail Holdings)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Lord Mandelson has made the following statement:

> I am pleased to announce today the appointment of Donald Brydon CBE as the new Chairman of Royal Mail Holdings plc. He will take up his appointment in March 2009. Donald Brydon is currently Chairman of Smiths Group plc and the London Metal Exchange. He will be joining the Royal Mail Holdings Board as a non-executive director prior to taking up his appointment as Chairman.

TREASURY

Child Poverty

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): The Treasury, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Department for Work and Pensions are today publishing a consultation document on proposals to legislate on the Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Every child deserves the best start in life. Where children grow up on low income, suffering either material deprivation or falling too far behind their peers, they can be disadvantaged throughout their lives. Child poverty doubled in the 20 years from the late 1970s to the mid 1990s, leaving far too many British children deprived of important opportunities in life.

That is why in 1999 the Government set an ambitious target to end child poverty in a generation. This commitment has already driven considerable progress across Government. The number of children in absolute poverty has halved and 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty to date. Had the Government done nothing other than simply uprate the tax and benefit system, there would have been 2 million more children in relative poverty than there are today.

All families have benefited from increases in support since 1997; households with children are on average £2,100 better off in 2009-10 and families with children in the poorest fifth of the population are £4,400 better off as a result of personal tax and benefit changes.

But too many children still suffer from poverty or disadvantage. That is why we have committed to enshrine in legislation our historic pledge to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The consultation document outlines how the Government will use primary and secondary legislation to set a framework for achieving the Government's 2020 aims, including setting targets for the future. It will also set a requirement for Government to report annually on progress. Improved accountability and a clear and comprehensive definition of progress will provide a platform for a renewed approach to break the cycle of poverty.

We believe that tackling child poverty and confirming our commitment to ending child poverty by 2020 is even more important during difficult economic times. Giving families real help now is important to help people deal with the challenges from the global credit crunch. But it is also about preventing the kind of long-term unemployment and worklessness caused by past recessions, which scarred communities and pushed up child poverty across the country.

The Government are determined that no child is left behind, and we create a fairer society for the future. This requires ensuring that all children have a good start in life and that the causes and consequences of poverty are tackled.

The consultation document sets out the four key elements of the child poverty strategy:

> more parents in work that pays and allows them to balance work and family life;
>
> financial support that is responsive to families' situations;
>
> improvements in children's life chances so that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor outcomes; and
>
> safe, cohesive communities that support children to thrive.

Alongside this document the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families is publishing "Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare", and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is publishing "Realising Potential: Developing Personalised Conditionality and Support". A discussion paper on next steps in implementing the Gregg review".

Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am today announcing the publication of a new, cross-government strategy document "Next steps for early learning and childcare: building on the 10-Year Strategy" for England.

Five years into our 10-Year Strategy, it is the right time to take stock, identify and address new and future challenges as we move progressively towards the establishment of early learning and childcare as a modern, universal public service for all families.

We have come a long way in delivering on the agenda that we set ourselves in 2004. Thanks to hard work across the sector, parents now have access to more flexible, affordable and better quality early learning and childcare than ever before, and many more families are benefiting from new rights and services. It will take time for the children who have had these opportunities to demonstrate the long-term benefits, but there are already signs that changes could help promote the social mobility of future generations. The latest foundation stage profile results show that 21,000 more children achieved a good level of development at age 5 than the previous year. And the lowest achievers are starting to catch up; the gap between their achievement and their peers has narrowed for the first time.

We are determined to keep improving early learning and childcare because these are crucial long-term investments. Good quality early learning and childcare is vital for ensuring all children, but especially the most disadvantaged, reach their full potential. It supports parents into employment—which is the best way out of poverty. And it relieves the time and emotional pressures that families face in balancing work and home life. In a time of global economic downturn, where parents face increased financial and emotional pressures, these priorities are as important as ever.

Alongside the recent New Opportunities White Paper, this document sets out some clear commitments and firm proposals. In other areas we have identified the case for action and need to develop plans through discussion and consultation. We want this to be the beginning of a wider conversation with parents, people who work in the sector, providers, agencies, children and local government—about how we can meet these challenges. That is why, the Government are also launching today a consultation on our plans to enshrine our historic goal of eradicating child poverty into law—"Ending Child Poverty: Making it Happen"—and publishing a discussion paper on a new framework to help many more parents with younger children and employment and support allowance claimants to prepare for work—"Personalised Conditionality And Support", the Gregg review.

We will place copies of the document "Next Steps in Early Learning and Childcare" in the Libraries of both Houses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Metropolitan Police Commissioner

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of Sir Paul Stephenson QPM as the next Metropolitan Police Commissioner. I made my recommendation to Her Majesty having regard to the recommendations made to me by the Metropolitan Police Authority and representations from the Mayor of London.

Sir Paul has a strong track record of delivery and a clear vision for leading the Metropolitan Police Service and delivering for the public both in London and nationally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Consultative Group on the Past (Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Consultative Group on the Past will today be publishing a report, setting out the conclusions from the group's work on how Northern Ireland society can best address the legacy of the events of the past 40 years in order to help continue to build a successful shared future.

The Government recognise the huge importance of this work and welcome the independent report. Dealing effectively with the legacy of the past is one of the most demanding issues facing Northern Ireland today. It is of fundamental importance to the people of Northern Ireland as we find a way to build a shared future which avoids being overwhelmed by the past.

The group has listened to a wide range of differing voices with great care and sensitivity. I am grateful to Lord Eames and Denis Bradley, and to all the members of the group for their work. The Government commend the group for its integrity and commitment.

The report makes a number of recommendations to which British and Irish Governments, and other stakeholders, will need to give very detailed and careful consideration. These are important issues. We all need to reflect carefully on the proposals.

I would also thank all those organisations, community groups and individuals who engaged with the work of the group over the past 18 months.

I have arranged to have copies of the group's report placed in both Libraries of the Houses of Parliament.

TRANSPORT

RTFO Levels (Response to Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): My noble Friend Lord Adonis, the Minister of State for the Department for Transport has made the following ministerial statement:

> I have today published the Government's response to part one of the consultation on the draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009, (including the addendum to the consultation). The consultation, which closed on 17 December 2008, sought views on provisions to slow down the rate at which the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) increases year on year as recommended by the Gallagher review, adding two new renewable fuels to those eligible for RTFO certificates and revising the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil.
>
> Having considered the responses received to the consultation, the Government continue to believe that there is a need to progress with caution with regard to obligation levels.
>
> The Government have now decided to introduce legislation setting an obligation level for 2009-10 of 3.25 per cent., which is 0.25 per cent. higher than the Gallagher recommendation, and thereafter maintaining the planned increases in line with the Gallagher recommendations to reach 5 per cent. in 2013-14. A draft order to amend the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (2007/3072 will be laid in Parliament shortly and will be subject to the affirmative procedure. It is our intention that if the order completes the necessary stages it will be made in time to come into force at the start of the next obligation year in April 2009.
>
> Our decision on next year's obligation level takes into account the views expressed in response to the consultation. In particular this decision reflects concerns about the effects of the discrepancy in the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil in the 2007 order. That definition excludes any fossil fuel which is blended with renewable fuel before the duty point. The result is that less fossil fuel than was intended is taken into account in calculating suppliers' obligations, and therefore less renewable fuel is required to be supplied than was intended. My earlier statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 67WS explained the background behind this issue.
>
> We intend that the draft amendment order will contain provision to revise the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil for the next obligation period. To avoid problems with retrospective effect, we are not proposing that the amendment should purport to have

effect for the current obligation period which started in April last year. The full effect of the discrepancy issue on the volume of biofuel supplied in the first obligation year (2008-09) will not be known until after the end of this year. Our intention is that by setting this level the overall amounts of biofuel supplied in the first two years are still broadly consistent with the Gallagher recommendations; that is, 5.5 per cent. (2.5% + 3%).

We also intend to add both biobutanol and renewable diesel to the renewable fuels eligible for certificates under the scheme and these fuels will be defined as they are in the draft order included in the consultation document. We will continue to keep the fuels covered by the scheme under review in light of emerging new technologies.

In looking forward, under the renewable energy directive (RED) the UK will be required by 2020 to meet a target of 10 per cent. renewable energy in transport. Our current mechanism for delivering renewable energy in this sector is the RTFO. The Government intend to consult later this year about the further amendment of the RTFO that will take these commitments into account, including the trajectories of the UK targets, and further work on the sustainability of biofuels. This will form part of Government policy as we draw up our renewable energy strategy and action plan for meeting the UK's 2020 renewable energy target, which needs to be submitted to the European Commission during 2010. We will be engaging with stakeholders throughout this process to draw on their views and experience.

Copies of the Government's response to part one of the consultation (including the addendum) have been placed in the Library of the House and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The Government's response to part two of the consultation, which sought views on longer term issues concerning the future transposition of the renewable energy directive and the fuel quality directive, will be published in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Gregg Review

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): In December 2008 Professor Paul Gregg published his review on the effectiveness of the balance of expectations and support for working age benefit claimants. This was entitled "Realising Potential: A Vision for Personalised Conditionality and Support". Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Today my department is publishing a discussion paper setting out further details about how it intends to take forward the recommendations of that review to help many more parents with younger children and employment and support allowance claimants to prepare for work.

We believe that developing the 'Progression to Work' approach, proposed by the Gregg Review, will support families, promote employment and help eradicate child poverty. Therefore this discussion paper outlines our latest thinking on how this approach will be designed and tested out. The framework we plan to establish is one where more claimants:

Actively engage with their adviser on an ongoing basis;

Consider, discuss and agree an Action Plan comprising activities they think will improve their prospects of moving back into work; and

Undertake these agreed work preparation activities as part of their own journey towards employment.

This means creating a model where advisers have the necessary skills and capabilities to encourage claimants to co-own, co-produce and take responsibility for their journey back to work.

We want to test the full model proposed by Professor Gregg of higher support and expectations. Because we know that the availability of childcare is so central to enabling parents to realise their aspirations for paid work, we will pay for any additional childcare that claimants need to carry out their action plan. We will also test out whether offering an improved financial incentive for parents to try out work supports them make the full transition from benefits to work.

The current Welfare Reform Bill aims to create the necessary legislation for this approach, initially through a series of pathfinders, subject to parliamentary approval. These pathfinders will cover around a fifth of new and existing ESA claimants and a similar proportion of parents with younger children. Parents with a youngest child aged between one and two will be expected to engage with an adviser and agree an action plan, but undertaking work preparation activities will be voluntary.

This paper is aimed at stakeholder organisations and other interested parties to enable further, more detailed discussions to take place as we move through policy development towards implementation.

Copies of "Realising Potential: developing personalised conditionality and support: A discussion paper on next steps in implementing the Gregg Review" will be placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 29 January 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

National Curriculum Tests

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): In my response to Lord Sutherland's report into the delivery of National Curriculum tests for 2008. I gave a commitment to provide the Government's response to his report by the end of January. The Schools Minister and I are giving evidence to the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee on Wednesday 4 February. We have now received the Qualification and Curriculum Authority's action plan following Lord Sutherland's report. We will publish this, alongside the Government's response to Lord Sutherland's report, in advance of that hearing.

Youth Alcohol Consultation

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The Secretary of State for Health, and I are today announcing a 12-week consultation on proposed guidance, advice and information on alcohol consumption by children and young people. This consultation is on two documents that are aimed at reaching all parents, children and young people under 18 as well as health, education and children's services professionals: the first is new guidance by the chief medical officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, on the consumption of alcohol by children and young people; the second contains the Government's initial ideas for the supporting advice and information for parents and young people in the light of the independent medical guidance.

The number of young people who drink is decreasing, but those who do drink are drinking more, more often and at a younger age. Young people who drink regularly are more likely to put their health at risk and get into trouble by getting involved in anti-social behaviour or dropping out of school. We also know that there is a strong link between young people's drinking and unprotected sex, which can lead to unplanned pregnancies.

We want to reduce the damage that young people, families and the community experience as a result of youth drinking. That is why we launched the Youth Alcohol Action Plan in June 2008 containing firm proposals to tackle the problems of young people drinking in public places and to work in partnership with the alcohol retail industry to continue to tackle instances of underage sales. In the Youth Alcohol Action Plan, we said that we would ask the chief medical officer to produce clear health guidance in order to help young people to make sensible decision, about drinking, and to support parents to protect their children from the harms associated with early alcohol use. This work has been done and I am grateful to the chief medical officer for producing his guidance on which our advice and information for parents and young people will be based.

This England only consultation will last 12 weeks, finishing on 23 April 2009. It is available at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sustainable Development Commission

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is the Government's independent adviser and "watchdog" on sustainable development, reporting to the Prime Minister, the First Ministers for Scotland and Wales and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland.

The SDC was established as an advisory NDPB in October 2000. In the 2005 UK sustainable development strategy, "Securing the Future", the Government committed to reviewing the status of the SDC to assess whether it might be better equipped to fulfil its expanded "watchdog" role as an executive rather than advisory body. The outcome of this review was that it would. Therefore from 1 February 2009 the SDC will be established as an executive NDPB, as a company limited by guarantee, with Jonathon Porritt as chairman (until the end of his term of office in July 2009) and Andrew Lee, previously director of the SDC, as chief executive. This change has been made with the agreement of Ministers in the devolved Administrations.

The SDC will maintain its current staff, objectives and Commissioners but will now be better able to fulfil its role. It will continue to receive core funding from DEFRA and the devolved Administrations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Global Security: Japan and Korea (Foreign Affairs Committee Inquiry)

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Bill Rammell): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Command Paper giving the FCO's response to the Foreign Affairs Committee's 30 November 2008 report "Global Security: Japan and Korea". This document will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website link http://www.fco.qov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/fac-response/session-09.

The Government welcome the detailed work which the Committee has undertaken. Japan and South Korea are important partners for the UK and, over the coming year, the Government will work closely with both to tackle the new global challenges. The financial and economic crisis is at the top of our international agenda and the UK Government are working closely with both countries as we prepare for the London summit in April. We will also be working with both countries on promoting a low carbon economy, and continuing to advise Japanese and South Korean companies that the UK is the place with which and in which to do business.

North Korea's nuclear ambitions are the single biggest threat to international security in the north-east Asia region. The UK Government strongly supports the six-party talks mechanism and continues to see it as the best means of achieving verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. Our close relationship with the US and our representation in North Korea offer us opportunities to contribute to this process.

HEALTH

Co-operation and Competition Panel

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Patient choice and contestability are potentially powerful drivers of improved quality and efficiency in the provision of National Health Service services. Involving individuals in decisions about their care and offering people a choice of provider, type of treatment, or the time and location of that treatment, are all characteristics of a high-quality, patient-centred health service.

We must ensure that choice, co-operation and competition within the NHS operate in the interests of patients and taxpayers, and that quality is the organising principle. Achieving these aims depends on having a rules-based approach, clear roles and responsibilities for oversight of the system and effective mechanisms for redress.

The Co-operation and Competition panel was established to ensure that NHS-funded services support the delivery of high quality care for patients and value for money for taxpayers. After announcing on 11 September 2008 that Lord Carter of Coles will take up the post of Chair, I am pleased to confirm that the Co-operation and Competition Panel will open for referrals from 30 January 2009.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Co-operation and Competition panel will work with all parts of the NHS, the independent sector and others to promote best practice, drive improvements in the delivery of healthcare and protect the interests of patients.

The role of the Co-operation and Competition panel is to provide independent advice to strategic health authorities and the Department of Health, and Monitor (for compliance issues concerning NHS foundation trusts), on alleged breaches of the principles and rules of Co-operation and Competition published alongside the 2008-09 operating framework. The rules aim to foster patient choice and use competition to drive service improvements.

On receipt of advice from the Co-operation and Competition panel, it is the responsibility of strategic health authorities, the Department of Health, and Monitor (for compliance issues concerning NHS foundation trusts) to decide whether and how to implement the recommendations.

Strategic health authorities retain responsibility for strategic, competitive and comparative oversight in their locality but now have the additional support offered by the Co-operation and Competition panel to ensure the NHS has effective governance and oversight and operates in the best interests of patients and taxpayers. Strategic health authorities will continue to hold primary care trusts and NHS trusts to account for managing choice and competition.

The Co-operation and Competition panel can also advise the Department of Health and Monitor on the development of policy and wider competition issues within healthcare. In making its recommendations, the Co-operation and Competition panel will help ensure that co-operation and competition within the NHS supports the objective of delivering high-quality care for all.

The commencement of the Co-operation and Competition panel also marks the start of a consultation phase they are undertaking guided by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Code of Practice on Consultation. A series of guidance documents published on their website for consultation, outline how the Co-operation and Competition panel will do business with the NHS. The consultation phase will allow NHS staff and stakeholders sufficient time to understand the process and offer advice, suggestions and alternatives to meet their needs.

I welcome the launch of the Co-operation and Competition panel.

More information about the Co-operation and Competition panel can be found at http://www.ccpanel.org.uk.

NHS Foundation Trusts and Monitor (Health Committee Report)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Government have today laid before Parliament their response (Cm 7528) to the Health Committee's report into NHS foundation trusts and Monitor.

NHS foundation trusts (FTs) are a key part of the Government's reform programme in the NHS. FTs are delivering high standards of care and good financial performance. The annual health check ratings produced in October 2008 by the Healthcare Commission showed that of the 42 trusts rated "excellent" for both quality of services and use of resources, 38 were FTs.

The Government welcome the Committee's report. Since first being authorised in April 2004, the number of FTs has grown steadily. Of the 225 acute and mental health trusts eligible to apply for FT status, 113—just over half—are now FTs. Now is a good time to take stock of their progress.

One of the key strengths of the FT model is the involvement of local people through being members and governors. The FT governance model is a key part of the Government's drive to move from a centrally managed NHS towards one that is managed locally, and so more responsive to patients. A recent independent review concluded that the FT governance model works well and offers significant benefits, but also noted that there is scope for further benefits to be realised. In the light of the Committee's concerns that the governance arrangements seem to be slow to deliver benefits, the Government will work with stakeholders to ensure the potential benefits of FT governance are fully realised.

The Government are satisfied that FT status is delivering significant benefits, both in terms of patient care and corporate governance. To spread these benefits as widely as possible, all remaining acute and mental health trusts are working towards achievement of FT status by the end of 2010. The Committee's report will help to ensure that as FTs provide an increasing amount of NHS services, patients reap the benefits offered by FT status.

In response to the Committee's concerns about no organisation having a clear remit to assess objectively whether or not FTs are becoming more innovative, the Government are exploring the options around research into FT innovation and the value added by FTs.

The Government's response is available in the Library and hon. Members can obtain copies from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

(Government Information) National Archives

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The independent team appointed by the Prime Minister to review the 30-Year Rule has today published its report. Copies are available in the Vote Office, Printed Paper Office and the Libraries of the both Houses.

The Government welcome the report and are grateful to Paul Dacre, Sir Joe Pilling and Professor Sir David Cannadine for producing this comprehensive and detailed report.

The Government will respond to its recommendations in due course, but agrees that there should be a substantial reduction in the period after which official papers should generally be released to the public, and that this should be introduced on a phased basis.

I will make a further announcement to the House once the Government have prepared its detailed response to the report.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme (Account 2007-08)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My noble Friend Lord Adonis, the Minister of State for the Department for Transport, has made the following ministerial statement:

> The Dartford—Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme account for 2007-08 is published today under section 3 (1) (d) of the Trunk Road Charging Schemes (Bridges and Tunnels) (Keeping of Accounts) (England) Regulations 2003. A copy of the accounts will be placed in the House Library.

Practical Motorcycling Test (Consultation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today published a response to the Consultation Paper which sought views on a proposal to introduce a new practical motorcycling test and associated fees.

The DSA is required to implement European Community Directive 2005/56/EC with the main aim of improving road safety for motorcyclists.

After consultation a key decision is that the practical motorcycling test will be split into two modules.

Module 1—a specified manoeuvres test

Module 2—a road riding test

Bookings for the test in its new format will commence from 30 March at the latest, with the first tests taking place on 27 April.

A two part test will provide more delivery options, from a greater number of locations, enabling better utilisation of the current test centre estate and thereby offering improved geographic coverage. It will offer an improved level of customer service for motorcycling candidates and reduce the travel to test distance for some candidates.

The current fee for the existing standard practical motorcycling test, £80.00 will be split into 2 elements: £10.00 for Module 1 and £70.00 for Module 2.

The motorcycling test fees will increase to £15.50 for Module 1 and £75.00 for Module 2, for tests taken on or after 5 October 2009.

Copies of the Response to Consultation Paper and Impact Assessments have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The documents are also available from the DSA Website www.dsa.gov.uk.

Kickstart Bus Funding Competition 2009

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): In September 2008 my predecessor, the right hon. Member for Bolton West, (Ruth Kelly), announced that £25 million had been set aside for a second round of Kickstart bus funding. I am now pleased to confirm that the competition is launched today, and that we are now welcoming bids for funding for new and enhanced bus services from local authorities and their partners.

Kickstart is targeted at schemes that have the potential to become successful but which initially might be more marginal in commercial terms and require some financial help to start them off, or which are currently marginal schemes that with some extra support could be made more successful.

Through Kickstart, we are looking to pump-prime bus services which will contribute to the Department's overall objectives of increasing bus patronage, and in particular developing bus services as an alternative to car use, bringing with it a reduction in congestion and benefits to the environment. It is also about improving accessibility and social inclusion. This round will also focus on schemes which make use of the new bus powers in the Local Transport Act 2008. We hope this will allow us to build up good practice on the use of these powers to promulgate to other local authorities and operators.

The application form and guidance are today being placed on the Department's website and in the House Libraries. We will also email these documents to the key bodies which represent local authorities and bus operators later today.

Applications for funding will be accepted through to 3 July 2009, and I anticipate that an announcement of the successful schemes will be made in autumn 2009.

Detrunking Programme (Removal of Route)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My noble Friend Lord Adonis, Minister of State, Department for Transport, has made the following ministerial statement:

The policy of transferring to local highway authorities the responsibility for trunk roads that are considered to be non-core was first set out in the White Paper "A New Deal for Transport", published in July 1998 (Cm 3950).

Following advice from the Highways Agency, informed by discussions with the relevant authorities, I have now decided that the following route section should be removed from the announced detrunking programme and remain part of the strategic road network, maintained and operated by the Highways Agency:

A40 in Gloucestershire (from M5 Junction 11 to the Herefordshire boundary).

I have written to the appropriate local highway authority, and relevant MPs, outlining the reasons for my decision. Copies of these letters have been placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Social Policy Ministers Meeting

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): Lord McKenzie of Luton has made the following statement:

The informal meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers was held on 22 and 23 January 2009 in Luhacovice, Czech Republic. I represented the United Kingdom along with my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs.

The theme of this informal was "Mobility—a bridge between the labour market demand and the supply of working skills". Its aim was to highlight the role of workforce mobility in enhancing labour market flexibility, social cohesion and economic growth in the European Union.

Following on from the opening session when representatives from the European institutions and social partners outlined their views, the meeting was split into three plenary sessions, each devoted to specific challenges linked to mobility: job mobility, geographical mobility and social mobility. For the United Kingdom, I intervened on the job mobility session, supporting the European Union economic recovery plan and the European Union skills review, and described some of the recent United Kingdom initiatives in response to the current economic crisis. The presidency and many member states stressed the undiminished importance of mobility, particularly for those furthest from the labour market. The key role of education and skills to ensure the rapid re-inclusion of workers was highlighted. The presidency concluded that the current financial and economic crisis only highlighted the need for greater workforce mobility.

The meeting concluded with a ministerial discussion on the working time directive, attended by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs. The United Kingdom and many other member states argued that retaining the opt-out continued to be an absolute priority. The presidency stated that it would try and facilitate an agreement with the European Parliament during the conciliation process but that finding an agreement would not be easy.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 2 February 2009

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies 2008

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): The Cabinet Office has today published Public Bodies 2008 which lists all non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) sponsored by the UK Government as at 31 March 2008. Public Bodies 2008 also provides summary information on the size and expenditure of the NDPB sector and statistical information on public appointments.

Public Bodies 2008 can be downloaded from the civil service website at: http://www.civilservice.qov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

TREASURY

Contingencies Fund

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): A Treasury Minute dated 6 November 2008 informed Parliament that the Bank of England had provided a short term loan facility to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to enable the FSCS to pay out to eligible UK retail depositors in Icesave, the internet product made available by the UK branch of Landsbanki.

That Minute also informed Parliament that this loan will be replaced with a loan from the Government at a time to be negotiated between the Bank of England and the Treasury. The Treasury and Bank of England have agreed that this loan transfer should take place on 29 January 2009 and as a result the Treasury made a payment to the Bank of England of £3,109,742,000 (three billion, one hundred and nine million, seven hundred and forty two thousand pounds).

Part of this loan will be paid back by the FSCS on an interest only basis for the first three years, plus any recoveries made through a claim on Landsbanki in that time. The FSCS will then use levies to repay the remaining balance. The remaining part of the loan is expected to be repaid by the Icelandic Depositors' and Investors' Guarantee Fund (DIGF). The Treasury is in negotiation with the Icelandic authorities with a view to their guaranteeing this repayment in line with their responsibilities under EEA law and the Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive.

On 1 December 2008, the Government announced that they had put in place arrangements to ensure that all eligible retail depositors—that is, those depositors who are eligible to claim under the FSCS—in London Scottish Bank plc will receive their money in full, including those with balances above the £50,000 FSCS limit.

In order to enable the FSCS to make these payouts the Treasury has advanced £100,000,000 (one hundred million pounds) to the FSCS on 29 January 2009. Part of this advance will be paid back by the FSCS on an interest only basis for the first three years, plus any recoveries made through a claim on London Scottish Bank plc in that time. The FSCS will then use levies to repay the remaining balance. The remaining part of the advance will be recovered from the rights which HM Treasury have acquired in respects of the proceeds of the wind-down and realisation of the assets of London Scottish Bank plc which is in administration.

Parliamentary approval for additional cash cover of £3,209,742,000 (three billion, two hundred and nine million, seven hundred and forty two thousand pounds) for this service will be sought in the Spring Supplementary Estimate for HM Treasury, as the Winter Supplementary Estimate included a provision for this expenditure. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £3,209,742,000 (three billion, two hundred and nine million, seven hundred and forty two thousand pounds) will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Saving Gateway Accounts Bill

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Today, in advance of the consideration of clauses of the Saving Gateway Accounts Bill by the Public Bill Committee, I am publishing draft Saving Gateway Accounts Regulations. These draft regulations have been published for the information of Members, and remain subject to discussion and consideration.

These draft regulations incorporate the draft regulations in relation to eligibility for Saving Gateway accounts, which were published on 12 January.

Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and will be available on the HM Treasury website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Sutherland Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Last December, Lord Sutherland completed his independent inquiry into the delivery of National Curriculum tests in 2008. On 16 December I laid a copy of his report before the House, and made a statement accepting all his recommendations in full.

Lord Sutherland's report made recommendations covering the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), the Department for Children, Schools and Families' officials and Ministers, and Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator. In December I set out the actions my Department was already taking to implement his recommendations, and committed to a further detailed response which I am publishing today. I have laid a copy of this in the Libraries of the House.

Where Lord Sutherland's recommendations included specific actions for my Department to take forward, all have been completed or are under way. Prior to Lord Sutherland's December report I established an expert group to advise on future testing and assessment arrangements and their delivery. I have taken steps to clarify further the reporting lines, information sharing and risk escalation arrangements between the QCA and my department and the role of DCSF observers. My Department will ensure that the legislation that establishes Ofqual and the QCDA gives Ofqual the powers to regulate national curriculum assessments effectively. In the interim, my Department is developing and agreeing a protocol on the reporting arrangements for Ofqual. My officials will discuss with QCA possible technological advances, such as on-screen marking and data capture, for possible use from 2010 onwards.

While Lord Sutherland made no specific recommendations in relation to the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Gateway process, I asked my officials to liaise with the OGC to consider whether there were wider lessons from the report for Gateway reviews. OGC have identified some areas where aspects of current guidance and practice can be improved, and these are included in our detailed response.

On 16 December I wrote to the new chair of the QCA board, Chris Trinick, asking him to implement all Lord Sutherland's recommendations relating to the QCA in full, and to provide me with a full report on progress by 16 January. He has done this, and I have laid a copy of his letter to me including the QCA's action plan and update on implementation in the Libraries of the House, together with my reply to him. My officials will work closely with QCA in the coming months to monitor progress against their action plan.

Following their initial response to Lord Sutherland's recommendations on 16 December 2008, Ofqual have also published their action plan detailing how they intend to implement the recommendations relating to them as the independent regulator, and I am placing a copy in the Library of the House.

I made clear in December that where we have national tests, they must be delivered successfully and on time, as they have been in the past. I am very grateful to Lord Sutherland for his detailed and comprehensive work, which will significantly strengthen the future delivery of national curriculum tests. His report, and the measures set out in this statement and accompanying action plans, will help ensure that we achieve this in 2009 and in future years, so that children and young people, and their parents and teachers, all benefit from the testing and assessment system they deserve.

DEFENCE

Army Nationality Policy

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): I should like to inform the House that with effect from today the MOD will be introducing an upper limit of 15 per cent. on the number of citizens of foreign[1] and Commonwealth countries serving in the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC), the Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC).

In making this statement, I should like to record my regret at the unfortunate handling of this issue in this House last week. The unauthorised leak to the media of this story went directly against our intention that this House should be the first to hear of the issue. Following the delay to the Armed Forces Personnel debate, we should have reviewed the timing of this statement. It was certainly not our intent in any way to fail to give this House the proper opportunity to learn of and consider this issue.

We have concluded that in the interests of operational effectiveness, a 15 per cent. limit on foreign and Commonwealth nationals in these areas of the Army is both necessary and proportionate. The three Corps are the only ones where the current proportion of foreign and Commonwealth personnel is at or approaching that level. There will be an option to apply the same limit to other parts of the Armed Forces if, at any time in the future, the percentages merit it. The purpose of the measure is to limit the number of personnel whose foreign citizenship could leave them potentially subject to legislation contrary to our own decisions—on, for example, operational deployments. We have also borne in mind the importance of ensuring that the Armed Forces continue to be identified with and representative of the UK. These arrangements do not extend to Gurkhas who serve as a discrete formed unit to which only Nepalese nationals can apply.

The Race Relations Act provides for arrangements to legitimise measures such as this. These arrangements are made having due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote racial equality of opportunity. In this case, the restriction is based on nationality and not race. The MOD and the Armed Forces remain whole-heartedly committed to removing unlawful discrimination and promoting equality.

MOD is very proud of the historic links with Commonwealth countries who provide high quality recruits and who have made a valuable contribution to the Armed Forces for many years. We hope they will continue to do so in the future and we will continue to recruit foreign and Commonwealth personnel to join the Armed Forces.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Northumberland National Park Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): In December 2007 my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government announced that all district councils in Northumberland will be abolished on 1 April 2009 and the county council will continue as the sole local authority for the area. Given that Tynedale district council, Alnwick district council and Berwick-upon-Tweed borough council currently appoint members to the Northumberland National Park Authority, their abolition means that the membership arrangements, as set out under the National Park Authorities (England) Order 1996, need to be amended.

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[1] In this context "foreign" means citizens of the Republic of Ireland; the percentage of aliens (defined in section 50(1) of the British Nationality Act 1981 as persons who are neither Commonwealth citizens nor British protected persons nor citizens of the Republic of Ireland) who may serve in the regular forces is stringently limited by section 21 (1) of the Army Act 1955 and section 21 (1) of the Air Force Act 1955. Similar restrictions are also contained in section 340 of the Armed Forces Act 2006, which is not yet in force.

Accordingly, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State consulted on the proposals which would reflect the new local government structure while retaining the same overall size of authority and maintaining a strong local presence on the authority. It is proposed that the changes to the membership would take effect on 1 April 2009. They would be delivered through a statutory instrument—subject to negative resolution—made under the Environment Act 1995. The consultation ran from 23 June to 17 October 2008. The responses are available on Defra's website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/northumberland-npa/index.htm

I have carefully considered the responses and have decided to pursue the changes proposed in the consultation which will reduce the local authority seats from 12 to six; increase the number of parish members from four to six; and increase the number of Secretary of State members from six to 10. Two of the extra four extra Secretary of State seats shall be taken by those who have experience of living or working in the National Park; one extra with experience of living or working in the Newcastle-Gateshead area; and one with particular knowledge of regional issues. The changes to membership of the Park Authority shall be made by means of a statutory instrument made under the Environment Act 1995 and laid before Parliament in early 2009, so that subject to Parliament's consent, the new membership composition is active from 1 April 2009.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Presentation of the Czech Presidency's Priorities

The presidency said that their three priorities would be the economy, energy and external relations, especially in the context of their preparations for the Spring European Council on 19-20 March; the Eastern Partnership would be the main focus of work on external relations.

The Government support the Czech Presidency's priorities, including the Eastern Partnership.

Energy Security

The presidency and Commission briefed Ministers on the Russia-Ukraine gas crisis and called for work on the Second Strategic Energy Review (SEER2) and energy project proposals under the Economic Recovery Plan to be accelerated so that decisions could be taken at the Spring European Council; to that end, the GAERC should adopt a list of priority projects at its next meeting. The Commission said that it would shortly identify and propose a number of projects. Ministers agreed that these should focus on the internal market, infrastructure, crisis response and diversification.

External Relations

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

Ministers discussed Gaza with the Egyptian, Palestinian, Jordanian, Turkish and Norwegian Foreign Ministers on 25 January. Egypt briefed on its efforts to promote a durable ceasefire and Palestinian reconciliation, and on the proposed donors' conference on reconstruction.

Following the meeting, the presidency publicly expressed support for the efforts of Egypt and other regional actors in brokering the ceasefire and facilitating negotiations; voiced their concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and wish to see aid reach those who needed it; reaffirmed the EU's willingness to help with the humanitarian effort and political process; and recalled the EU's support for the Arab Peace Initiative.

At the GAERC, Ministers agreed conclusions, which the Government welcome. They called on all parties to make the current ceasefire permanent through full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860; urged a sustained halt of rocket launches towards Israel, the urgent opening of the Gaza crossings and an effective mechanism to prevent arms and ammunition smuggling to the Gaza Strip; called for the unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance to Gaza; expressed the EU's readiness to reactivate the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM Rafah), as soon as conditions allow; and strongly encouraged inter-Palestinian reconciliation.

Russia-Ukraine

The presidency briefed the Council on the state of negotiations on a new partnership and co-operation agreement with Russia and an enhanced association agreement with Ukraine. Many Ministers expressed concern at the behaviour of Russia and Ukraine during the recent gas dispute. The Commission pointed out that the dispute had highlighted the importance of energy for the EU's ongoing dialogues with both countries. The presidency agreed that Ministers should return to this issue in due course.

Guantanamo Bay

Ministers welcomed President Obama's executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility within a year, and noted that work on closure was ongoing. They acknowledged it was likely that the US would ask allies to assist by resettling some of those detainees who did not represent a major security threat, but who could not be returned to their own countries owing to security or human rights concerns.

Zimbabwe

Ministers adopted conclusions, which underscored EU concerns about the continuing collapse of the country, the intransigence of the regime and the role of diamonds in generating revenue to sustain it. The conclusions also renewed EU sanctions for a further year and added 63 individuals and companies to the sanctions list. The Government strongly support this decision.

Terrorism

The Council removed the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI) from the list of terrorist organisations subject to restrictive measures at EU level. If new information is made available, the Council could decide to reinclude the group in accordance with applicable procedures. The Government support the Council's decision.

JUSTICE

Service Personnel (Inquests)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. We recognise that every inquest represents the death of someone fighting for this country, and a story of great pain for a bereaved family. We cannot praise enough the job that our personnel do nor pay high enough tribute to the sacrifice which some of them have made.

Today, we are announcing the progress that has been made since the written ministerial statement on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 36-38WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 27 January, but does not reflect the 17 January death on operations in Afghanistan of acting Corporal Robinson as the inquest has not yet been opened.

The tables which accompany this statement again include information about those cases which involve a board of inquiry or a service inquiry (boards of inquiry were replaced on 1 October 2008 by a new system of service inquiries).

Progress with inquests

At the time of the last statement, our Departments reported that 209 inquests had been held since June 2006: 195 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham.

Since October, a further 11 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 220 inquests held since June 2006.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 244 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including four service men who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We remain very grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests and unswerving in our support of the independent coronial system.

The Coroners and Justice Bill will make additional provisions for the transfer of cases from one coroner to another in England and Wales—with the chief coroner having a power to transfer cases without the agreement of the coroners concerned—although the approach will remain that only single deaths are subject to transfer.

The improvements to the coroner system contained in the Bill will lead to a better service for all bereaved families, including service families. Improvements include the charter for bereaved families, which sets out the services they should receive from coroners; and a new appeal system to which families will have access.

Open inquests

i. Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

The statement in October reported that there were three inquests to be held into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007. As at 27 January there is one such inquest remaining, that into the death of Marine Wigley, which will be held in May 2009.

ii. Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests will not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon jurisdiction (since 1 April 2007 fatalities are repatriated via RAF Lyneham). The coroner, Mr. Masters, transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible.

There are 71 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007 (46 involving deaths in the last six months). Of these, Mr. Masters has retained 37 inquests, whilst 30 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Four inquests are awaiting transfer to coroners closer to the next of kin. Inquest hearing dates have been set in two of these cases.

iii. Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain two inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home-injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses which outline the status of all cases and date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Liaison with the next of kin

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress of the inquest into the death of their loved one.

We remain committed to providing the best possible support to bereaved service families. The written ministerial statement issued on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 26WS by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) gave details of the support which was then being provided. Since then, we have increased the number of family members who can travel and stay overnight if necessary, at public expense, to attend the repatriation ceremony; and three family members may attend any pre-inquest hearings, as well as the inquest itself, again at public expense.

Visiting Officers—who are appointed to provide liaison between families and the services—fulfil a crucial role, and we continue to give close attention to their selection, training and support.

The Defence Inquests Unit, which was established by the Ministry of Defence on 1 May 2008, now acts as the focal point for all coroners' inquests into the deaths of service personnel and Ministry of Defence civilian personnel who die on, or as a result of injuries sustained during operations; and those who die as a result of training activity. The unit's principal role is to assist coroners so that they can complete inquests satisfactorily and as quickly as possible. The establishment of this dedicated unit reflects our firm commitment to providing full support of coroners and bereaved families and to learning and implementing all appropriate lessons which emerge from inquests.

TRANSPORT

Taxis: (Improving Access)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation document which explores ways of improving access to taxis by disabled people. The document looks at a number of approaches and is accompanied by an impact assessment.

Taxis are an important part of the public transport system and provide many people with a way of accessing employment, educational and social opportunities that otherwise may not be available. This consultation looks at ways of improving access, so that disabled people can make the most of these opportunities.

The document is available on the Department's website: http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 3 February 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak (2007)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2007, the Prime Minister and I invited Sir Iain Anderson to conduct a review to see if the lessons of the 2001 outbreak had been learned and to recommend what further steps might be taken. Sir Iain published his review in March 2008 and I am laying the Government's response before Parliament today.

As we saw in 2007, even when confined to a small number of infected premises in the same area, the impact of an outbreak can be considerable on the livestock sector, food businesses, and the wider community.

Sir Iain commended the Government's overall handling of the 2007 outbreak. He stated that

> "many of the lessons identified in the 2002 report had been acted upon and performance, taken as a whole, was much improved". "In analysing how the 2007 outbreak was handled, with its innumerable, interwoven decisions and actions, we found much to applaud, along with some deficiencies. On balance, the positive easily outweighs the negative".

I am grateful to Sir Iain for his review and for the recognition of how Government and the livestock industry tackled the outbreak in partnership. However, even though most things were handled well, I acknowledge that there are always lessons to be learned and ways in which we can do better.

The Government have accepted all of Sir Iain's 26 recommendations contained in the main body of his report. Since 2007, we have dealt with other exotic diseases by applying what we have learned from the foot and mouth outbreak, and as a result we are now better prepared. I am committed to continuing to work with the industry to ensure this remains the case.

Our response also comments on Sir Iain's personal recommendation to reposition the Institute of Animal Health as a new National Institute of Infectious Disease. DEFRA, DIUS and BBSRC have discussed over the past year the future facilities needed for animal health in the UK and specifically the future management and arrangements at IAH Pirbright. BBSRC will continue to fund the Institute for Animal Health so that it can provide the nation with world class research facilities that underpin the livestock industries and our food security. DIUS expects BBSRC soon to submit a business case for the redevelopment of the site at Pirbright to allow the continuation of world class research there on animal diseases. DEFRA will continue to work with DIUS and BBSRC to ensure that the national provision of research, diagnosis and surveillance enables effective disease detection and response. The Institute for Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency will continue to pursue opportunities for collaboration.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/2007/index.htm

HEALTH

National Dementia Strategy

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): "Living Well with Dementia—a National Dementia Strategy", which is being published today, sets out the Government's vision for the transformation of dementia services.

The launch of "Living Well with Dementia—a National Dementia Strategy" marks the start of an important journey of improving dementia services which will involve both the NHS and social care in England. The strategy has three main aims:

to increase awareness of dementia and remove the stigma associated with it;

to ensure early diagnosis and intervention; and

to improve the quality of care that people with dementia and their carers receive.

A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders (Lord Carlile's Fourth Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am pleased to say that in accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed the report on the operation of the Act in 2008, which will be laid before the House today.

JUSTICE

Corston Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): I am today updating Parliament on further progress made in implementing the Government's response to the Corston Report on women with particular vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system.

In my statement to this house in December, *Official Report*, 10 December 2008, column 59WS, I confirmed that while significant progress had been made since the Government's response was published in December 2007, we remain determined to do much more to divert vulnerable women who are not serious or dangerous offenders from custody.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the Ministry of Justice will provide £15.6 million of new funding over two years, to invest in the provision of additional services in the community for women offenders and women at risk of offending. The new funds will be directed towards building capacity of specialist provision for women in the community and developing bail support services. We propose that some of the funding will be used to invest in existing third sector providers, enabling them to work with courts, police, probation and other statutory agencies to provide support and services to vulnerable women in the criminal justice system.

I have asked the cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Strategy Unit to lead on this new phase of capacity building and to report progress to the Ministerial Sub-Group on implementation of the Government's response to Corston.

If we are successfully to protect the public from crime then we also need to tackle the underlying causes of crime and break cycles of disadvantage. My announcement today reaffirms the Government's commitment to do more to ensure that there is early and effective provision for vulnerable women in the community and our continued commitment to the wider Corston agenda.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): I am pleased to announce that the UK will sign the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as practicable.

The convention will reaffirm that disabled people have—and should be able to enjoy—their human rights on an equal basis with non-disabled people. The optional protocol builds on this by establishing two additional procedures in respect of implementation and monitoring of the convention itself.

The first is a procedural avenue that, subject to meeting conditions set out in the optional protocol, will enable individuals or groups of individuals to bring petitions to the UN Committee that has been established to monitor implementation of the convention if they believe that their convention rights have been breached. The second is an inquiry procedure giving the committee authority to undertake inquiries, when reliable information, is received into allegations of grave or systematic violations of convention rights.

This is an important decision which further demonstrates the Government's firm commitment to the convention, on which our work towards ratification is continuing, and to the principle of ensuring equality of human rights for disabled people.

The decision to sign this optional protocol does not set a precedent for similar individual complaints mechanisms. These will continue to be considered on their merits on a case by case basis.

Elbourne Review

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Ms Rosie Winterton): On 22 May 2008 the then Minister for Pensions Reform announced that John Elbourne had been asked to

"examine the current arrangements for the engagement of older people and the ability of those arrangements to inform policy and actions of Government at all levels".

Specifically, this was to include examining Better Government for Older People.

John Elbourne published his report on 18 November 2008 and the Government received comments up to 9 January 2009. The report made a range of recommendations for improving older people's engagement with Government, which fell into three broad areas: establishing a UK advisory forum for older people, building the capacity for effective dialogue at regional and local level through regional forums and local older people's forums; and withdrawing funding for Better Government for Older People from 1 April 2009 to support the new Government Office arrangements and thereby increasing the funds available for "on the ground" activities.

The Government are today publishing their response to this report. The Government will establish a new UK-wide forum. The forum will be known as the UK Advisory Forum on Ageing, and I will co-chair this forum with the Minister of State, Department of Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope). This will bring together representative views of older people at a national level, and will build links with forums in the devolved nations, the English regions, and the local level. The Government will set up a new structure with a designated regional co-ordinator for older people's engagement in each English region, providing advocacy and co-ordination for older people and working with older people to set up regional forums on ageing and local forums where they do not already exist. This will build on existing arrangements for engagement with older people and address weaknesses in the current structure. These new arrangements will give older people a direct line into Government at a local, regional and national level.

Better Government for Older People's response to John Elbourne's review has been to develop a proposal for a new independent body to carry forward their aims. The Department for Work and Pensions will support them in making a smooth transition into this new phase.

The Governments response can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/
ind_review_older_peoples_eng_with_govt.asp

and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 4 February 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 20 January 2009. The following items were discussed:

Presidency work programme

The Czech presidency presented its ECOFIN work programme for the first half of 2009, which received full backing from Ministers.

Follow-up to the December European Council: Impact on Council Work

The presidency took stock of the work arising from the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) agreed by the December European Council. Ministers discussed the next steps for two particular issues. The first was reduced rates of VAT. The presidency pledged to find a compromise at ECOFIN in the coming months. The second was how the EU budget can best support infrastructure and energy efficiency projects. Ministers agreed to return to this issue in February. On both issues the Government support the presidency's strategy for finding agreement.

Economic and Budgetary Policy Strategy for 2009, including economic and financial situation and implementation of European Economic Recovery Plan

Ministers exchanged views and adopted an external communication on the economic and budgetary policy messages for ECOFIN's work in 2009. This included discussion of the impact of fiscal stimulus packages on budgetary rules under the stability and growth pact.. The presidency will use the messages at this ECOFIN to inform discussions at the spring European Council in March.

Introduction of the euro in Slovakia

The European Commission and the representative of Slovakia presented a first assessment of the introduction of the single currency in Slovakia on 1 January 2009. The Council congratulated Slovakia on its success.

Western Balkans Investment Framework

The Council heard a report and adopted Council conclusions on progress towards the establishment of the Western Balkans Investment Framework by 2010.

AOB

Balance of payments assistance—Latvia

Ministers adopted Council decisions granting balance of payments assistance to Latvia. The UK supports this loan, which is part of an overall package of support agreed with the IMF, World Bank, and bilateral lenders.

Financial rescue packages and bank capital

The Czech presidency reminded Ministers of ECOFIN's commitment to ongoing monitoring of the progress and effectiveness of national financial rescue measures. The presidency emphasised the need for member states to continue to co-ordinate their actions. Ministers adopted Council conclusions on bank capital, agreeing to take strong and decisive actions to stimulate their economies, provide liquidity, strengthen the capital of financial institutions, protect savings and deposits, address regulatory deficiencies and unfreeze credit markets. The Commission will prepare reports on the implementation of rescue packages and on troubled assets for the March meeting of ECOFIN, when the matter will be revisited. The UK strongly welcomes this work, which is an essential part of wider efforts to restore stability to financial markets.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Anti-doping Organisation

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): The Minister for Sport, at today's UK Sport anti-doping conference, proposed that the UK's anti-doping function be removed from UK Sport and established as a stand-alone National Anti-doping Organisation (NADO). This follows his agreement in principle, in December 2007, to this recommendation from the UK Sport board.

The Department and UK Sport have been working to agree a funding package for the new body and I am pleased to announce that this has been concluded, with a budget for the new NADO of £7 million for 2009-10 and 2010-11 up to the next spending review.

We have tasked UK Sport with responsibility for the delivery of this project, and they inform me that they expect the new functions of the NADO to be operational by the end of the year.

The Department will undertake a formal consultation and impact assessment on the proposals, and will report to Parliament in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture Council (19 January 2009)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the United Kingdom at January's Agriculture Council in Brussels, the first under the Czech presidency. Elin Jones, the Welsh Minister for Rural Affairs, also attended.

The CAP Health Check was adopted under the 'A' items.

The presidency set out the four priorities it would take forward over the next six months:

Future of the CAP—discussion would continue on the future of the CAP, focusing on objectives in its post-2013 incarnation. The presidency would conduct discussions at its informal Council with a view to achieving consensus on a way forward at the June Council meeting.

Green Paper on "Quality Policy"—would be taken forward at a ministerial conference in Prague on 12 and 13 March. The output would inform a Commission Communication, discussion of which would take place at the May Council, followed by Council conclusions in June.

Rural Development—work would continue on the review of less-favoured areas (LFAs).

CAP Simplification—the presidency would hold discussion in the Council. The Commission would present a progress report to the March Council meeting. Council conclusions would be tabled at the May session.

Work on foodstuffs, novel foods and food labelling, the welfare of animals at slaughter, the animal testing directive, the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, and the reform of the common fisheries policy, were also highlighted.

On the main items, the Commission presented its draft negotiating mandate for Community accession to the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), followed by a draft regulation setting out requirements on operators who place timber on the Community market to exercise due diligence, ensuring that such timber is legally logged.

Next, the presidency confirmed that there was neither a qualified majority of member states in favour, nor against, Commission proposals to authorise the placing on the market (but not cultivation) of a herbicide tolerant oilseed rape and a blue carnation. The Commission would now adopt under its own powers.

There were a number of items under any other business. There were calls for higher aid intensities to be provided for in response to the global economic downturn and for provision of private storage aid for 100,000 tonnes of pigmeat. The Commission proposed the reintroduction of export refunds in the dairy sector.

JUSTICE

National Offender Management Services

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today publishing the Strategic and Business plans for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) agency. The document sets out the strategic priorities for the agency to 2011 and the activities and targets to be achieved during 2009-10.

Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The document is also available on the NOMS website at:-

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporateinformation.htm

The NOMS agency was established as an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice in July 2008. It has the twin aims of protecting the public and reducing re-offending. The agency is central to the Ministry of Justice's work to achieve better outcomes for society, to improve further the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and to ensure the delivery of efficient and effective offender management.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 5 February 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

National DNA Database

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I have today placed the "National Database (NDNAD) Annual Report 2006-07" in the Library. The Government accept the need for ongoing accountability to the public on the operation of the NDNAD annual report, which publishes details of its activities, is an important part of the aim to increase transparency and maintain and improve public confidence in the oversight, management and operations of the NDNAD.

OLYMPICS

Government Olympic Executive Annual Report 2009

The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell): I have today published the "Government Olympic Executive's second Annual Report—London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report January 2009".

The document fulfils the commitment to report to Parliament on a six-monthly basis providing details of progress across the Olympic programme and of the funding for the games.

The report outlines the progress that has been made in 2008 on building, staging and capitalising on the legacy benefits of the games. It also highlights the priorities for action in each of these areas in 2009, and explains the latest budget position, including the use of contingency.

This is the second annual report produced by the Government Olympic Executive. As in 2008, we will produce a six-month update of the report in July of this year. For the first time this year we will also produce quarterly financial updates, to increase even further the transparency of the project.

I would like to commend this report to the Members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest and support of the London 2012 Olympics.

Copies of the annual report 2009 are available at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

De-trunked Roads (Capital Funding)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am today announcing that £66 million capital funding will be provided during 2009-10 and 2010-11 to 41 local authorities to carry out capital maintenance on their de-trunked roads. I have placed a list of the allocations to individual authorities in the Libraries of both Houses.

The White Paper "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone" and the report "A New Deal for Trunk Roads in England"—both published in July 1998—identified a core network of existing trunk roads which serve a strategic national purpose and should remain the responsibility of the Secretary of State. It was proposed that those non-core routes which served only regional or local purposes should be transferred to local highway authority management. This transfer of management, known as de-trunking, allows the Highways Agency to concentrate on the operation of the strategic trunk road network, while enabling local authorities to consider their own priorities for the improvement of non-core routes.

The Government provide funding to local authorities for the maintenance of the roads transferred. Revenue support is provided in addition to the general revenue support grant (RSG) provided to local authorities. Like the RSG the de-trunking revenue support is paid through area-based grants.

We also provide capital funding for individual maintenance projects authorities wish to carry out in addition to their routine maintenance programme. This funding is in addition to the formula capital highway maintenance funding this Department provides authorities as part of the local transport plan settlement.

Rail Services

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): Local authorities and passenger transport authorities have a duty to promote effective public transport for their area. From time to time they wish to bring forward proposals for new or enhanced rail services. They have the required powers to secure the provision of such services but they are sometimes inhibited by the risk that significant funding may need to be committed over the long term. I am keen to encourage the best solutions for identified local needs, and have therefore considered how to make it easier for authorities to develop rail options.

I would therefore like to announce to the House the Government's intention to fund in control period 5 (2014-19) the provision of new or enhanced services promoted by authorities which have rail industry support and can be funded from a budget which would be set for this purpose in 2012.

It is important that the promoter demonstrates that a rail scheme is the best way to address regional and local transport issues; hence promoters would be expected to fund a new or enhanced service for the first three years to demonstrate their commitment to the service and show that it delivers value for money in the light of actual experience.

Schemes which the Department would consider funding in this way would be subject to a number of conditions, details of which have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be made available on the Department for Transport's website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 9 February 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Visa Waiver Test

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I are announcing the final outcomes of the UK's first global review of its visa regimes.

Britain thrives as a society and economy that is open for business, education, culture and tourism to people from around the world, but we want to do that in a way that enables us to distinguish clearly and effectively legitimate from illegitimate travellers. We are completing some of the biggest ever changes to strengthen Britain's border security by implementing a system of triple checks: stronger overseas checks including fingerprint visas and wider pre-arrival screening; tougher checks at the UK border itself; and strong new measures within the UK: against illegal immigration, organised crime and other threats.

The Visa Waiver Test process, announced in March 2007, further strengthens the UK border by ensuring that our visa regimes are properly targeted. A visa regime is a simple but very effective immigration, crime and security control measure.

The Visa Waiver Test measured travel from every country and region beyond the European economic area and Switzerland against a range of criteria including illegal immigration, crime and security concerns.

As part of the test we also considered whether any countries or regions posed a sufficiently low risk such as to warrant the lifting of an existing visitor visa requirement, so as to facilitate legitimate travel.

In the final stage of the test we worked closely with 11 countries whose nationals had been identified as posing a sufficiently high risk as to warrant, in principle, the introduction of a visa requirement for all travellers. We worked with the countries concerned over a six-month period to find ways to reduce the risks posed to the UK without the need for a visa requirement.

We have been able to make real progress with a number of countries through a combination of advice, training and improved working relations on migration matters. As a result some of the 11 countries have made concrete improvements to the immigration, border control and identity systems which would not have happened without the test. Even where a visa regime is the final outcome, we have improved co-operation on migration matters with the countries concerned. At the end of this process we assessed the overall progress made by each country, and whether or not it was sufficient to mitigate the risks to the UK.

We will not be introducing new visa requirements at this time for certain countries involved in the final stage of the test: Botswana, Brazil, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia and Trinidad and Tobago. We will continue to work with these countries on migration matters and assess the effectiveness of the actions taken. Should circumstances warrant it, we will re-examine the situation and take prompt action.

We have also concluded that Taiwan presents a low migration risk and we will be lifting the visitor visa requirement for Taiwan passport holders coming to the UK for less than six months, and who are not seeking to work. This will take effect from 3 March.

We have decided to introduce new visa requirements for Bolivia, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland and Venezuela. This means that short-term visitors from these countries will need to apply for a six-month visa and provide their fingerprints, before travelling to the UK. Nationals of these countries seeking to travel via the UK en route to another country will also need a transit visa. This is in addition to the existing requirement for a visa in order to live, work, study or marry in the UK.

In the case of South Africa, we will introduce the visa requirement in two stages. The first stage, beginning on 3 March, will require only first time visitors to the UK from South Africa to obtain a visa. Those who can show a satisfactory previous travel history to the UK will initially be exempt from the visa requirement. This exemption must be evidenced by a UK entry stamp in their current passport. We will introduce the full visa regime by the middle of 2009.

In the case of Venezuela we will require visas from their nationals but we will waive this requirement for all those travelling on biometric, machine readable passports. This is because our main concern related to the ease with which old-style Venezuelan passports could be forged or fraudulently obtained. Our assessment is that their new-style passports are secure and that the new visa requirement is proportionate to the remaining risk posed by the old-style passports.

We will announce implementation dates for the full visa regime for South Africa, and the visa regimes for Bolivia, Lesotho, Swaziland and Venezuela, in due course. Implementation for all these countries will be by the middle of 2009. We will announce the final dates at least 21 days before imposition.

All the new visa regimes will be implemented to the high standard of the UK's current visa operations.

Separately to the Visa Waiver Test, we have also decided to introduce a transit visa requirement for nationals of Jamaica. In January 2003 a visa requirement was introduced for Jamaican nationals visiting the United Kingdom. It did not include a requirement to obtain a transit visa when passing through the UK to another destination. We have been monitoring the situation and have found evidence that some Jamaican nationals have attempted to exploit the visa-free transit concession to enter and remain in the UK illegally. The requirement for a transit visa will take effect from 3 March.

The Visa Waiver Test is ongoing. We will conduct a full review in due course to ensure that benefits are fully realised and costs understood. In the meantime we will continue to work with all these countries and regions to build on the excellent working relationships we have developed during the Visa Waiver Test process to make sure we effectively secure the UK border.

TRANSPORT

Community Transport

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Government are today publishing their response to the consultation on draft regulations to support the community transport provisions in the Local Transport Act 2008. Those provisions will allow greater flexibility over vehicle size, and over the payment of drivers of community buses, and also make provision for the future issue of time-limited community transport permits.

The Government consulted last year on these draft regulations, and intend to finalise them in time to bring them into force from 6 April 2009. The regulations would apply to England, Scotland and Wales.

Copies of the consultation report will be available on the Department for Transport's website at: www.dft.gov.uk/localtransportact and are available in the Library of the House.

Voluntary Partnership Agreements

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Local Transport Act 2008 contains provisions relating to voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) between local transport authorities and bus operators, and certain other agreements in the bus market. These provisions come into force in England on 9 February 2009.

To support authorities and operators looking to make use of these provisions, the Department for Transport is today publishing guidance following consultation on a draft version last year. The guidance will be published on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk/localtransportact), and copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

WALES

National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Welsh Language) Order 2009

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Welsh Language) Order 2009 has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7544). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 10 February 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 10 February 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Preparation of the meeting of the European Council

(a) European economic recovery plan

Ministers will hold a debate on the current state of implementation of the European economic recovery plan (EERP), including a first horizontal evaluation report from the European Commission. The Government are a firm supporter of the timely, targeted and temporary measures taken at national level under the framework of the EERP to stimulate growth in the EU.

ECOFIN will also exchange views on the financial aspects of the Commission's proposals for energy and broadband projects to be funded through the EU budget. The Government will continue to scrutinise the Commission's proposals in detail.

(b) Key Issues Paper

ECOFIN will have an orientation debate on its main contribution to the spring 2009 European Council—the key issues paper on economic and financial issues. The paper itself will be agreed in March before the European Council, and the presidency has provided a proposed outline. The Government support the outline, which emphasises the challenges in 2009, and the remaining need for action to stabilise financial markets and facilitate a speedy economic recovery.

(c) Reduced rates of VAT

Following discussions in January, the presidency will seek political views from member states on the way forwards to a possible compromise on reduced rates of VAT by the spring. The Government believe that member states should be allowed the flexibility to apply reduced rates of VAT where they do not materially affect the functioning of the single market.

General budget of the EU: Discharge procedure in respect of the implementation of the budget for 2007

ECOFIN is expected to approve the recommendation to the European Parliament on the discharge to be given to the Commission for the implementation of the 2007 general budget. The UK welcomes the references within the recommendation relating to the key role of member states in improving financial management and accountability of EU funds under shared management.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Today I am confirming the legislative steps we are taking to implement the Chancellor's announcement in the pre-Budget report (PBR) that we would enable port occupiers, and any other businesses similarly affected by significant and unexpected backdated liability for business rates, to pay their backdated liability through staged payments over eight years and to relieve billing authorities of the duty to collect those liabilities in full in the current financial year. In addition to the PBR undertaking to allow the extended time to pay for previous years' costs, we are enabling any backdated liability arising in the current year's costs to be included in the scheduled payments.

To implement the schedule of payments policy in England, I am laying regulations before the House today, which are set to come into force on 9 March. The Welsh Assembly will be responsible for similar arrangements it intends in Wales.

The recent Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) review of the rating of ports and the subsequent separate entry for the first time of 569 properties within ports on the ratings list has highlighted the impact of such backdated liabilities that can arise as a consequence of rating properties that are newly identified by the Valuation Office Agency.

This is an established feature of the way the business rating system operates in order to ensure that all rateable property pays its fair amount of rates, with all business properties being treated equally. In the year 2007-08, some 777 new assessments, caused by some "splitting" of existing properties, were added to the list. This resulted in a potential 33 months or more backdated liability. Some 1,666 such new assessments, including many of the ports occupiers following the VOA ports review, were added to the list up to 31 October 2008. However, in the current economic conditions the Government are concerned about the impact of a significant backdated rates liability on the trading prospects of businesses. The new schedule of payments will therefore apply to all ratepayers occupying properties that meet the criteria in the regulations. Based on historical trends the Government estimate that up to 1,500 properties could benefit from a schedule of payments in the coming financial year.

The VOA has also put in place fast track arrangements to deal with any port-based firms who want to question or challenge their assessment following the ports review. Although there have been some problems with businesses not providing the full information required in their appeal request, valuation officers are talking to the businesses concerned to ensure these issues can be resolved as rapidly as possible. To date, the VOA reports that 78 formal appeals had been received under the fast-track procedure and five are fully resolved. In the remaining cases the VOA has made initial responses and in most instances is in further discussion with the ratepayers. As part of the commitment to bring cases to an early conclusion, all ratepayers who made a proposal before the end of November 2008, including those who did so before the fast-track procedure was introduced, have been contacted to establish whether they require early reference of their appeal to the independent valuation tribunal.

Finally, while any payments between port occupiers and operators are contractual matters between the parties, I—along with the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), the Minister responsible for ports—will be meeting this month with the port operators to encourage further discussion between the two parties, as it must be in the interests of port operators to ensure their facilities are put to economic use and to work together with their tenants. Otherwise they may be faced with the prospect of empty premises, no fee income from tenants and an eventual liability for empty rates on that property.

To conclude, the Government understand that in the current economic climate, it could be harder for businesses that are faced with significant unexpected backdated rates bills to discharge their liabilities. Therefore to reduce the cash flow impact on businesses given the current economic difficulties, the Government will allow businesses faced with certain unexpected backdated rates bills up to eight years to pay the amounts due.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury and I have today written to the Treasury Select Committee and Communities and Local Government Select Committee to update them with fuller details of the steps we are taking, and I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House. I am today writing to the leaders of all billing authorities with ports in England confirming the legislation and the arrangements they should now offer to eligible firms in their area. Chief finance officers will receive a detailed business rates information letter with details of the changes. Departmental officials are also writing today directly to the occupiers of the properties affected by the ratings review of ports, to ensure they are aware of the availability of the schedule of payments.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Management Organisation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will become the UK Government's marine delivery body, subject to the passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

In line with the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, it is proposed the MMO will set the standard in the UK and internationally for strategy and planning in the marine and coastal environment, so delivering the Government's commitment to introduce a new framework for the sea that meets conservation, energy and resource needs.

I will make an announcement regarding the location of the Marine Management Organisation before the House rises for the recess.

Relevant supporting information will also be placed in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Legal Aid (Prisoners)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): My noble Friend (Lord Bach) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement:

> The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has today published a consultation on the provision of prison law services funded by legal aid in England and Wales. Prison law services enable prisoners to receive advice on legal issues arising from their treatment or discipline in prison, and also advice or representation in connection with parole proceedings. Expenditure on prison law work has increased from £1 million in 2001-02 to approximately £19 million in 2007-08, and is expected to increase further in future years. The proposed reforms aim to ensure a sustainable future for prison law services by addressing rising costs and targeting resources on the most appropriate cases. The consultation paper proposes additional controls on the volume of cases that will be funded, strengthened eligibility criteria, new quality measures and a revised payment structure for solicitors. It also describes longer-term plans to develop alternative means of purchasing and delivering these services.
>
> The 12-week consultation closes on 5 May 2009. Copies of "Prison Law Funding: a Consultation Paper" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document can be downloaded from the consultation section of the LSC's website at: www.legalservices.gov.uk.

PRIME MINISTER

Machinery of Government

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Last October, I announced a series of changes to ministerial responsibilities. I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses a paper providing more detail on the allocation of responsibilities between the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Written Ministerial Statement

Wednesday 11 February 2009

DEFENCE

Defence Planning Assumptions

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The Ministry of Defence routinely reviews the planning assumptions which guide the development of capability over the medium to longer-term. In the absence of a direct military threat, these assumptions set out in broad terms the types of operation which the armed forces should be capable of undertaking. The assumptions are not intended either to constrain or precisely describe the actual pattern of operational commitments at any point in time. But regular review is required to ensure there is a relationship between the planning assumptions and the developments in the strategic context.

Previous defence planning assumptions were published in the supporting essays to the 2003 White Paper—"Delivering Security in a Changing World". The Department has now completed the most recent review and is publishing the outcome.

On the military tasks that the armed forces might be asked to undertake, we have decided to:

eliminate the specific military task—"Military Aid to the Civil Power In Northern Ireland" to reflect the continuing normalisation in Northern Ireland;

merge the military tasks—"Integrity of UK Waters" and "Integrity of UK Airspace" as "Integrity of the UK" to reflect the requirement for an integrated approach;

rename and disaggregate the military task—"Defence Diplomacy" to "Security Co-operation: Support to Current and Future Operations" which reflects the requirement to maintain international support for operations, ranging from basing to contributions, and "Security Co-operation: Strengthen International Peace and Stability and Support Wider British Interests" which covers the promotion of UK interests including conflict prevention, counter proliferation and support to other Government Departments;

add a new military task—"Military Assistance to Stabilisation and Development" to reflect our recent operational experience.

We will continue to group the military tasks under four generic headings. The consolidated military tasks (MTs) are therefore:

Standing Strategic Tasks

MT 1.1—Strategic Intelligence

MT1.2—Nuclear Deterrence

MT 1.3—Hydrographic, Geographic and Meteorological Services

Standing Home Commitments

MT 2.1—Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA)

MT 2.2—Integrity of the UK

MT 2.3—Public Duties and VIP Transport

Standing Overseas Commitments

MT3.1—Defence and Security of the Overseas Territories

MT 3.2—Defence and Security of the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs)

MT 3.3—Security Co-operation: Support to Current and Future Contingent Operations

MT 3.4—Security Co-operation: Strengthen International Peace and Stability and Support Wider British Interests

Contingent Operations Overseas

MT 4.1—Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

MT'4.2—Evacuation of British Citizens Overseas

MT4.3—Peacekeeping

MT 4.4—Peace Enforcement

MT 4.5—Military Assistance to Stabilisation and Development

MT 4.6—Power Projection

MT4.7—Focused Intervention

MT 4.8—Deliberate Intervention

We have decided to rename the Strategic Planning Effects as Strategic Outcomes and Strategic Enablers, and have decided to:

delete the effect *Contain*;

add a new outcome: *Reassurance*; and three new enablers: *Insight; Resilience; and Coalition Influence*.

The consolidated list is therefore:

Strategic Planning Outcomes

Prevention—the stopping or limiting of the occurrence, escalation or resumption of a crisis or conflict.

Reassurance—action to protect our own cohesion and that of allied and neutral states.

Stabilisation—the creation and maintenance of the security conditions required to allow all levers of power to address the underlying causes of conflict.

Deterrence—the convincing of a potential aggressor that the consequences of coercion or armed conflict would outweigh the potential gains.

Defeat—the reduction of the military effectiveness of an adversary so that he is no longer able to achieve his aims or prevent us from achieving ours.

Coercion—the use of force, or threat of force, to persuade an opponent to adopt a certain pattern of behaviour of our choosing and against his wishes.

Disruption—the degradation of specific elements of an adversary's capability in order to limit his freedom of action.

Destruction—the damaging of an adversary's organisation, capability or equipment to such an extent that they are no longer militarily viable.

Strategic Planning Enablers

Insight—an understanding of a state or region's diplomatic, economic and military dynamics in order to enhance the ability to identify the causes and likelihood of impending crisis.

Resilience—the ability at every level to detect, prevent and if necessary to handle and recover from disruptive challenges.

Coalition Influence—the ability to affect the aims and objectives of a coalition force.

On concurrency and scales of effort, we have decided broadly to maintain the concurrency assumptions as set out in 2003 as follows:

That routinely and without creating overstretch we should be able to mount

an enduring medium scale military assistance to stabilisation and development or peacekeeping operation simultaneously with an enduring small scale peacekeeping or power projection operation and;

a small scale power projection, peace enforcement or focused intervention.

That we should seek to avoid committing to two concurrent UK medium scale operations. However, there will be occasions when it will not be possible to draw down an enduring medium scale commitment prior to a second operation at medium scale. Therefore, that we should, accepting that it will place greater stress on our current force structure and cause harmony guidelines to be exceeded for many force elements, be able to reconfigure our forces rapidly to carry out:

> an enduring medium scale peacekeeping or military assistance to stabilisation and development or peacekeeping operation;
>
> an enduring small scale peacekeeping or power projection operation simultaneously with;
>
> a limited duration medium scale power projection, peace enforcement or focused intervention operation.

That given time to prepare, we should be capable of undertaking:

> a demanding one-off large scale intervention operation while still maintaining a commitment to a simple enduring small scale peacekeeping operation.
>
> That, additionally, we must take account of the need to meet standing commitments, for example; quick reaction alert aircraft for the integrity of the UK Airspace, and contingent forces.

We have been operating above our planning assumptions for scale of effort and concurrency since 2003, but we do not believe that this is a level of commitment which is desirable for our armed forces to sustain for an indefinite period. It is our objective to reduce our current level of operational deployments over the next year or so.

The Department is now taking forward the implications of these changes to our planning assumptions.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 12 February 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Postal Services Commission DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £152,000 to £153,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000 from £2,000 to £3,000. The impact on resource DEL is set out in the following table. There is no impact on capital DEL.

		New DEL		
				£'000
	Change	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	1	3	0	3
Of which: *	1	3	0	3
Administration budget	1	-537	0	-537
Near-cash in RDEL				
Capital DEL**	0	150	0	150
Depreciation	0	-530	0	-530
Total	1	-377	0	-377

*The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in resource DEL is as a result of additional administration expenditure relating to research into the social value of the Post Office (£100,000) offset by increased appropriations-in-aid income from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

There is a token £1,000 increase in the resource DEL and the administration budget.

The Minister for Trade, Development and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Gareth Thomas): My nobel Friend Lord Davies of Abersoch, the Minister of State for Trade and Investment has made the following statement:

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, UKTI's total DEL will be decreased by £199,000 from £91,506,000 to £91,307,000. This reflects the net transfer of £200,000 in Voted capital from UKTI's Vote to BERR's Vote. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resources DEL	1	-	91,506	-	91,506
Of which:					
Near-cash in RDEL	1	-	91,419	-	91,419
Capital DEL[1]	-200	-	48	-	48
Less Depreciation[2]	-	-	-166	-	-166
Total DEL	-199	-	91,388	-	91,388

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

UKTI's vote does not include Administration provision, which is included in the Estimates of our parent departments, BERR and FCO.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

A token increase of £1,000 to allow an increase in appropriations-in-aid to be included in the estimate.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

A transfer of capital underspend of £200,000 to BERR to fund capital works to UKTI accommodation.

TREASURY

Pensions Uprating

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): Legislation governing public service pensions requires them to be increased annually by the same percentage as additional pensions (State Earnings Related Pension and State Second Pension). Public service pensions will therefore be increased from 6 April 2009 in line with the annual increase in the Retail Prices Index up to September 2008, except for those public service pensions which have been in payment for less than a year, which will receive a pro-rata increase.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the spring supplementary estimate, HM Treasury's resource DEL will be increased by £73,000 from £221,551,000 to £221,624,000 and the Administration budget will be increased by £118,000 from £169,425,000 to £169,543,000 with no net change in the capital DEL. The impact on resources and the administration budget is set out in the following table:

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	*Non- voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource of which:	6,386,000	-6,313,000	201,032,000	20,592,000	221,624,000
Administration budget*	4,431,000	-4,313,000	169,543,000	-	169,543,000
Near cash in RDEL*	6,373,000	-6,313,000	189,197,000	31,492,000	220,689,000
Capital**	700	-700	5,500,000	1,521,000	7,021,000
Less: Depreciation***	-	-	-9,190,000	-	-9,190,000
Total	7,086,000	-7,013,000	197,342,000	22,113,000	219,455,000

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net increase in resource DEL of £73,000 is the net effect of the following:

A transfer to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £17,000 administration costs as a contribution towards the costs of the Skills Strategy.

Transfers from the Departments of Health and Culture, Media and Sport of £45,000 near cash administration costs each to the Office of Government Commerce towards the costs of the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

The net increase in the administration costs budget is £118,000 comprising the administration costs changes mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, plus the reclassification of a programme costs transfer from the UK Statistics Authority received in the winter Supplementary Estimates round to administration costs of £45,000.

There is a reduction in non-voted Resource DEL due to the draw down of Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) comprising £4,313,000 administration costs and £2,000,000 programme costs to offset increased voted spending. There is also a reduction in non-voted capital DEL due to the draw down of DUP of £700,000.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, National Savings and Investments DEL will be increased by £18,900,000 to £183,547,000. Within DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		New Del		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource Del:	18,900	—	185,199	—	185,199
Of which:				—	
Administration budget:	18,900	—	185,199	—	185,199
Near cash in RDEL:	18,900	—	180,592	—	180,592
Capital	—	—	1,438	—	1,438
Depreciation*	—	—	-3,090	—	-3,090
Total	18,900		183,547	—	183,547

* Depreciation which forms part of resource DEL is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

A drawdown of £ 6,900,000 from the Modernisation Fund for the upgrade of NS&I's core IT infrastructure.

The take up of DEL End Year Flexibility (EYF) of £12,000,000—near cash— to cover payments related to increased sales volumes.

The change in the administration budget arises from the Modernisation Fund draw down.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Subject to parliamentary approval of the Supplementary Estimate, the HM Revenue & Customs total DEL will be increased by £75,248,000 from £4,539,797,000 to £4,615,045,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	62,248	—	4,144,792	347,739	4,492,531
Of which:					
Administration Budget [1]	62,248	—	4,392,050	—	4,392,050
Near-cash in RDEL[1]	62,248	—	3,804,910	381,887	4,186,797
Capital[2]	16,648	-3,648	301,514	—	301,514
Less Depreciation [3]	—	—	-179,000	0	-179,000
Total DEL	78,896	-3,648	4,267,306	347,739	4,615,045

1The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

2Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

3 Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Modernisation Fund drawdown of £62,500,000 administration near cash costs to modernise and transform HMRC;

Near cash administration costs transfer of £252,000, to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to fund the Skills Strategy for Government.

The change in the administration budget arises from the changes detailed in the resource element above.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

Capital take up from the Modernisation Fund of £13,000,000 for various programmes supporting the modernisation of the Department.

Take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision of £3,648,000 to facilitate improvements to key operational activities—this is DEL neutral.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Children, Schools and Families Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £41,975,000 from £52,722,327,000 to £52,764,302,000; the administration cost budget will be increased by £2,033,000 from £187,536,000 to £189,569,000. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) which has a separate Estimate and DEL, will be increased by £32,200,000 from £181,216,000 to £213,416,000 the administration cost budget will remain as £28,721,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

DCFS	*Resources*				*Capital****			
	Change *£'000*	*New DEL* *£'000*	*Of which: Voted* *£'000*	*Non-voted* *£'000*	*Change* *£'000*	*New DEL* *£'000*	*Of which Voted* *£'000*	*Non-voted* *£'000*
RfR1	-1,505	45,418,319	44,172,607	1,245,712	-127,577	5,584,989	4,527,318	1,057,671
RfR2	44,943	1,339,855	1,317,839	22,016	126,114	421,139	421,139	0
DCSF Total	43,438	46,758,174	45,490,446	1,267,728	-1,463	6,006,128	4,948,457	1,057,671
OFSTED	32,200	212,435	212,435	0	0	981	981	0
Sub Total	75,638	46,970,609	45,702,881	1,267,728	-1,463	6,007,109	4,949,438	1,057,671
** Of which Admin Budget	2,033	218,290	218,290	0	0	0	0	0
Near-cash in RDEL	75,638	46,816,859	45,702,344	1,304,515	0	0	0	0
*Depreciation	1,780	-13,170	-7,932	-3,238	0	0	0	0
Total	75,638	46,970,609	45,702,881	1,267,728	-1,463	6,007,109	4,949,438	1,057,671

*Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

** The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

***Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Within the Administration Cost budget changes, the impact is set out in the following table:

DfES	*Original* *£'000*	*Change* *£'000*	*Revised* *£'000*
DfES (RfR1)	187,536	2,033	189,569
OFSTED	28,721	0	28,721
Total	216,257	2,033	218,290

Resource DEL

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £43,438,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of the resource DEL of £22,855,000 and an increase of £20,583,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL mainly in the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Voted Resource DEL

The £22,855,000 increase in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

A take up of End Year Flexibility of £1,950,000 for Administration costs.

A movement of £14,000,000 from non-voted Young Peoples provision to voted Young Peoples provision

A movement of £2,988,000 from non-voted provision to support children and families.

A movement of £8,600,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to Support Further Education, Adult and Lifelong Learning.

A movement of £12,674,000 from RfR2 in respect of Early Years Foundation and National Strategy.

A transfer from Department for Work and Pensions of £132,000 for Joint Birth Registration.

A transfer from the Department of Health of £4,000,000 for Substance Misuse.

A transfer from Department for Work and Pensions of £280,000 for Child Protection.

A transfer to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills of £450,000 for Procurement.

A transfer to the Department of Health of £175,000 for Child Migrant Trust.

A transfer to the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills of £800,000 for inspection of the early year's foundation stage.

A transfer to the Scottish Office of £157,000 for Child Trust Funds.

A decrease of £49,000 from Respect administration that reduces DEL.

A movement of £72,581,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

RFR2

A transfer of End Year Flexibility of £59,175,000 to fund Sure Start local authority grants.

A transfer from Department for Work and Pensions of £862,000 for Child Poverty programmes.

A movement to RfR1 to support Early Years Foundation and National Strategy of £9,786,000.

A movement to RfR1 to support Early Years Foundation and Children's projects of £168,000.

A movement to RfR1 to support Early Years Foundation of £2,720,000.

A movement of £6,400,000 from Non-voted to Sure Start central government grants.

A movement of £1,771,000 to Sure Start Schools.

A movement of £3,091,000 to support the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies.

Non-voted resource DEL

The £20,583,000 increase in Non-voted resource DEL arises from:

A movement of £72,581,000 from voted resource to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

A movement of £25,588,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to voted.

A transfer to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills from non-voted unallocated provision of £6,530,000 for UKCES QCA funding.

A transfer to the Home Office from non-voted unallocated provision of £6,000,000 for UKBA, settlement of historic LA claims for UASC service.

A transfer to the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills from non-voted unallocated provision of £10,000,000 for transitional relocation costs.

A transfer of £1,200,000 from the Department of Health for training and development of the Social Care workforce.

A movement of £6,400,000 to voted Sure Start central government grants.

A movement of £1,771,000 to voted Sure Start Schools.

A movement of £3,091,000 from Sure Start voted to support the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies.

Capital DEL

The decrease in the capital element of the DEL of £1,463,000 arises from a £59,451,000 increase in the voted element of capital DEL and a decrease of £60,914,000 in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £59,451,000 increase in the voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

A movement of £3,480,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to support schools and teachers.

A movement of £2,780,000 from RfR1 voted Capital Grants to Local Authorities to non-voted.

A movement of £11,870,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to Schools Capital.

A movement of £2,600,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to departmental central services.

A movement of £8,568,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to Children and Families capital grants.

A movement of £5,302,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for Capital Grants to Local Authorities to Support Children and Families.

A movement of £3 0,411,000 from non-voted for Capital Grants to Local Authorities

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £60,914,000 decrease in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

A movement of £3,480,000 to voted provision for support schools and teachers.

A movement of £2,780,000 from RfR1 voted to non-voted Capital Grants to Local Authorities.

A movement of £11,870,000 to voted provision to Schools Capital.

A movement of £2,600,000 to voted provision for Departmental central services.

A movement of £8,568,000 to voted provision for Children and Families capital grants.

A movement of £5,302,000 to voted provision for Capital Grants to Local

Authorities to Support Children and Families.

A movement of £30,411,000 from non-voted to Sure Start Capital Grants to Local Authorities

A transfer of £1,463,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to the Department for Work and Pensions for Education Information and Accountability Services (EAIS).

Administration Cost Budget

Take up of End Year Flexibility of £1,950,000 to increase provision for Activities to Support all Functions.

A transfer from Department for Work and Pensions of £132,000 for Joint Birth Registration.

A decrease of £49,000 due to changes in Respect administration costs.

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

Voted Resource DEL

A transfer of £10,800,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to allow investment in change projects to deliver long term efficiency.

The take up of End of Year Flexibilty of £21,400,000 for implementation of the Childcare Act 2006 and the requirements of the better regulation executive.

Children and Young People's Health

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I are announcing the publication of "Healthy lives, brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health".

A healthy start in life is at the heart of a happy childhood and the ability of every young person to achieve their potential and grow up well prepared for the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

Children and young people are healthier than ever before, but we now have the opportunity to go further. We need to do more to achieve world-class health outcomes and minimise health inequalities, offering services of the highest quality and an excellent experience for the young people and their families who use them.

We know that we must do more to provide mothers and fathers with the support they need to give their children the best start and to help young people to make healthy choices as they grow up and take more responsibility for themselves.

Our two departments have come together to produce this long-term strategy to improve health outcomes for all children and young people from pre-birth to 19. It is a direct response to the views and concerns of young people, parents and professionals working with children and families.

"Healthy lives, brighter futures" sets out how we will work in partnership with local authorities and Primary Care Trusts and those working across children's health services to build the quality of support for families at key stages in their children's lives— during pregnancy and the early years of children's lives, for school-age children as well as young people. Our package of support for children and young people with acute and additional health needs is backed by a total of £770 million funding over three years to 2010-11, the largest ever investment in these services.

Investing in children's health from the early years through childhood and adolescence will benefit children, families, society and the NHS.

We have met many children, young people, parents and practitioners in the process of putting this strategy together Children and young people want easier access to health services to support their psychological as well as physical health. Parents and carers want better information about what services are available locally, with better links between the services that their children use. Frontline staff want help with providing excellent, integrated health and health care services for children and families.

Through "High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report" we set out how the NHS would meet the challenges of the 21st century. "Healthy lives, brighter futures" sets out how we will continue to deliver improvements in children's physical and psychological health, building on existing policies such as the "National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services" and the Every Child Matters reforms.

The strategy builds on work already in train to improve the quality and consistency of services, support and opportunities that families and children can expect in their local area. Services already aim to promote healthy lifestyles, intervene early where health problems arise and deliver support tailored to families' needs: easily accessible support in pregnancy and early years of children's life through Sure Start Children's Centres and GP practices; helping children to take increasing personal responsibility for their health during their school years and young people to deal with the health challenges of adolescence; good access to urgent care; and specialist support for children with complex and long-term conditions, so that every child can reach their full potential.

Through the strategy we are making commitments to improve this existing support for children, young people and families:

> during pregnancy and the early years of life, more health visitors, and a strengthened role for Sure Start children's centres with each centre having access to a named health visitor; further expansion of the successful family nurse partnership programme for vulnerable first-time mothers; and the development and testing of a new antenatal and preparation for parenthood programme for mothers and fathers;
>
> for school-age children and their families, a core health programme, the development of a 'Healthy Child Programme' to set out what services should be available to parents, children and young people from 5 to 19 with schools supporting pupils' health and wellbeing, and pilots to test the impact of extending free school meals to a greater number of pupils; and
>
> for young people, more opportunities for sport, access to health services that are young-people friendly, and a new campaign to increase young people's knowledge of effective contraceptive methods, backed by increased investment of around £27 million a year from 2008-09 for contraceptive services in a range of settings.

The strategy emphasises the need to ensure that high quality, timely and accessible support is available for children and young people with acute or additional health needs and their families. We are making new commitments to strengthen that support:

> confirmation of £340 million in NHS allocations over three years to improve the experience of disabled children and their families through better access to short breaks, community equipment and wheelchair services, including £30 million for palliative care and end-of-life care, in addition to the £340 million revenue funding already announced by DCSF for the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and the £90 million capital funding announced in the "Children's Plan"; and
>
> we will test innovative approaches to the provision of community equipment and make sure that by 2010 all children with complex health needs have individual care plans to support co-ordinated care.

Improving children's health from birth to 19 is an ambitious agenda. In order to drive change in every area, we know that we need stronger joint leadership to plan, commission and monitor the delivery of excellent services. The strategy sets out how we will help those on the frontline make a reality of this vision.

The strategy sets out a clear expectation that Children's Trust partners are to provide children and families with accessible and comprehensive information about the services, advice and support available locally. New commitments to support local provision include action to:

> promote stronger joint leadership and local accountability arrangements, with statutory Children's Trust Boards to include GP members as well as Primary Care Trusts;
>
> ensure all organisations with responsibility for child health and wellbeing are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children;

develop the child health workforce, with a particular early focus on health visitors;

deliver a support programme for local authorities and PCTs to commission child health services;

strengthen the information available to help plan, monitor and improve services; and

give a stronger voice for children and young people in assessments of healthcare organisations, and robust arrangements to promote and ensure the quality of health services.

With schools, GP practices, hospitals, Sure Start children's centres, the voluntary sector and Government all playing their part in support of families, we can ensure that every child has a healthy start in life and a brighter future. Working together, we can continue to work towards our goal to make this the best place in the world to grow up.

Copies of "Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health" and the accompanying guidance on joint commissioning will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2008-09 will change as follows:

The Department for Communities and Local Government's Main Programmes DEL will be increased by £162,288,000 from £11,499,316,000 to £11,661,604,000 and the administration budget will also be increased by £1,240,000 from £289,689,000 to £290,929,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-21,710	21,879	4,004,919	370,749	4,375,668
Of which					
Administration budget *	-260	1,500	289,429	1,500	290,929
Near-cash in RDEL	-94,739	94,908	3,897,409	324,846	4,222,255
Capital **	-378,959	531,159	2,102,515	5,224,685	7,327,200
Depreciation***	1,071	8,848	-36,206	-5,058	-41,264
Total	-399,598	561,886	6,071,228	5,590,376	11,661,604

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) a transfer of £1,031,000 to Request for Resources 2 (Local Government DEL) (see 2(iv) below).

(ii) a net transfer of £1,200,000 from other government departments, comprising:

To other Government Departments

Programme Expenditure

(a) £40,000 to the Cabinet Office for the Government Secure Zone Security Monitoring and Control Centre.

From Other government Departments

Administration Costs (Government Offices)

(b) £1,240,000 from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for early exit costs of BERR staff in the Government Offices.

(iii) a net increase in receipts of £20,467,000 offsetting increases in provision of £100,000 for Homelessness and Housing Reform for the pilot scheme on overcrowding and worklessness; £1,000,000 for the Community Builders Fund; £500,000 for the cross Government project on adults facing chronic exclusion; £2,069,000 for Fire control rooms; £11,400,000 for Firelink payments made by the Department on behalf of the devolved Administrations; £28,000 for choice based lettings; £4,200,000 for central administration comprising £700,000 for additional work on behalf of other Government Departments and £3,500,000 for outward secondees to other organisations; and £1,170,000 for Government Offices to reflect additional work being undertaken on behalf of the Department of Health.

(iv) a net transfer of £21,879,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising:

From voted to non-voted provision

(a) £2,500,000 to FireBuy for costs arising from litigation in connection with the Integrated Clothing Project;

(b) £40,953,000 to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to reflect the accounting implications of the application of merger accounting to the establishment of the HCA;

(c) £45,000,000 to non-voted European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to cover the near cash utilisation cost associated with the balance sheet provision raised in 2007-08 in respect of 1997-99 programmes;

(d) £5,481,000 to the Homes and Communities Agency comprising £1,930,000 for set up costs, £3,100,000 for the ATLAS programme and £451,000 to cover costs of staff seconded to the HCA;

(e) £722,000 to the Tenant Services Authority as part of the Authority's first year budget; and

Administration costs

(f) £1,500,000 to non-voted Government Offices from central administration to adjust budgets for utilisation of provisions in respect of early exit costs.

From non- voted to voted provision

(g) £1,100,000 to Implementing Planning Reforms for the Mine Waste Directive and the Renewable Energy Strategy;

(h) £10,748,000 to Government Offices for a new balance sheet provision for staff early exits;

(i) £8,000,000 for bad debts on old ERDF programmes;

(j) £800,000 for the cost of capital charge on lending to the Fire Service College;

(k) £429,000 to New Dimension for depreciation charges on Mass Decontamination vehicles;

(l) £50,200,000 non-cash for the creation of new provisions for future liabilities in respect of financial corrections to old ERDF programmes, including £18,807,000 from Departmental Unallocated Provision; and

(m) £3,000,000 non-cash for the creation of provisions for future liabilities under the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme.

The change in the administration budget arises from a transfer of £1,240,000 from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (see l(ii) above)

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from

(v) An increase of £149,700,000 for the changes announced in the Pre Budget report in November 2008 as part of the fiscal stimulus aimed at supporting the economy through the current economic downturn. The increase comprises £87,000,000 for Arms Length Management Organisations; £43,000,000 for Gap funding for large scale voluntary transfers and £19,700,000 for the Community Infrastructure Fund;

(vi) a transfer of £2,500,000 from Request for Resources 2 (Local Government DEL) for the Regeneration Monitoring and Digital Inclusion programme;

(vii) A decrease in voted receipts of £105,100,000 offset by decreases in non-voted provision of

(a) £50,000,000 for Thames Gateway comprising £44,000,000 through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), £3,000,000 through the London Urban Development Corporation and £3,000,000 through the Thurrock Urban Development Corporation; and

(b) £55,100,000 for the HCA's Affordable Housing Programme.

(viii) A net decrease in voted receipts of £10,099,000 offset by a net decrease in voted expenditure comprising:

(a) a decrease of £10,300,000 for the New Deal for Communities;

(b) an increase of £150,000 for central administration in respect of the Department's interest in the sale of land transferred to the Building and Research Establishment; and

(c) an increase of £51,000 for choice based lettings.

(ix) A net transfer of £486,559,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising

From voted to non-voted provision

(a) £541,408,000 to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to reflect the accounting implications of the application of merger accounting to the establishment of the HCA.

From non- voted to voted provision

(b) £20,253,000 from the Olympic programme contingency for payments to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport towards the 2012 Olympics;

(c) £34,596,000 to Fire control rooms for the temporary acquisition of two Regional Control Centre leases.

(2) The Department for Communities and Local Government's Local Government DEL will be increased by £18,941,000 from £24,873,688,000 to £24,892,629,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	11,441	0	24,614,751	103,109	24,717,860
Of which					
Administration budget *					
Near-cash in RDEL	11,441	0	24,614,751	102,223	24,716,974
Capital **	7,500	0	174,582	1,018	175,600
Depreciation***	0	0	0	-831	-831
Total	18,941	0	24,789,333	103,296	24,892,629

**Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

***Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) take up of End Year Flexibility of £10,000,000 for Local Government Public Services Agreement to cover planned spending over the amount provided in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007;

(ii) take up of End Year Flexibility of £410,000 for Invest to Save Budget Special Grant to provide funding for projects relating to this financial year;

(iii) an increase in receipts of £1,500,000 offsetting an increase in expenditure for Private Finance Initiative (PFD Special Grant to meet the higher costs of PFI projects for this financial year;

(iv) a net transfer of £1,031,000 from Request for Resources 1 (Main DEL) comprising:

a) £831,000 for Best Value Inspection to support Audit Commission Comprehensive Performance Assessment work on Fire and Rescue Authorities;

b) £200,000 for London Governance for the Mayor's new planning powers under the Greater London Authority Act 2007

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from

(v) a take up of End Year Flexibility of £10,000,000 for Local Government Public Services Agreement to cover planned spending over the amount provided in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007;

(vi) A transfer of £2,500,000 to Request for Resources 1 (Main DELI (see l(iv) above).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Charles Darwin

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): Today is Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday and the beginning of a year long programme of events to celebrate his life and work which culminates on 24 November, the 150th Anniversary of the publication of his seminal book "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection".

Charles Darwin is one of the most influential Britons of all time and perhaps the most important natural historian of all. His theory that all species of life have evolved over time from one or a few common ancestors through the process of natural selection has framed and shaped current scientific thinking and dramatically influenced the society we live in today. At a time of unprecedented environmental change, it continues to inform our understanding of the future challenges for humans and the natural world.

Darwin's importance to the world is such that Darwin's home and workplace, Darwin's Landscape Laboratory, has been chosen as the UK's 2009 nomination to become a World Heritage Site.

A wide range of organisations across England, Wales and Scotland have collaborated under the brand name Darwin200, to produce a national programme of events to celebrate the legacy and enduring relevance of Charles Darwin's work. The partnership includes a number of organisations from across the arts, education, heritage, local government, libraries, media, museums, science, and tourism sectors such as the Natural History Museum, the BBC, the British Council, Research Councils UK, the University of Cambridge, and The Royal Society.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been working together to support the Darwin celebrations.

There will be Darwin-related events in all parts of the country. The involvement of members from all sides of the House will help to raise the profile of Darwin200 and give added momentum to the work that so many of our national and regional organisations are involved in.

More about events celebrating Darwin's life and work can be found at www.Darwin200.org

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £52,635,000 from £2,552,209,000 to £2,604,844,000 and the administration cost limit will increase by £6,281,000 from £49,258,000 to £55,539,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		New	DEL	£'000
	Voted	Non-voted.	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource DEL	8,285	5,750	115,364	1,519,127	1,634,491
Of which:					
Administration budget[1]	*6,281*	—	*55,539*	—	*55,539*
Near-cash in RDEL	*8,285*	*25,750*	*106,203*	*1,334,288*	*1,440,491*
Capital[2]	—	38,600	-430,742	1,514,095	1,083,353
Less Depreciation[3]	—	10,000	-6,456	-96,544	-103,000
Total	8,285	54,350	-321,834	2,936,678	2,614,844

[1] The total of Administration budget'and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL'figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Take up of £30,100,000 End Year flexibility comprising: (£20,000,000) UK Sports; (£3,000,000) Central Sports Support; (£2,000,000) Visit Britain; (£1,200,000) Museums, Libraries and Archives Commission; (£900,000) for the Regional Cultural Consortiums; and (£3,000,000) Administration budget.

Transfers from other Government Departments of: £2,000,000 from Department for Work and Pensions for Free Swimming; £1,650,000 from Department for International Development to UK Sport for International Inspirations; and £332,000 from Cabinet Office to cover baseline costs of the Parliamentary Counsel.

Transfers to other Government Departments of: £45,000 to the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) for the Centre for Expertise in Sustainable Procurement and £2,000 to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) for the Government Skills Strategy programme.

Partially offset by a transfer from non-cash Resource DEL to Capital DEL of £20,000,000.

The administration cost limit has increased by £6,281,000 from £49,258,000 to £55,539,000. This is as a result of a transfer from Cabinet Office of £332,000, a transfer to the OGC of £45,000 and a transfer to DIUS of £2,000 all detailed above; take up of £3,000,000 Administration End Year Flexibility and agreed net transfers of £2,996,000 from programme to administration costs, the latter to assist with the costs of the Government Olympic Executive.

The changes in the Capital element of the DEL arise from: Take-up of £18,600,000 End Year Flexibility for the Museums and Galleries; a transfer from non-cash Resource DEL to Capital DEL of £20,000,000.

DEFENCE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Ministry of Defence Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) will be increased by £626,555,000 (Voted and Non Voted) from £37,510,083,000 to £38,136,638,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

	Change			New DEL	
	Voted	Non-Voted	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Resource	764,301	33,254	37,891,603	179,450	38,071,053
Of which: Administration Budget	-	-64,153	2,294,096	-	2,294,096
Near-cash in RDEL	271,362	33,254	26,101,150	409,964	26,511,114
Capital	329,000	-	8,312,045	851	8,312,896
Depreciation*	-500,000	-	-8,237,825	-9,486	-8,247,311
Total	593,301	33,254	37,965,823	170,815	38,136,638

*Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

a net increase in the RfR2 of near Cash Resource of £237,000,000 and near Cash Capital DEL of £65,000,000 ; and a further Indirect (non Cash) Resource DEL request of £500,000,000 to reflect the forecast costs of peace keeping operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Balkans;

the take up of Resource End Year Flexibility (EYF) of £45,000,000 and Capital End Year Flexibility of £214,000,000;

transfers in from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of £1,800,000 for helicopter pilot training for counter narcotics operations (RfR1); transfers in from the Department for International Development of £300,000 being reimbursement for locally employed contractors in Iraq (RfR2), £18,899,000 as a contribution to the Global Conflict Prevention Costs Pool (RfR2), and £917,000 as a contribution to the Iraq Stabilisation Aid Fund (RfR2);

transfers out to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills being the MOD's contribution to the new Government Skills Strategy initiative of £235,000 (RfR1); and a transfer out to the FCO of £15,350,000 being the MOD's contribution to the Stabilisation Aid Fund (RfR2);

additional fiscal Capital DEL provision of £50,000,000 relating to the MOD's planned sale of its Spectrum holding;

to re-allocate Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC) costs of £9,224,000 from Non-Voted expenditure to other current Voted expenditure to correct a misalignment in the Winter Supplementary Estimates;

to re-allocate DEL Grants in Aid from DEL to Non Budget Grants in Aid (Non Voted) to reflect a further classification changes for the Council of Reserve Forces & Cadets Association of £29,081,000;

to increase Grants in Aid funding for the Royal Naval Museum of £773,000; the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadet Association (CRFCA) of £3,000,000; and the RAF Museum of £400,000; by reducing Resource DEL current costs and increasing Non Budget Grants in Aid with no overall impact on resource;

to increase operating Appropriations in Aid by £180,700,000 and Non Operating Appropriations in Aid by £25,879,000 to reflect current forecasts of outturn offset by corresponding changes to Resource and Capital spending with no overall effect on Resource or Capital DEL;

to revise sub-head provisions to reflect Resource and Capital revisions in allocations between Top Level Budget Holders to match required defence outputs, with no overall impact on DEL;

The changes to Resource DEL and Capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £626,555,000.

Votes A Annual Estimate (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The Ministry of Defence "Votes A Annual Estimate 2009-10", will be laid before the House on 12 February as HC117. This outlines the maximum numbers of personnel to be maintained for service in the armed forces during financial year 2009-10.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the New Estimate, the total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budget for the Department of Energy and Climate Change will be £2,790,657,000 and the Administration budget will be £98,320,000.

			£'000
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-844,531	1,933,534	1,089,003
of which:			
Administration budget*	98,320	0	98,320
Near-cash in RDEL *	-949,315	1,981,286	1,031,971
Capital DEL**	513,230	1,195,401	1,708,631
Less Depreciation ***	-3,105	-3,872	-6,977
Total DEL	-334,406	3,125,063	2,790,657

*The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

** Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

*** Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The resource element of the DEL arises from:

i) A Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform of a net negative £963,013,000 voted near-cash, £1,711,504,000 of non-voted near-cash, a net negative £2,980,000 voted non-cash and a net negative £47,752,000 of non-voted non-cash in respect of Supporting affordable, secure and sustainable energy and managing historic energy liabilities effectively and responsibly;

ii) A Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of £152,512,000 voted near-cash and £34,000,000 of non-voted near-cash in respect of bringing about a low-carbon Britain, Developing an international agreement on climate change and Promoting low carbon technologies in developing countries;

iii) a reduction in non-voted expenditure of £27,000,000 and a reduction in voted income of £28,932,000 relating to reclassification of entities within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;

iv) an increase in non-voted expenditure of £296,782,000 and an increase in voted income of £296,782,000 due to updated income and expenditure forecasts for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority;

v) a Reserve claim of £54,100,000 non-cash in respect of an increase in provision for the Concessionary Fuel Scheme;

vi) utilisation of End Year Flexibility of £50,300,000 non-cash in respect of an increase in provision for the Concessionary Fuel Scheme;

vii) a transfer of £80,000 from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in respect of compensation for mesothelioma sufferers; and

viii) an increase in voted near-cash expenditure and a decrease in non-voted near-cash expenditure of £34,000,000 with respect to take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision for the Warm Front programme.

Also within the resource DEL, the Administration budget arises from:

ix) A Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform of £52,471,000 near-cash and £3,000 of non-cash in respect of Professional support and infrastructure; and

i) a Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs of £42,485,000 near-cash and £3,361,000 of non-cash in respect of Professional support and infrastructure.

The change in the Capital element of the DEL arises from:

i) A Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform of a net negative £7,582,000 voted and £1,248,183,000 non-voted in respect of Supporting affordable, secure and sustainable energy and managing historic energy liabilities effectively and responsibly;

ii) A Machinery of Government transfer from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs of £402,030,000 voted and £16,000,000 non-voted in respect of bringing about a low-carbon Britain. Developing an international agreement on climate change and Promoting low carbon technologies in developing countries;

iii) A 2008 Pre Budget Report award of £50,000,000 in respect of bringing about a low-carbon Britain;

iv) a reduction in voted income of £52,782,000 and a reduction in non-voted expenditure of £52,782,000 due to updated income and expenditure forecasts for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; and

v) an increase in voted expenditure and a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £16,000,000 with respect to take up of Departmental Unallocated Provision for the Warm Front programme.

Home Energy Efficiency

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Together with my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Minister for Housing, I am today publishing three consultation documents, the "Heat and Energy Saving Strategy" (HESS), the "Carbon Emissions Reduction Target uplift" (CERT) and the "Community Energy Saving Programme" (CESP), which together make up a comprehensive package to save energy and reduce emissions from now through to 2020 and beyond and increase the UK's energy security.

The consultation on "Heat and Energy Saving Strategy" sets out the Government's long-term vision for dramatically improving the energy efficiency of our homes and businesses. If the UK is to achieve its targets on emissions reductions and renewable energy, we will have to move beyond conventional and easy to install energy efficiency measures and consider more radical ways of saving energy. We will also need to decarbonise the generation and supply of heat. By 2050, emissions from UK households need to be approaching zero if we are to meet our target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent.. The Minister for Housing recently published a consultation setting out proposals on making new homes zero-carbon from 2016, and seeking views on the Government's ambition that non-domestic buildings should be zero-carbon from 2019. This strategy therefore concentrates on existing buildings. By 2020, our ambition is to have made available comprehensive whole house solutions to improve the energy performance of approximately 7 million homes. Building on this and by 2030, we aim to have made those measures available to all households.

In support of this, two consultations on increasing the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target by 20 per cent. and the Community Energy Saving Programme set out the Government's immediate plans for households. In particular, they include increasing the current roll-out of energy efficiency measures and a new programme to deliver whole house solutions to the most vulnerable households in deprived communities. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is the Government's principal tool for delivering household energy and carbon savings. Under CERT, electricity and gas suppliers are required to meet challenging carbon-saving targets by encouraging households to take up energy efficiency measures. Suppliers are free to decide how to deliver their obligations, but typically will promote free and subsidised offers on key measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation and high-efficiency lights and appliances. They are obliged to meet at least 40 per cent. of their targets in a priority group qualifying, low-income households, including those aged over 70. The obligation applies in England, Scotland and Wales. By way of increasing the number of energy saving measures available to consumers and in response to high and rising energy prices, the Prime Minister, on 11 September 2008, proposed raising the CERT target by 20 per cent.. Making a significant contribution to the UK's environmental and social ambitions, increasing the level of CERT will mean a revised carbon target of 185 million tonnes lifetime $C0_2$ savings (from $154MtC0_2$) to be delivered by 31 March 2011. This means annual savings of 5:3 $MtC0_2$ (from 4.2 $MtC0_2$), equivalent to the annual $C0_2$ emissions from 940,000 homes. It is expected to drive increased energy supplier investment of some £576 million, taking total energy supplier CERT investment to some £3.2 billion.

The Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) was also announced on 11 September 2008 by the Prime Minister, and aims to deliver holistic packages of carbon abatement measures to vulnerable households in low-income, deprived communities in Great Britain and offers an opportunity to pilot some of the approaches outlined in the "Heat and Energy Saving" consultation document. The key proposals will deliver substantial emissions reductions and permanent fuel bills savings for those in the targeted areas, and are:

A new obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators to deliver an estimated £350 million of energy efficiency measures, and to ensure fairness to be targeted at the most vulnerable domestic consumers.

Ensuring targeted households, and hard to treat properties, receive the most effective and expensive actions like solid wall insulation.

Measures to be offered as a package to deliver whole house solutions, delivered in a house by house, street by street approach.

To deliver support through a community partnership where local authorities and community groups work with the electricity generators and energy suppliers to help identify the households in most need.

The proposals in these consultation documents will help us to tackle both the immediate difficulties people face in paying their energy bills and the longer-term issues we face in becoming more energy efficient and decarbonising our heat supply.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Management Organisation Headquarters

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): I wish to inform the House of the process and decision on the future location of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) HQ, which will become the UK Government's marine delivery body, subject to the passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

In line with the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, it is proposed the MMO will set the standard in the UK and internationally for strategy and planning in the marine and coastal environment, so delivering the Government's commitment to introduce a new framework for the sea that balances conservation, energy and resource needs.

In June 2008, KPMG were appointed to help provide an independent assessment of the most suitable locations for the MMO headquarters, ensuring that the process was transparent and fair. The first part of the process was an evaluation against agreed business and quality of life criteria, based on assessing published information and wide stakeholder consultation, to reach a short list. Copies of the final KPMG report along with an explanatory narrative will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

In consultation with the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA), DEFRA Ministers and senior officials along with other key stakeholders, KPMG produced a shortlist of five locations, while retaining London as the benchmark. Lowestoft/Great Yarmouth was added in order to ensure good geographical spread and to ensure that full consideration was given to any business benefits potentially arising from location alongside a directly related part of the DEFRA marine network. This made a final shortlist of six locations, all with considerable merit and some with an excellent foundation of marine expertise: they comprised Plymouth, the East Riding of Yorkshire, Merseyside, Tyneside, Carrick and Lowestoft/Great Yarmouth, in addition to London.

DEFRA officials—accompanied by KPMG—visited all the shortlisted locations to help inform the decision. Each location also had the opportunity to put forward a case to be the home of the MMO to me through its Members of Parliament. I would like to thank parliamentary colleagues for their time and effort, and for the quality of their presentations.

All of the shortlisted locations made professional, well-presented submissions and I would also like to thank all those people and organisations involved for their efforts, enthusiasm and time. All of the shortlisted locations had much to offer as a home for the MMO HQ.

Having assessed all of this information carefully, together with further analysis on the cost of the move, the impact a relocation would have on current MFA business and staff, and DEFRA's wider corporate responsibilities, I am pleased to announce that Tyneside will be the new home of the MMO. Tyneside has a broad range and a good balance of marine interests including a working port, fisheries, a growing renewable energy sector, environmental and industrial sectors, and a strong and developing university sector in marine specialisms, all of which will complement very well the role of the MMO. Tyneside also provides strong transport links to key stakeholders in London, Brussels, Scotland and across the UK. In addition, the extensive evidence of partnership working in the area provides confidence that Tyneside will be able to help the MMO to fulfil its role under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

The House will also wish to know that whilst the North East has had some notable success in encouraging private sector investment in recent years, it has not benefited to the same extent as some other regions in the UK from the relocation of public sector organisations and employment following the Lyons Review.

As I indicated earlier, all of the shortlisted locations could have provided a good base for the MMO, and this is a tribute to the continuing strength of those locations, to the case made by their respective Members of Parliament, and to the professionalism of the teams who put their presentations together. There can however be only one MMO HQ, and in thanking all the other locations' teams, I am sure they will join me in offering Tyneside our congratulations and best wishes.

To ensure there is a smooth transition and to mitigate against any risks arising as a result of the relocation an MMO skeleton body is proposed from Autumn 2009. Subject to Royal Assent on the Bill, the expectation is that this will run in parallel with the MFA until midnight 31 March 2010 at which time the MMO will be operational.

The Marine Bill and further information about the Bill can be accessed at: http://defraweb/marine/legislation/index.htm

And further information on the MMO and its implementation on the MFA's website at: http://www.mfa.gov.uk/

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs DEL will be reduced by £656,314,000 from £3,746,278,000 to £3,089,964,000 and the Administration Budget will be reduced by £45,880,000 from £356,463,000 to £310,583,000. These movements in the DEL Budget are mainly due to the machinery of government transfer to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. That apart, the overall effect on DEFRA's DEL Budget is minimal with the forecast outturn anticipated to run close to allocated budget. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-24,629	-207,707	4,050,855	-1,362,984	2,68[illegible]871
Of which:					
Administration Budget	-45,880	—	310,583	—	310,583
Near-cash in RDEL	-40,518	-188,457	3,829,710	-1,446,278	2,383,432
Capital	405,780	-12,250	259,902	338,939	598,841
Depreciation[1]	-8,748	2,800	-96,949	-99,799	-196,748
Total	439,157	-217,157	4,213,808	-1,123,844	3,089,964

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

(i) a transfer of £45,846,000 administration spend from the climate change group located in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC);

(ii) a transfer of £34,000 administration spend to Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) for skills strategy;

(iii) a transfer of £152,512,000 programme spend from the Climate Change Group located in DEFRA to DECC

(iv) a transfer of £34,000,000 Non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) to the DECC;

(v) take up of End Year Flexibility for Investing in Communities Invest to Save Budget (ISB) of £56,000.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

(i) a transfer of £402,030,000 from the Climate Change Group located in DEFRA to DECC; (ii) a transfer of £16,000,000 Non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) to DECC.

The change in the depreciation budget is due to:

(i) £3,102,000 transferring to DECC for the machinery of government transfer;

(ii) a transfer of £12,050,000 non cash costs from Natural England to DEFRA across non-cash categories;

(iii) re-profiling of Forestry Commissions (FC) Budget of £3,000,000 across non-cash categories.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £128,154,000 from £2,080,557,000 to £2,208,711,000. The administration budget will be decreased by £18,000 from £430,535,000 to £430,517,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource	98,154	—	2,074,761	3,000	2,077,761
Of which					
Administration budget[1]	-18	—	430,517	—	430,517
Near-cash in Resource DEL	118,154	—	1,923,647	17,000	1,940,647
Capital[2]	10,000	—	216,000	—	216,000
Depreciation[3]	20,000	—	-85,050	—	-85,050
Total	128,154	—	2,205,711	3,000	2,208,711

[1] The total of "Administration Budget" and "Near cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Request for Resources 1

Administration

I. £18,000 transfer of administration budget to DIUS for Government Skills.

Programme

I. Take up of £10,800,000 other current EYF in respect of restructuring.

II. Take up of £6,500,000 other current EYF in respect of adverse currency fluctuations.

III. Claim on the Reserve of £24,500,000 other current in respect of Consular Premiums.

IV. Claim on the Reserve of £24,000,000 current grants in respect of the International Subscriptions cost sharing agreement.

V. Transfer of £4,700,000 from the Home Office for work on migration.

VI. Transfer of £1,000,000 other current from DfID in respect of the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

VII. Transfer of £200,000 other current from DfID in respect of bilateral project work in Africa.

VIII. Transfer of £11,120,000 other current to the Security and Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

IX. Transfer of £1,800,000 other current to MoD for counter-narcotics work in Afghanistan.

X. Transfer of £270,000 other current to the Security and Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

XI. Transfer of £104,000 other current to the Home Office in respect of gratis visas for Zenit St Petersburg fans.

XII. Transfer of £10,000,000 other current to capital in respect of capital pressures, in particular FCO Services capitalisation.

Neutral Changes

I. To reflect the estimated indirect resource impact of the introduction of the IFRS Financial Instruments trigger point 1 on unrealised gains for forward purchase of Sterling contracts of £30,000,000, with an offsetting debit in impairments.

II. Transfer of £39,400,000 other current from RfR1 to RfR2 in respect of Peacekeeping pool funds in Africa.

III. Transfer from depreciation to near cash other current of £20,000,000.

IV. Transfer of £6,900,000 other current to British Council in respect of exchange rate fluctuations and the cost of the Turner exhibition in China.

V. Budget neutral increase in A-in-A and administration costs of £20,000,000 for services provided to partners across government, including FTN telecom charges.

VI. Budget neutral increase in A-in-A and other current of £22,000,000 for Consular fees.

VII. Budget neutral increase in A-in-A and other current of £309,700,000 for UKBA charges following the MoG change.

VIII. Budget neutral increase in A-in-A and other current of £600,000 in respect of FCOS interest payments.

Request for Resources 2

Programme

I. A claim on the Reserve of £27,600,000 current grants in respect of the take up of the balance of Peacekeeping pool funds of which £13,925,000 for Africa and £13,675,000 for Rest of World.

II. Transfer of £15,350,000 current grants from MoD in respect of the Stabilisation Aid Fund of which £13,600,000 is for work in Afghanistan and £1,750,000 for work in Iraq.

III. Transfer of £1,000,000 current grants from DfID in respect of global conflict prevention work.

IV. Transfer of £6,516,000 current grants from DfID in respect of conflict prevention work in Africa.

V. Transfer of £216,000 current grants from DfID in respect of work in Ghana by the Carter Centre.

VI. Transfer of £916,000 to DfID in respect of management of Stabilisation Aid Fund projects in Afghanistan.

Neutral Changes

I. Transfer of £39,400,000 other current from RfR1 to RfR2 in respect of Peacekeeping pool funds in Africa.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

Request for Resources 1

Capital

I. Transfer of £10,000,000 other current to capital in respect of capital pressures, in particular FCO Services capitalisation.

Binyam Mohamed

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): On 5 February I made an oral statement to the House on the case of Mr. Binyam Mohamed, following the judgment handed down in the High Court on 4 February. As I underlined in the debate that followed, we are working as fast and as hard as we can to secure Mr. Mohamed's release from Guantanamo Bay and return to the UK.

I now wish to update the House regarding progress made in Mr. Mohamed's case.

Senior Government officials, including Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, have held further talks with the US Administration in recent days. President Obama issued Executive Orders on 22 January which established a review of the cases of all those detained at Guantanamo Bay. Following our representations, the US Administration has now agreed that Mr. Mohamed's case should be treated as a priority in this process. We continue to work with the US to achieve a swift resolution.

We have long been concerned with reports of Mr. Mohamed's welfare and medical condition. Yesterday I met with Mr. Mohamed's US military defence counsel, Lt. Col. Yvonne Bradley, and her account underlined these concerns. The US Government has also agreed that Foreign Office officials should visit Mr. Mohamed as soon as possible. The visit will help us make preparations for his return, should the review confirm a decision to release him. The team will include a medical examiner, who would take part in any return, so that he may assess Mr. Mohamed's condition himself and report back.

I will keep the House informed on this issue.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Intercept as Evidence (Progress Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The Privy Council Review of intercept as evidence was published on 30 January 2008.

In his statement to the House of 6 February 2008 my Right Honourable Friend the Prime Minister affirmed his commitment to the principle of using intercept as evidence and the case for doing so provided that national security could also be protected. He also agreed that the programme of work recommended by the Report be taken forward, with the objective of legislation. At the same time, the Privy Council Review itself, acknowledged that before legislation could be brought forward, further extensive work was required.

I am pleased to be able to report on progress. I am also having placed in the House Libraries copies of a progress report to my Right Honourable Friend the Prime Minister on behalf of the Advisory Group of Privy counsellors, comprising the Right Honourable Sir John Chilcot, the Right Honourable Sir Alan Beith MP, the Right Honourable Michael Howard QC MP, and my noble Friend the Right Honourable Lord Archer of Sandwell. I should like to express my thanks to the Advisory Group for their diligent and constructive support for this programme of work. I should also like to echo their praise for the "commitment and thoroughness with which the interception community has sought to address the issues".

The Privy Council Review rightly recognised that interception is of vital importance to public protection and national security. It also recognised that the issues raised by the potential use of intercept product in evidence are complex. This has proved to be the case, as the Advisory Group's report makes clear. However, we have now reached the end of the programme's first phase, with work to design in detail the model recommended by the Privy Council Review, now largely complete. Work is now in hand to flesh out the detailed guidance required in advance of testing the practicalities of the model.

However, it is clear a number of key issues remain to be resolved if the objective of facilitating the prosecution of terrorist and other serious crime with the assistance of intercept as evidence is to be achieved. As the Advisory Group observes there is an intrinsic tension between meeting legal needs and the operational requirements identified by the Privy Council Review. It is also not yet clear whether the key safeguard of our being able to revert to the current regime should implementation fail would itself be legally sustainable.

The Government agrees with the Advisory Group that "securing the intended increase in successful prosecutions while ensuring fairness of trials remains difficult and may not prove possible in most complex cases". The Government agrees on the importance of a further stage of work being taken forward urgently to test the viability of the model developed.

The Government's intention remains to be in a position to bring forward legislation for use of intercept as evidence as soon as possible. However, it believes, given the importance of interception for national security, including the ability to prevent and disrupt serious crime and terrorism, that if the results indicate that there is no practical solution, they should be accepted. Equally, if it is necessary to take further time to iron out the detail of an apparently workable solution, we should do so rather than be driven by the legislative timetable.

Immigration and Nationality Services (Fees)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today laying regulations on fees for immigration and nationality services.

The Government review the fees on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary. We have continued with our strategic approach to charging: setting certain fees on the basis of the value of the service as well as cost recovery in a number of areas.

Some fees will continue to be set at or below levels that reflect the administrative costs of the service. These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the negative procedure. Other fees continue to be set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service. This allows us to generate revenue which is used either to set certain fees below cost recovery or to deliver the Government's wider objectives such as the doubling of resource for enforcement announced in March 2007, and the fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration announced in July 2008. These fees must also be specified in regulations before both Houses, but are subject to the affirmative process.

Today I laid regulations setting the fees charged above cost recovery. I am announcing our proposals for all the immigration and nationality fees we intend to charge during 2009/10 in order that Parliament may consider these regulations in context. For transparency, I have included the estimated unit cost for each route, so that it is clear which fees are set at or below cost recovery and the degree to which certain other routes are not.

Finally, we have also proposed fees for several new processes and services we provided previously free of charge. These new services were specified in the Fees Order laid on the 21 January. The fees for these services will be set in negative regulations. Full details on how to apply for these services will be provided on our website, www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

A full table of fees for 2009-10 is set out at Annex A.

PBS Sponsorship Fees

Current Products	*2008-09 Fee (£)*	*Proposed Fee 2009-10 (£)*	*Unit Cost 09/10*
Tier 2 Sponsor licence - small business	300	300	858
Tier 2 Sponsor licence - medium/large business	1000	1000	858
Tier 4 Sponsor licence	400	400	858
Tier 5 Sponsor licence	400	400	858
Tier 2 & 4 Sponsor licence - small business	400	400	858
Tier 2 & 4 Sponsor licence -medium/large business	1000	1000	858
Tier 2 & 5 Sponsor licence - small business	400	400	858
Tier 2 & 5 Sponsor licence -medium/large business	1000	1000	858
Tier 4 & 5 Sponsor licence	400	400	858
Tier 2, 4 & 5 Sponsor licence - small business	400	400	858
Tier 2, 4 & 5 Sponsor licence -medium/large business	1000	1000	858
Tier 2 & 4, 5 Licence - Medium/Large Sponsor, where they currently hold Tier 4 &/or Tier 5 Licence	600	600	858
Tier 4 &/or Tier 5 Licence - Small Sponsor, where they currently hold Tier 2 Licence	100	100	858
Tier 2 Certificate of Sponsorship	170	170	29
Tier 4 Confirmation of acceptance for Studies	N/A	10	29
Tier 5 Certificate of Sponsorship	10	10	29

Fees fon Application Made Outside the UK

Current Products	*2008-09 Fee (£)*	*Proposed Fee for 2009-10 (£)*	*Unit Costs 09/10 (£)*
Non-PBS Visas			
Visitor visa short term	65	67	101
Visitor visa long term (up to 2 yr)	205	215	127
Visitor visa long term (2 to 5 yr)		400	127
Visitor visa long term (5 to 10 yr)		500	127
Settlement visa *	515	585	379
Other visa	205	215	126
Direct Airside Transit Visa	45	46	70
Certificate of Entitlement	205	215	126
PBS Visas			
Tier 1 (General)	600	675	412
Tier 1 (General/Entrepreneur) (CESC)**	540	615	412
Tier 1 (Investor)	600	675	412
Tier 1 (Entrepreneur)	600	675	412
Tier 1 (Post Study)	205	265	412
Tier 1 (transition)	200	250	412
Tier 1 (transition) (CESC)	180	230	412
Tier 2	205	265	176
Tier 2 (CESC)	185	245	176
Tier 4	99	145	258
Tier 5	99	125	188
Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) (CESC)	90	110	188

*Dependants apply separately for a visa and pay the same fee as the main applicant.

**For certain types of application, we offer a reduced fee to nationals of countries that have ratified the Council of Europe Social Charter (1961) (the CESC), in line with the UK's obligations under this Charter. These countries are Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Turkey.

Fees for Applications Made Inside the UK

Current Products	*2008-09 Fee Current Products (£)*	*Proposed Fee for 2009/10 (£)*	*Unit Costs 09/10 (£)*
Applications Made in the UK-Outside the Points-Based System			
Indefinite Leave to Remain - Postal	750	820*	318
Indefinite Leave to Remain - application made at a Public Enquiry Office (PEO)	950	1020*	278
Indefinite Leave to Remain - Postal (CESC)	N/A	750*	318
Indefinite Leave to Remain - application made at a Public Enquiry Office (PEO) (CESC)	N/A	920*	278
Leave to Remain Non Student - Postal	395	465*	392
Leave to Remain Non Student - PEO	595	665*	286
FLR-IED - Postal	350	400*	230
FLR-IED - PEO	550	600*	250
FLR- BUS	750	800*	247
Certificate of Approval	295	295	402
Transfer of Conditions - Postal	160	165	399
Transfer of Conditions - PEO	500	515	302
Travel Documents Adult CID	210	215	243

Fees for Applications Made Inside the UK

Current Products	*2008-09 Fee Current Products (£)*	*Proposed Fee for 2009/10 (£)*	*Unit Costs 09/10 (£)*
Applications Made in the UK-Outside the Points-Based System			
Travel Documents Adult CTD	72	72	242
Travel Documents Child CID	130	135	258
Travel Documents Child CTD	46	46	245
Nationality 6(1) Single	575	640*	175
Nationality 6(1) Joint	575	690	221
Nationality 6(2) Others	575	640*	175
Nationality Registration Adult	400	460	175
Nationality Registration Single Minors	400	460	175
Nationality Registration Multiple Minors	400	510**	252
Renunciation of Nationality	385	395	177
Nationality Right of Abode	135	140	176
Re-issued Certificates of Nationality	20	75	182
Replacement BID	30	30	51
PBS Routes - Migrant Inside UK			
Tier 1 (General) - Postal	750	820*	247
Tier 1 (General) - PEO	950	1020*	249
Tier 1 (General / Entrepreneur) - Postal (CESC)	N/A	750*	247
Tier 1 (General) - PEO (CESC)	N/A	920*	249
Tier 1 (Investor) - Postal	750	820*	247
Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) - Postal	750	820*	247
Tier 1 (Post Study) - Postal	400	500*	247
Tier 1 (Post Study) - PEO	600	700*	260
Tier 1 (Transition) - Postal	330	400*	247
Tier 1 (Transition) - PEO	550	600*	249
Tier 2 - Postal	400	465*	230
Tier 2 - PEO	600	665*	250
Tier 2 - Postal (CESC)	N/A	425*	230
Tier 2 - PEO (CESC)	N/A	665*	250
Tier 4 - Postal	295	357*	357
Tier 4 - PEO	500	565*	373
Tier 5 - Postal	100	125	230
Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - PEO	500	515	250
Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - Postal (CESC)	N/A	110	230
Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - PEO (CESC)	N/A	460	250

*An additional £50 for each dependant applied for at the same time is also payable.

**After the first two minors, an additional £50 per extra child included on the application form is also payable.

NEW PRODUCTS	*NOTES*	*2008-09 Fee (£)*	*Proposed Fee for 2009/10 (£)*	*Unit Costs 09/10 (£)*
	International			
Vignette Transfer Fee	Transfer visa vignette between passports	0	75	75
	In UK			
Status Letters (Nationality)	Formal letter confirming applicants current status in the UK as a person who has acquired British Nationality. £75 (fee needs to be the same for duplicate certificate +based on costs	0	75	87
Non-Acquisition Letters (Nationality)	Formal letter confirming that a person has not acquired British Nationality	0	75	87
Status Letters (Immigration)	Formal letter confirming applicants current immigration status in the UK. £75 (fee needs to be the same for duplicate certificate + based on costs)	0	75	87
Call out/Out of hours fee	E.g. Capture of biometric data away from a UKBA public enquiry office. Currently offered at certain locations overseas. Optional service offered by prior appointment only. Same under cost fee as is currently charged for overseas service.	N/A	£128 per hour up to a maximum of £922 a day	£134/hour
Work Permit Technical Changes	Application for an employer to amend personal details of an employee on a work permit, or to make minor changes to the information UKBA holds. For example, a technical change could be a change of name on marriage, change of your business address, or where both the employee and the specific job they were approved for, move location.	0	20	230

Departure Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): Plans of changes to the departmental expenditure limit and administrative budget for 2008-09.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Home Office's departmental expenditure limits for 2008-09 will be increased by £2,822,000 from £9,688,381,000 to £9,691,203,000 and the administration budget will be reduced by £618,000 from £399,289,000 to £3,671,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resource and capital are as set out in the following table.

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	26,543	(32,161)	8,233,339	762,542	8,995,881
Of which:					
Administration budget[1]	(27,860)	(28,478)	398,671	0	398,671
Near cash in RDEL[2]	(2,587)	(3,031)	8,071,611	723,818	8,795,429
Capital[2]	1,540	11,500	577,727	289,313	867,040
Less depreciation[3]	(4,600)	0	(115,434)	(56,284)	(171,718)
Total	23,483	(20,661)	8,695,632	995,571	9,691,203

[1] The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts by which are treated as capital DEL budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

£000

	Total	*o/w near cash*	*o/w Admin*
(a) The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:	(5,618)	(5,618)	(618)
Take up of end year flexibility:	16,000	16,000	0
Programme to meet UKBA's strategic objective to 'secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country'.			
Transfers from other Government departments:	6,104	6,104	0
Programme from the Department for Children Schools and Families to the UK Border Agency (section F) to fund the additional costs of the 'Leaving care' programme.	6,000	6,000	—
Programme from the Foreign and Commonwealth office to the UK Boarder Agency (section F) for gratis visa fees relating to the 2008 UEFA Cup Final	104	104	—
Transfer to other Government departments:	(8,722)	(8,722)	(618)
Programme from the UK Border Agency (section F) to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to help meet the costs of migration policies	(4,700)	(4,700)	—
Programme from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to the Ministry of Defence for counter terrorism research.	(3,404)	(3,404)	—
Admin for Central Services (section H) to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills for the Skills Strategy for Government	(72)	(72)	(72)
Classification changes:	(19,000)	(19,000)	0
Switch programme to capital to fund the additional capital expenditure of the Forensic Science Service	(19,000)	(19,000)	—

		Capital	Total
(b) The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:			13,040
Transfers to other Government departments:	—	—	(5,960)
Capital from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to the Cabinet Office for the counter terrorism strategy	—	—	(3,470)
Capital from the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to the Ministry of Defence for the counter terrorism strategy	—	—	(2,490)
Classification changes:	—	—	19,000
Switch programme to capital to fund the additional capital expenditure of the Forensic Science Service	—	—	19,000

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (John Denham): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £309,113,000 from £18,241,368,000 to £18,550,481,000 and the Administration Budget will be increased by £5,917,000 from £71,733,000 to £77,650,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	35,434	237,857	-4,015,406	20,686,468	16,671,062

	Change		*New DEL*		*£000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Of which:					
Administration budget[1]	5,917	—	77,650	—	77,650
Near Cash in Resource DEL[1]	31,082	156,494	-5,223,629	20,449,371	15,225,742
Capital DEL[2]	1,524	130,476	-159,654	2,281,613	2,121,968
Less Depreciation[3]	-65,178	-31,000	-69,796	-172,753	-242,549
Total DEL	-28,220	337,33	-4,244,847	22,795,328	18,550,481

[1] The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource DEL

The increase in the Resource element of the DEL of £273,291,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of Resource DEL of £35,434,000 and an increase of £237,857,000 in the non-voted element of Resource DEL.

Voted Resource DEL

The £35,434,000 increase in the voted element of Resource DEL arises from:

RfR1

The take-up of £84,000,000 of near-cash End year Flexibility for Higher Education Support for Students (£74,000,000) and Further Education, Skills and International Programmes (£10,000,000).

The take-up of £54,715,000 of non-cash End Year Flexibility (EYF) for Higher Education (£48,752,000), Science, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (£5,732,000) and Further Education, Skills and International Programmes (£231,000).

The take-up of £5,917,000 of near-cash Administration costs End Year Flexibility (EYF) for Activities to Support all Functions.

The take-up from the Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) of £12,472,000 for Higher Education Support for Students (£8,008,000), Higher Education (£2,689,000) and Further Education, Skills and International Programmes (£1,775,000).

A transfer from the Ministry of Justice of £1,957,000 for Offender Learning.

Transfers from other Government Departments of £959,000 Administration costs for Government Skills.

A transfer from the Department for Children, Schools and Families of £450,000 for the Further Education Procurement Consortium.

Transfers from other Government Departments of £375,000 other resource for Government Skills.

A net movement to non-voted Resource DEL of £53,936,000 consisting of increased to voted Resource DEL for Further Education, Skills and International Programmes (Grants) (£20,553,000), Science, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (£252,000), and Higher Education (non-cash) (£32,000); and decreases to Higher Education Support for Students (non-cash) (£50,395,000), Higher Education (near-cash) (£12,972,000), Further Education, Skills and International Programmes (other current) (£10,291,000), Activities to Support all Functions (£895,000), and Higher Education Support for Students (near-cash) (£220,000).

A net increase in voted receipts for the Learning and Skills Council of £56,405,000, offset by a net increase in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted Resource DEL.

An increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills of £11,819,000, offset by an increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted Resource DEL.

An increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England of £596,000, offset by an increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted Resource DEL.

An increase in voted receipts of £1,955,000 reflecting the movement of the UK Intellectual Property Office Dividend from non-voted to voted Resource DEL receipts.

A transfer from Administration to Programme in respect of the £959,000 transfers received from other Government Departments for Government Skills.

RfR2

A movement to non-voted Resource DEL of £700,000 from Knowledge Transfer.

Non-voted Resource DEL

The £237,857,000 increase in non-voted Resource DEL arises from:

The take-up of £87,388,000 of near-cash End Year Flexibility (EYF) for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£30,000,000), the Natural Environment Research Council (£26,706,000), the Science and Technology Facilities Council (£17,651,000), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (£72,255,000), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (£2,595,000), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (£2,353,000), the Medical Research Council (£425,000) and the Economic and Social Research Council (£403,000).

The take-up from the Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) of £12,472,000 to voted Resource DEL for Higher Education Support for Students (£8,008,000), Higher Education (£2,689,000) and Further Education, Skills and International Programmes (£1,775,000).

A transfer from the Department for Children, Schools and Families of £6,530,000 for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

An increase in the Medical Research Council (MRC) non-voted non-cash Resource DEL of £31,000,000 arising from a claim on the DEL Reserve for the costs of bringing the MRC Commercial Fund into the Budgetary regime.

A net movement to non-voted Resource DEL of £53,936,000 from RfR1 voted Resource DEL consisting of increases for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£65,019,000), the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (£6,138,000), the Student Loans Company (£1,205,000), Investors in People UK (£100,000) and the Office for Fair Access (£60,000); and decreases for the Technology Strategy Board (£12,700,000), the Learning and Skills Council (£4,834,000), the Quality Improvement Agency (£800,000) and the Design Council (£252,000).

A movement to non-voted Resource DEL of £700,000 from RfR2 voted Resource DEL for the Natural Environment Research Council

A net increase in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted Resource DEL of £56,405,000, offset by a net increase in voted receipts for the Learning and Skills Council.

An increase in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills non-voted Resource DEL of £11,819,000, offset by an increase in voted receipts for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

An increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted Resource DEL of £596,000, offset by an increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

An increase in non-voted Resource DEL of £1,955,000 reflecting the movement of the UK Intellectual Property Office Dividend to voted Resource DEL receipts.

Capital DEL

The increase in the Capital element of the DEL of £132,000,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of Capital DEL of £1,524,000 and an increase of £130,476,000 in the non-voted element of Capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £1,524,000 increase in the voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

RfR1

A movement to non-voted Capital DEL of £100,000 from Further Education, Skills and International Programmes to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

An increase in voted Capital DEL of £374,000 brought forward from 2010-11 as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report for High Education support for Students.

RfR2

A movement to voted Capital DEL of £1,250,000 from non-voted Capital DEL for the Medical Research Council to the Science and Research Investment Fund.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £130,476,000 increase in the non-voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

The take-up of £166,626,000 of Capital DEL brought forward from 2010-11 as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report for the Learning and Skills Council (£110,000,000), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£50,408,000), the Natural Environment Research Council (£5,000,000) and the Student Loans Company (£1,218,000).

A transfer to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform of £35,000,000 as agreed in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

A movement from RfR1 voted Capital DEL of £100,000 to non-voted Capital DEL for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills.

A movement to RfR2 voted Capital DEL of £1,250,000 from non-voted Capital DEL for the Medical Research Council to the Science and Research Investment Fund.

Administration Budget

RfR1

The £5,917,000 increase within the Administration Budget arises from:

The take-up of £5,917,000 of near-cash End Year Flexibility (EYF).

Transfers from other Government Departments totalling £959,000 for Government Skills.

A transfer from Administration to Programme in respect of the £959,000 transfers received from other Government Departments for Government Skills".

Student Loans Company Delivery Strategy

The Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. David Lammy): In July 2006, the then Education Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) announced that the Student Loans Company (SLC) would become the national delivery organisation of a transformed student finance service which provides a higher quality of service, and is more convenient for the customer.

The SLC is undergoing a programme of change to equip itself for its new role. As part of this we asked the Company to prepare a Delivery Strategy which sets out how it would deliver the policy objectives of DIUS and the Devolved Administrations.

I received the final version of the Company's Delivery Strategy on 20 October 2008. It outlines what results the Company will deliver over the next three years, and the capacity and capability it will need to build, to ensure the effective delivery of the aspects of the student finance service for which it is now responsible. It also proposes the success measures that DIUS will use to hold the Company to account over its performance.

I am going to place the SLC Delivery Strategy in the Libraries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for International Development's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be reduced by £29,787,000 from £5,736,451,000 to £5,706,664,000.

With the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-12,494	-17,293	3,997,815	839,849	4,837,664
Of which:					
Administration budget[1]	848	-853	162,950	—	162,950
Near-cash in RDEL	-22,494	-7,293	3,898,815	849,849	4,748,664
Capital DEL[2]	10,000	-10,000	891,000	—	891,000
Less Depreciation[3]	—	—	-22,000	—	-22,000
Total	-2,494	-27,293	4,866,815	839,849	5,706,664

[1] The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimate and Accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of the resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

The net change in the 'Resource' element of DEL arises from:

Additions:

£916,000 transferred from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of Stabilisation Aid Fund projects in Afghanistan.

Reductions

£1,650,000 transferred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of projects connected to the London 2012 Olympics.

£300,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of payments to locally engaged staff in Iraq.

£1,000,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

£5,000 transferred to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in respect of the Skills Strategy for Government project.

£6,716,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the Conflict Prevention Pool.

£18,899,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of the Conflict Prevention Pool.

£216,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of a Conflict Pool project in Ghana.

£917,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of Stabilisation Aid Fund projects in Iraq.

£1,000,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of a Police Reform project in Pakistan.

There is no net change in the 'Capital' element of DEL.

JUSTICE

Family Legal Aid Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following Written ministerial statement.

"Between 18 June and 10 September 2008, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Legal Services commission (LSC) consulted on options for how payments made under the Family Graduated Fees Scheme, which governs payments to barristers for family legal aid work, could be reduced in order to live within budget, and to protect services to vulnerable clients. Our consultation was announced in a statement made by my noble Friend, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, on 18 June, *Official Report*, column WS81.

Expenditure on legal aid barrister family advocacy has risen unsustainably from £74 million to nearly £100 million in the last five years—a rise of over 30 per cent. Over the same period, the number of cases has increased by only 11 per cent., so there has been a significant rise in average case costs in a short period. Payments to family barristers now form over 10 per cent. of the entire civil legal aid budget. Legal aid operates within a fixed budget and the department is obliged to take action to remain within that budget, or risk being forced to reduce vital services.

Following the close of our formal consultation in the autumn, we have continued to engage with interested parties to hear their views. We are grateful to respondents for their time. We have listened and changed many of our proposals, and accepted some of the suggestions made by consultees.

Today I am announcing a package of measures to restructure family barrister payments, reduce overall expenditure, and to refocus resources on high-priority clients. Given the significant priority afforded to public law children cases, these reductions will apply primarily to private family law work, such as child contact and residence disputes, and disputes over property. The Government is considering how we can increase the number of private law disputes which are resolved through mediation, because adversarial proceedings are not always in the interest of the parties. We will make the following changes to the Family Graduated Fee Scheme for barristers:

Abolish the "more than two parties". Special Issue Payment which provides a 40 per cent. increase to fees when claimed in public law cases. We received strong representations from interested parties that this element of the scheme did not represent a sufficiently 'special' issue to merit a fee increase, as there are more than two parties in the large majority of such cases.

Re-direct most of the funding spent on the "more than two parties" Special Issue Payment into increasing by £4.4 million p.a. the fees paid to barristers for hearings and conferences in child care or supervision proceedings. This will mean an increase in fees paid to lawyers in at least 3,500 of these cases each year.

In private law disputes concerning child contact or residence, reduce the Special Issue Payments claimable by barristers for conduct issues and additional experts from 50 per cent. to 30 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively. Both of these payments are currently running at 150 per cent. of the level intended.

In private law disputes concerning financial settlement on divorce, abolish the most expensive Special Issue Payments claimable by barristers for issues concerning conduct, analysis of accounts, assets which are outside the control of the parties, and more than one expert. In addition, we intend to reduce the Special Issue Payments claimable for litigants in person or a relevant foreign element from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. All of these payments are running at a level higher than that intended.

Introduce tighter procedures for barristers' claims for Special Preparation Fees, which was a suggestion made to us by interested parties. This is an area where fees are running at 800 per cent. of the level that anyone expected. Barristers will be required to submit to judges a detailed schedule of the hours spent in preparation so that these payments are only made where appropriate. We will also revise the claim forms so that the basis of any claim is clear.

We are not reducing expenditure in the Domestic Violence category.

Annual expenditure on family barristers' fees is now nearly £26 million per year higher than it was five years ago—an increase which far outstrips any increase in cases. These changes will help us to reduce net expenditure by £6.5 million per year, and to refocus resources on some of the most vulnerable families and children in society"

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) and The National Archives (TNA) Total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

Total DEL for MoJ (RfR1, 2 and 3) is increased by £126,542,000 from £9,743,845,200 to £9,870,387,200 and the administration budget has increased by £195,000 from £461,841,000 to £462,036,000.

Total AME for MoJ (RfR1, 2 and 3) is increased by £455,000,000.

Total DEL for NICS is increased by £20,000,000 from £132,569,000 to £152,569,000 and the administration budget has decreased by £(1,000,000) from £(507,000) to £(1,507,000). This is due to an increase in administration income.

Total DEL for the TNA increased by £1,104,000 from £43,420,000 to £44,524,000 and the administration budget remains unchanged.

Within the Total DEL change for MoJ (RfR1, 2 and 3) the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table.

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	260,745	(196,995)	5,880,642	3,433,926	9;314,568
Of which:					
Administration[1]	195	0	462,036	0	462,036
Near cash in Resource DEL	49,959	3,767	4,682,905	3,958,031	8,640,936
Capital[2]	68,778	912	921,818	40,512	962,330
Depreciation[3]	(1,980)	(4,918)	(398,308)	(8,203)	(406,511)
Total	327,543	(201,001)	6,404,152	3,466,235	9,870,387
Total AME	455,000	0	595,000	0	595,000

[1] The total of "administration budget" and "near-cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

(1) The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for MoJ arises from:

RfR1: To promote the development of a modern, fair, cost-effective and efficient system of justice for all.

Resource Change: Admin (total decrease of (£685,000))

Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):

An increase of £95,000 in Resource DEL in respect of EYF draw down for the Diana Princess of Wales Inquest.

Other Increases:

An increase of £546,000 in Resource DEL in relation to the transfer of Corporate Costs from the Home Office.

Decreases:

A decrease in admin budget of £(1,104,000) in relation to a machinery of government change of the Statutory Publications Office to The National Archives (TNA).

A decrease in admin budget of £(222,000) transferred to the Department for Innovation Skills and Universities (DIUS) in relation to Government Skills Funding.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £97,957,000)

Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):

An increase of £5,000,000 in Resource DEL in respect of EYF draw down for The Reform and Modernisation Programme (RAMP).

Reserve Claims:

An increase of £35,000,000 in Resource DEL in relation to the Modernisation Fund.

An increase of £15,000,000 in Resource DEL in relation to the Prison Capacity Programme.

Other Increases:

An increase in Resource DEL of £22,739,000 in relation to the Young Offender Education Funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

An increase in Resource DEL of £10,000,000 in relation to an increase in Pension Provisions within the National Probation Service Local Area Boards.

An increase in Resource DEL of £4,100,000 in relation to Intensive Fostering from the DCSF.

An increase in Resource DEL of £1,778,000 from the Department of Health (DoH) in relation to the Mental Health Review Tribunal Funding.

An increase in Resource DEL of £1,455,000 from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in relation to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Funding.

An increase in Resource DEL of £1,055,000 in relation to the Parliamentary Counsel Office from the Cabinet Office.

An increase in Resource DEL of £800,000 in relation to Social Workers in Young Offender Institutes from the DCSF.

An increase in Resource DEL of £680,000 in relation to the implementation of the Youth Rehabilitation Order from the DCSF.

An increase in Resource DEL of £220,000 in relation to Child Support Reform Funding from the DWP.

An increase in Resource DEL of £130,000 in relation to the Virtual Courts Pilot Scheme from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of (£34,822,000))

Decreases:

A decrease of £(19,960,000) Resource DEL transferred to the DoH in respect of the Escorts and Bed watches.

A decrease of £(9,936,000) Resource DEL transferred to the DoH to cover prisoner health care costs of new prison places as part of the Prison Capacity Programme.

A decrease of £(2,600,000) Resource DEL transferred to the CPS in relation to the Victims Surcharge.

A decrease of £(1,957,000) Resource DEL transferred to the DIUS to cover prisoner education costs of new prison places as part of the Prison Capacity Programme.

A decrease of £(200,000) Resource DEL transferred to the DoH in respect of IDTS Clinical funding.

A decrease of £(169,000) Resource DEL transferred to the CPS in relation to Liverpool Criminal Justice Centre.

Capital Change (total increase of £69,690,000)

Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):

An increase of £131,000,000 in Capital DEL in respect of EYF draw down for 102 Petty France.

An increase of £3,200,000 in Capital DEL in respect of EYF drawn down for CORE Capital Grants.

Other Increases:

An increase of £1,500,000 in Capital DEL in relation to the provision of CCTV in Prisoner Communal Areas from the Home Office.

An increase of £990,000 in Capital DEL in relation to the Accelerated Contest Funding from the Home Office.

Decreases:

A decrease of £(67,000,000) in Capital DEL in relation to the Carter Programme funding drawn down in the Winter Supplementary Estimate, but now re-profiled into 2009-10.

AME Changes (total increase of £455,000,000)

Other Increases:

An increase of £430,000,000 provision for the National Offender Management Service relating to the impairment of assets.

An increase of £25,000,000 provision for Her Majesty's Court Service relating to the impairment of assets.

RfR2: Overseeing the effective operation of the devolution settlement in Scotland and representing the interests of Scotland in the UK Government.

Resource Change: Admin (total increase of £880,000)

Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):

An increase of £771,000 in Resource DEL in respect of an EYF draw down relating to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

An increase of £109,000 in Resource DEL in respect of an EYF draw down relating to the Office of the Advocate General.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £420,000)

Other Increases:

An increase of £420,000 Resource DEL in respect of EYF draw down relating to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Scotland.

RfR3: To support the Secretary of State in discharging his role of representing Wales in the UK Government, representing the UK Government in Wales and ensuring the smooth running of the devolution settlement in Wales.

Total DEL for Wales has remained unchanged.

There is no change in the Capital DEL for RfR2 and RfR3

(2) The change in the Resource DEL for the Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) arises from:

Within the Total DEL change for Northern Ireland Court Service, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL:	(2,000)	22,000	56,974	96,494	153,468
Of which:					
Administration[1]	(1,000)	—	(1,507)	—	(1,507)
Near cash in Resource DEL	(2,000)	22,000	42,023	93,706	135,729
Capital[2]	—	—	8,200	—	8,200
Depreciation[3]	—	—	(8,658)	(441)	(9,099)
Total	(2,000)	22,000	56,516	96,053	152,569

[1] The total of "administration budget" and "near-cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Admin (total decrease of £(1,000,000))

Other Decreases:

The change in the administration budget arises from a £1,000,000 increase in civil court fee income. This will be offset against additional related costs to dispose of civil court business. The appropriations in aid are classified as administrative income and so the additional fee income will reduce the administration cost limit by £1,000,000.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £21,000,000)

Take up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):

Take up of EYF of £20,000,000 to cover an increased requirement in near-cash admin costs due to a projected shortfall by Northern Ireland Legal Services commission (NILSC) on legal aid expenditure. This is comprised of £9,316,000 near-cash, plus an agreed switch to near-cash of £847,000 non-cash and £9,837,000 capital.

Other Increases:

An increase in admin income as stated above has a subsequent impact of an increase of £1,000,000 in programme costs.

Transfer of £2,000,000 resources to finance increase in grant to the NILSC. In budgetary terms, the utilisation of savings on resource DEL (voted) are being used to cover an increase in resource DEL spending (non-voted) by the NILSC.

(3) The change in the Resource DEL for The National Archives arises from:

Within the Total DEL change for The National Archives (TNA), the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL:	1,104	—	47,704	—	47,704
Of which:					
Administration[1]	—	—	—	—	—
Near cash in Resource DEL	1,104	—	36,953	—	36,953
Capital[2]	—	—	2,500	—	2,500
Depreciation[3]	—	—	(5,680)	—	(5,680)
Total	1,104	—	44,524	—	44,524

[1] The total of "administration budget" and "near-cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £1,104,000)

Other Increases:

An increase in Resource DEL of £1,104,000 in relation to a machinery of government change with a transfer of the Statutory Publications Office from the MoJ to TNA.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the UK Statistics Authority's total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £200,000 from £216,865,000 to £217,065,000, and the programme budget will be increased by £200,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table.

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	6,200	-6,000	217,065	—	217,065
Of which:					
Administration Budget[1]	—	—	—	—	—
Near-cash in RDEL	6,800	-7,000	181,565	15,000	196,565
Capital[2]	—	—	21,000	—	21,000

£000

	Change		New DEL		
	Voted	Non-voted	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Less depreciation[3]	-1,885	—	-18,385	—	-18,385
Total	4,315	-6,000	219,680	—	219,680

[1] The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Public Expenditure Survey transfers from other Government Department in support of migration statistics.

The take up of departmental unallocated provision (DUP) of £6,000,000 in order to finance in-year pressures and to meet new priorities.

The change in the programme budget arises from transfer from other Government Department of £200,000 and the draw down of £6,000,000 of DUP.

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne): Subject to parliamentary approval of the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09, the Cabinet Office total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £50,980,000 from £357,896,000 to £408,876,000.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£000

	Winter supplementary estimate DEL			Changes			Spring supplementary estimate new DEL		
	Voted	Non voted	Total	Voted	Non voted	Total	Voted	Non voted	Total
Resource DEL	304,681	37,476	342,157	+4[illegible]725	-50	+48,675	353,406	37,426	390,832
Of which:									
Administration budget	203,250	—	203,250	-27,238	—	-27,238	176,012	—	176,012
Near cash in RDEL	260,874	38,591	299,465	+46,725	-35	+46,690	307,599	38,556	346,155
Capital DEL[1]	48,541	1,050	49,591	+4,255	+50	+4,305	52,796	1,100	53,896
Depreciation[2]	-33,852	—	-33,852	-2,000	—	-2,000	-35,852	—	-35,852
Total DEL	319,370	38,526	357,896	+50,980	—	+50,980	370,350	38,526	408,876

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Summary of Changes in DEL

The change in the resource element of DEL, an increase of £48.675 million, comprises £37.195 million agreed claims on the Reserve, a £0.165 million take up of End Year Flexibility, £12.312 million transfers of budgetary cover from/to other Government Departments and £0.997 million transfers to Capital DEL.

The change in the capital element of DEL, an increase of £4.305 million, comprises a £3.308 million take up of End year Flexibility and £0.997 million transfers from Resource DEL.

Changes in Resource DEL (RDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in Resource DEL (RDEL) of £48,675,000 are as follows:

Agreed Claims on the Reserve

A drawdown from the Reserve for v Matched Funding for the Office of the Third Sector to cover grant expenditure increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £13,000,000.

A drawdown from the Reserve for the Invest to Save Budget (ISB) for the Office of the Third Sector to cover grant expenditure increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £916,000.

A drawdown on the reserve for the Grassroots Grant programme increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £23,279,000.

End year Flexibility

A take up of End Year Flexibility (EYF) for the Invest to Save Budget (ISB) for the Office of the Third Sector increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £165,000.

Budget cover transfers outwards

Transfers to other Government Departments to cover the costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel reduces Resource DEL and net Cash Requirement by £1,728,000.

Budget cover transfers inwards

A transfer from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to cover the costs of i Monitoring Security Co-ordination Centre (iMSCC) increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £40,000.

A transfer from the Security and Intelligence Agencies to cover the costs of the SCOPE programme increases Non Cash Resource DEL by £14,000,000.

Transfers from Voted Resource to Capital DEL

A transfer from Voted Resource DEL to Capital DEL increases the Capital Budget by £947,000 and consists of the following: a £60,000 transfer from the House of Lords Appointments Commission Resource DEL to cover the costs of redeveloping the appointments database, a £750,000 transfer from the core Cabinet Office Resource DEL to enhance the computer system that supports the Civil Service Pensions and a £137,000 transfer from the core Cabinet Office Resource DEL to cover expenditure on projects implementing security measures.

Transfer from Non-Voted Resource to Capital DEL

The Commission for the Compact Limited, an executive NDPB, has arranged to transfer £50,000 of its Non-Voted Resource DEL to Capital DEL to cover expenditure on office equipment.

Changes in Capital DEL (CDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in capital DEL (CDEL) of £4,305,000 are as follows:

End Year Flexibility

A take up of End Year Flexibility for the Government Security Zone to cover accounting adjustments on capital grants increases Capital DEL by £3,308,000; there is no corresponding increase in net Cash Requirement.

Transfers from Voted and Non-Voted Resource to Capital DEL

A transfer from Voted and Non-Voted Resource DEL to Capital DEL increases the Capital Budget by £997,000 as previously described in the section Changes in Resource DEL.

Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09: Charity Commission

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan): Plans to change the Charity Commission's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) and administration budget for 2008-09.

Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Charity Commission total DEL will be increased by £1,850,000 from £30,852,000 to £32,702,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

Departmental expenditure limits and administration budget

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	1,450	—	32,422	—	32,422
Of which[1]:					
Administration budget	1,450	—	32,422	—	32,422
Near cash in RDEL	1,450	—	31,272	—	31,272
Capital DEL[2]	400	—	1,100	—	1,100
Depreciation[3]	—	—	-820	—	-820
Total	1,850	—	32,702	—	32,702

[1] The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' may be greater than total resource of DEL due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL and in the administration budget arises from the take up of the remaining £400,000 from the Modernisation Fund (out of a total £3 million agreed in the CSR 07 settlement) and the utilisation of £1,050,000 of the Commission's Resource EYF.

The change in the capital element of the DEL reflects the utilisation of £400,000 of the Commission's capital EYF.

All of these funds will be used to pay for the costs of making ready the Commission's new accommodation at Fox Court in London. The Commission is due to leave its current London accommodation in June 2009.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Topical Debates

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted on the floor of the House, by letter, e-mail or another method. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

Week commencing 6 October 2008

'Failures of Airlines and effect on passengers' (Business Questions)

'Sri Lanka' (Business Questions)

'Energy Providers' (Business Questions)

'Utilities prices' (Business Questions)

'Government initiatives to help economic growth' (Business Questions)

'Increase in Rail Fares' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 13 October 2008

'Government policy on Disability' (Business Questions)

'Sri Lanka' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 20 October 2008

'Fireworks' (Business Questions)

'Southampton City NHS' (Business Questions)

'Work of the Royal British Legion' (Business Questions)

'Severn Barrage' (Business Questions)

'Identity Fraud' (Business Questions)

'Zimbabwe' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 27 October 2008

'Democratic Republic of Congo' (Business Questions)

'Food Standards Agency Report on Food Labelling' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 10 November 2008

'Role of the Post Office in the Banking System' (Business Questions)

'Economy' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 17 November 2008

'Zimbabwe' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 8 December 2008

'Holocaust Memorial Day' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 15 December 2008

'Child Protection and the Future of the Social Work Profession' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 29 December 2008

'Gaza' (Letter)

Week commencing 5 January 2009

'Gaza' (Letter)

'Gaza' (Letter)

'Gaza' (Letter)

Week commencing 19 January 2009

'Mental Health' (Business Questions)

Week commencing 26 January 2009

'Domestic Violence' (Email)

'Gaza' (Business Questions)

'Sri Lanka' (Business Questions)

'Future of the Steel Industry' (Letter)

During this period there have been the following Topical Debates:

'Financial Stability' on 9 October 2008

'Energy Providers' on 16 October 2008

'Work and Skills' on 23 October 2008

'Businesses and the Regions' on 30 October 2008

'Political and Humanitarian situation in the DR Congo' on 6 November 2008

'Combating Obesity' on 13 November 2008

'Holocaust Memorial Day' on 29 January 2009

'Sri Lanka' on 5 February 2009

In addition, the House debated Gaza on 15 January 2009.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Spring Supplementary Estimate

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): Subject to Parliamentary approval the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be taking a 2008-09 Spring Supplementary Estimate. The effect this will have is to increase the NIO's DEL by £146,802,000 from £1,215,517,000. to £1,362,319,000.

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Vote	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	57,596	48,484	392,993	951,451	1,344,444
Admin budget	(1,260)	–	76,025	–	76,025
Near-cash	42,425	33,305	295,225	708,517	1,003,742
Capital	8,000	(40)	36,137	43,726	79,863
Depreciation	17,690	15,072	(20,836)	(41,152)	(61,988)
Total	83,286	63,516	408,294	954,025	1,362,319

The change in total DEL of £146,802,000 relates to the draw down of End Year Flexibility of £89,334,000 (£81,534,000 resource and £7,800,000 capital); rephrasing of non-cash budgets from 2009-10 into 2008-09 of £12,184,000 for PNSI and Compensation Agency; additional funding of £12,250,000 for the implementation of FRS 17 and FRS 26; and resource and capital budget transfers with other government departments resulting in a net increase of £272,000.

The take up of End Year Flexibility is required to supplement baselines in Political Directorate, Criminal Justice Directorate, Northern Ireland Prison Service, Central Administration, Public Prosecution Service, Youth Justice Agency, Policing Non-Severance, Bloody Sunday Inquiry, Policing and Security and Compensation Agency.

The administration budget decreases by £1,260,000 from £77,285,000 to £76,025,000. This is due to the transfer of £1,726,000 from Administration to Programme for Forensic Science Northern Ireland and life Sentence Review Commissioners. Additionally there are resource budget transfers of £500,000 from the Department of Finance and personnel, Northern Ireland for accommodation costs; £28,000 to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland for staff costs; and £6,000 to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills for the Skills Strategy for Government programme.

The increase in capital DEL of £7,960,000 reflects the budget transfer of £160,000 from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland for energy costs in the Northern Ireland prison Service and the take up of £7,800,000 End Year Flexibility to meet additional capital requirements in the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The Northern Ireland Executive DEL will increase by £182,606,000 from £8,881,173,000 to £9,063,779,000.

The change reflects the take up of End Year Flexibility of £225,000,000 (£125,000,000 resource and £100,000,000 capital); additions of £1,809,000 arising from the 2009 Pre Budget Report; net outward budget transfers to other departments of £2,748,000; a reduction of £50,880,000 for Northern Ireland Water as a result of it becoming a Government owned Company; an increase of £9,425,000 to take account of capital reprofiling from 2010-11.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimates, the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) provision for the administration of the Scotland Office will be increased by £1,300,000 and takes account of the following routine adjustment:

A take-up of near cash end year flexibility of £1,300,000.

The increase will be added to the planned total of public expenditure spending commitments in the current financial year.

The Scotland DEL will increase by £75,866,000 from £27,459,943,000 to £27,535,809,000.

The Scotland DEL increase takes account of the following routine adjustments to the Scottish Executive provision:

a transfer of £114,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of child poverty pilots;

a transfer of £157,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in respect of Child Trust Fund—Top ups for Looked after Children;

the take up of 2008 Budget consequentials by the Scottish Executive amounting to £5,435,000;

the take up of 2008 Budget consequentials in respect of Capital Fiscal Stimulus amounting to £32,960,000;

the take up of additional Capital Fiscal Stimulus funding amounting to £20,200,000; and

an increase in respect of classification change for Scottish water cost of capital amounting to £17,000,000.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office (Contingency Fund)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"Following the ministerial statement on 13 January 2009 and discussions in the House on 15 January 2009, this subsequent statement provides further explanation of the Serious Fraud Office's access to an advance from the Contingencies Fund ahead of the forthcoming spring supplementary estimate.

The Serious Fraud Office is funded in a different way to most other departments. There are four elements to its funding: its core operations; its large, so-called blockbuster cases; modernisation and transformation programmes; and asset recovery receipts. In addition, like many departments the Serious Fraud Office is able, subject to the Treasury's approval, to use the end year flexibility scheme whereby previously unspent amounts are brought forward into a current financial year.

At the start of each year, the Serious Fraud Office's Main Estimate covers expenditure for its core operations. Additional funding for the other four funding elements, as above, are then authorised through the normal Supplementary Estimates processes and can fluctuate depending on activity.

Parliamentary approval for this year's additional resources of £14.1 million will be sought in a Spring Supplementary Estimate for the Serious Fraud Office. This includes blockbuster funding, modernisation funding and monies from end year flexibility net of asset recovery receipts. This figure has recently reduced from the £15.45 million set out in the statement of 13 January 2009 as blockbuster case costs have been reduced this year.

Pending that approval, urgent cash expenditure estimated at £10.1 million, of the £14.1 million above, being balances in respect of blockbuster cases (£5.9 million) and the transformation programme (£5.4 million), less asset recovery receipts of £1.2 million, will be met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund.

No additional monies are being sought by the Serious Fraud Office for its core operations."

TRANSPORT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2008-09 will be decreased by £11,270,000 from £13,239,009 to £13,227,739,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £11,200,000 from £281,926,000 to £293,126,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital, are set out in the following table:

£000

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	113,222	360,641	6,043,726	786,274	6,830,000
of which					
Administration budget	11,250	-50	293,126	—	293,126
Near-cash in RDEL	-343,196	358,141	5,105,243	979,839	6,085,082
Capital	227,060	-227,060	6,360,478	922,751	7,283,229
Depreciation[1]	-485,133	-	-852,898	-32,592	-885,490
Total	-144,851	133,581	11,551,306	1,676,433	13,227,739

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource change: Administration (total increase of £11,200,000)

Voted: total increase of £11,250,000

RfR1

(i) Take up of £11,200,000 near cash end year flexibility for administration pressures (£8,045,000)

(ii) £50,000 near cash transfer from non voted for administration pressures

(iii) Within the Administration Budget £3,800,000 of non-cash headroom has been converted to near cash, permitted under Treasury guidelines, to meet pressures in estates and aviation

Non Voted: total decrease of £50,000

Transfer of £50,000 to administration near cash voted provision.

Resource change: Programme (total increase of £462,663,000)

Voted: total increase of £101,972,000

RfR1

(i) Treasury agreed increase of £462,718,000* non cash to reflect the accounting treatment of changes in fair values arising from the implementation of accounting standards FRS 25 and FRS 26 for: London and Continental railways (£300,000,000); Network Rail's Debt Issuance Programme (£164,886,000); and the Air Travel Trust Fund (£-2,168,000); partially offset by the £462,718,000 is included in the £485,133,000 depreciation increase for the Spring Supplementary Estimate which also includes an increase of £26,215,000 for the Highways Agency partially offset by a decrease of £3,800,000 for central administration.

(ii) A net transfer of £360,691,000 to non voted provision as follows:

a. £369,383,000 near cash headroom from rail: for the net operating losses of London and Continental railways (£252,000,000); to the departmental unallocated provision in respect of programme slippage into 2009-10 (£104,928,000); and to cover a shortfall in Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency receipts (£12,455,000);

b. £4,045,000 near cash headroom from cleaner fuels and vehicles to cover a shortfall in driver and vehicle Licensing Agency receipts:

c. £500,000 near cash from other transport grants transferred to railways to allow payments to both the Rail Passenger Council and the Bus Passenger council to be administered more efficiently;

d. £2,500,000 non cash to reflect the write back of Voluntary Early retirement provision; partially offset by

c. £15,737,000 near cash use of Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts within the Departmental Expenditure Limit by the Highways Agency.

(iii) A transfer of £55,000 near cash to the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills for Government skills

Non-Voted: total net increases of £360,691,000

(i) £360,691,000 transferred from voted provision of which £358,191,000 is near cash and £2,500,000 non cash.

Capital Change: (no net change)

Voted: total increase of £227,060,000 RfR1

(i) A net transfer of £227,060,000 from non voted provision as follows:

a. a transfer from departmental unallocated provision to Network Rail capital grants (£258,060,000); partially offset by

b. a transfer of £5,100,000 from headroom on other transport grants (£3,100,000) and aviation services, transport security and royal travel (£2,000,000) to the shared services transformation project; and

c. a transfer of £25,900,000 2012 Olympics underspend to the departmental unallocated provision for use on this programme in future years.

Non-voted: total decrease of £227,060,000

(i) A net transfer of £227,060,000 to voted provision.

WALES

Wales Office Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): The Welsh Assembly Government's Departmental Expenditure Limit will be increased by £99,949,000 from £14,256,819,000 to £14,356,768,000. The increase is a result of:

(a) Take-up of £68,800,000 EYF-Capital.

(b) Capital re-profiling of £28,180,000 from 2010-11 financial year.

And also includes:

(c) Transfer of £66,000 Near-Cash from Department for Children, Schools and Families.

(d) Transfer of £17,000 Near-Cash to the Department of Industry, University and skills.

(e) Increase of £2,920,000 Capital as a result of the Warm Front initiative announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

The transfers will be offset within the budgets of DCSF and DIUS and the take up of the end Year Flexibility will be charged to the Reserve and will not therefore add to the planned total of public expenditure. The capital reprofiling and Warm Front additions will be met by an increase in the planned total of public expenditure as announced in the 2008 PBR.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Expenditure Limit

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Government Equalities Office departmental expenditure limit will increase by £1,000 from £83,602,000 to £83,603,000 and administration budget will increase by £4,001,000 from £4,085,000 to £8,086,000.

Within the departmental expenditure limit change, the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change			*New Departmental Expenditure Limit*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	1	—	1	14,006	63,161	77,167
Of which:						
Administration	4,001	—	4,001	8,086	—	8,086
Near-cash	—	—	—	14,005	62,773	76,778
Capital	—	—	—	—	7,000	7,000
Depreciation[1]	—	—	—	—	-564	-564
Total	1	—	1	14,006	69,597	83,603

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource departmental expenditure limit, is excluded from the total departmental expenditure limit since the capital departmental expenditure limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource departmental expenditure limit

The change in the resource departmental expenditure limit arises from a token increase to the administration forecast, where a Department's expenditure within the estimate is wholly offset by income, so that a token amount of £1,000 is voted.

Administration costs limit

The movement in the administration cost limit arises from a funding exchange between the Government Equalities Office and Department for Work and Pensions, in which the Government Equalities Office has exchanged programme funding for administration funding, to ease the funding pressures arising from the creation of the Government Equalities Office as a stand alone Department.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions Total Departmental Expenditure Limit will increase by £175,531,000 from £7,837,785,000 to £8,013,316,000 and the administration budget will increase by £139,878,000 from £5,693,829,000 to £5,833,707,000.

Within the Departmental Expenditure Limit change, the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

£000

	Change			*New Departmental Expenditure Limit*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	207,846	-51,120	156,726	6,599,338	1,487,027	8,086,365
Of which						
Administration	189,878	-50,000	139,878	5,833,707	—	5,833,707
Near-cash	207,527	-50,801	156,726	6,396,464	1,487,824	7,884,288

£000

	Change			New Departmental Expenditure Limit		
	Voted	Non-voted	Total	Voted	Non-voted	Total
Capital	2,546	1,319	3,865	80,659	1,745	82,404
Depreciation[1]	14,621	319	14,940	-114,177	-1,276	-115,453
Total	225,013	-49,482	175,531	6,595,820	1,417,496	8,013,316

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource Departmental Expenditure Limit, is excluded from the total Departmental Expenditure Limit since the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit includes capital spending to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Request for Resources 1

i. A draw down of £46,000,000 of the Department's Resource End of Year Flexibility stock to fund expenditure of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

Request for Resources 2

ii. An increase of £20,000,000 as a result of benefit savings realised by the rollout of Provider Led Pathways. An agreement with HM Treasury allows the Department to convert 50p of every £1 saved into Departmental Expenditure Limit funding.

iii. A budget transfer of £1,455,000 to the Ministry of Justice to fund increased operating costs relating to the introduction of Employment Support Allowance.

iv. A budget transfer of £220,000 to the Ministry of Justice to fund expected increases in consent orders through the courts for Child Maintenance, following repeal of section 6 of the Chid Support Act 1991.

v. A budget transfer of £330,000 to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in relation to Mesothelioma compensation payments.

vi. A budget transfer of £132,000 to the Department for Children, Schools and Families relating to Joint Birth registrations.

vii. Budget transfers to the Scottish Government £114,000, the Welsh Assembly £66,000 and the Department for Children, Schools and Families £1,142,000 in relation to Child Poverty Pilots.

viii. A transfer of £4,000,000 Administration funding was made to the Government Equalities Office, in return for £4,000,000 of Programme funding, resulting in a net nil overall impact on the Departmental Expenditure Limit.

ix. A £3,500,000 reduction in Departmental Expenditure Limit to contribute to increased Annually Managed Expenditure resulting from enhancements to the Support for the Mortgage Interest scheme, announced as part of the Government's package of help for home-owners.

Request for Resources 3

x. A draw down of £55,000,000 from the Department's Modernisation Fund. As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07), the Department was given access to a Modernisation Fund of £550,000,000 across all CSR07 years, in addition to its settlement funding.

xi. A budget transfer of £2,000,000 to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to support the Government's free swimming initiative.

Request for Resources 3

xii. A draw down of £45,000,000 from the Department's Modernisation Fund. Refer paragraph 12. above.

xiii. A budget transfer of £315,000 to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in relation to the Government Skills Programme.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Request for Resources 3

xiv. A budget transfer of £2,402,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive relating to the Pension Transformation Programme.

xv. A budget transfer of £1,463,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in relation to the Employee Authentication Service project.

Administration costs

The movement in the Administration Cost limit arises from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted in terms i, iii, iv, vi, viii, x, xii and xiii above, and item xvii below.

Movements in Non-Voted Resource Expenditure

The changes in non-voted resource expenditure arise from:

Request for Resources 1

xvii. A £50,000,000 reduction in non-voted resource fully offset by a £50,000,000 increase in voted resource to reflect the allocation of the Departmental Unallocated Provision to support expenditure on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Request for Resources 2

xviii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £1,313,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £1,313,000 in respect of increased spend of Working Ventures (UK) Limited.

Request for Resources 3

xix. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £8,000,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £8,000,000 on respect of an increased utilisation of the Financial Assistance Scheme provision.

xx. A reduction in non-voted expenditure of £141,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £141,000 in respect of decreased spend of The Pensions Advisory Service.

xxi. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £82,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £82,000 in respect of decreased spend of The Pensions Ombudsman.

xxii. A reduction in non-voted expenditure of £3,801,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £3,801,000 in respect of decreased spend of The Pensions Regulator.

xxiii. A reduction in non-voted expenditure of £6,573,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £6,573,000 in respect of decreased spend of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

Movements in Non-Voted Capital Expenditure

The changes in non-voted capital relate to the following adjustments:

Request for Resources 3

xxiv. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £448,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £448,000 in respect of increased spend of The Pensions Regulator.

xxv. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £871,000 offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £871,000 in respect of increased spend of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority.

Uprating Order (April 2009)

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Ms Rosie Winterton): This statement explains two supplementary issues concerning payments of Invalidity Allowances to pensioners from April 2009.

The Uprating Statement on 11 December 2008 announced new rates of Invalidity Allowance for customers under pensionable age to support the alignment of the rates of Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance.

The rates for eligible pensioners due to receive Invalidity Allowance will be increased in line with the retail price index in the usual way.

The Department subsequently wrote to pensioners eligible for an Invalidity Allowance informing them of their entitlements. However, due to a technical error, a small number were sent an entitlement notice which was incorrect.

The Pensions Disability and Carers Service will ensure that the vast majority of customers who receive an Invalidity Allowance will receive accurate payments from April 2009—and we will notify those customers who receive an inaccurate notification that this correction has been made.

This will ensure that for all of those pensioners their incomes are unaffected and the correct benefits paid.

There will be a small number for whom corrections cannot be made before April and those will be corrected as soon as possible. If an under-payment has occurred, we will ensure the payment is corrected by June, and any arrears are paid to the pensioner. If an over-payment has occurred, we will not seek recovery though we will correct the overpayment as soon as possible.

Of the 500,000 pensioners with entitlement to an Invalidity Allowance we estimate that around 45,000 people may be overpaid and around 25,000 may be underpaid, depending on their individual circumstances. We estimate that the amount of weekly overpayment will range from a minimum 5p to a maximum of £3. The maximum underpayment will be £1.80 a week.

Any arrears will be calculated and paid to customers, and we will not take any action to seek recovery of these overpayments. As the Department works through the affected cases it will write to all customers who are affected to explain their position.

As people become pensioners from April 2009, they should automatically move on to the higher rate of Invalidity Allowance. Because the Uprating Order for this year does not provide the statutory basis ordinarily needed to make these higher payments, we shall be making them on an extra-statutory basis in the coming tax year. Around 7,000 customers are affected with payments worth in total around £350,000.

Our customers will not need to take any action. The Pension, Disability and Cares Service will identify and correct cases as soon as possible and contact all of those concerned.

Petition

Monday 26 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Support for Armed Forces

The Petition of residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that members of HM Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are fighting and dying, and that they lack basic equipment to do their job and there is insufficient appreciation and support from the Government for them and their families, particularly when they return from active service, and, in welcoming the provision of limited free postage, feels that the Government should go much further to give help and recognition.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to adopt more generous policies for serving and returning members of HM Armed Forces, and to give them priority in housing, in recognition of the contribution made by these brave men and women.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 4 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1717.]

[P000137]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:

The Government recognise the commitment, bravery and professionalism of our armed forces in all their operations. They further recognise the enormous contribution made by Service families to the effectiveness of those forces and the debt owed by the nation to veterans.

The Government commissioned an independent study into how the British public could better express its support and gratitude for the nation's armed forces. The results of the National Recognition Study were published in May 2008. The MOD formally responded to the study in October 2008, accepting the vast majority of its recommendations about ways to encourage greater public understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces.

In July 2008 the Government published Command Paper 7424—"The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans". Housing and welfare matters are further addressed below.

On provision of equipment, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes all the measures possible to ensure that the equipment issued to the armed forces is both right for the job and right for them. Its quality and versatility is higher than it has ever been, and we continually work to improve its range and reliability. The Equipment Programme is designed to deliver the long-term core capabilities our forces need, complemented by the Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) process which provides the speed and flexibility needed to adapt and respond to specific operational environments and emerging threats. Over £4 billion has been approved for UORs providing commanders on the ground with the equipment they have asked for.

The welfare of personnel and their families is core to MOD business, and there are comprehensive measures in place to ensure that we give the best possible support to all concerned. The highest priority is placed on supporting the families of those who have given their lives or have been injured in the service of their country, and robust procedures ensure that all concerned receive the help they require to come to terms with injury, or life without loved ones. Turning to the wider MOD Deployment Welfare Package, this is an extensive and integrated programme of welfare provision that includes: unlimited free Forces Aerogramme letter post, Electronic Aerogrammes (where available) and a free postal packet service, welfare telephones including satellite telephones in forward locations (30 minutes free calls per person per week to anywhere in the world) are also available, as is free e-mail and Internet access. Back home, concessionary travel allowances are provided for families to enable them to keep in touch with immediate relatives. On return from an operational tour, a leave of 20 working days for a six month deployment is provided. A tax-free "Operational Allowance" of £2,320 for a six month deployment is also payable.

On housing, personnel and their families deserve decent accommodation and we are committed to providing this. The MOD will invest some £8 billion during the next decade on the accommodation estate, of which some £3 billion will be on upgrading and improvement to the top standard, and £2 billion on maintenance and refurbishment. Tackling the problems that have arisen as a result of decades of under-funding, combined with the size of the living accommodation estate, means this will take time, but we are delivering real improvements, both in the UK and overseas, and an increasing proportion of our accommodation is good. Alternatively, important steps have already been taken to assist Service personnel with home ownership and improve access to affordable housing, including the "Long Service Advance of Pay" interest free loan. More recently, all Service personnel in England now have Key Worker status. The Government are also extending this to enable Service leavers to access the Key Worker Living scheme 12 months after discharge. Access to similar schemes in Scotland and Wales is being considered. On 19 March 2008, the Prime Minister announced a £20 million pilot scheme to respond to the demand for more affordable home ownership for Service men and women. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently running an open competition to select partners with which to deliver the scheme to cover a four year period starting in 2009.

The Government are also amending housing legislation to ensure that Service personnel leaving the Services are placed on an equal footing with civilians when applying for social housing. Currently, under housing legislation, former Service personnel cannot establish a local connection with the area in which they have worked or lived while serving with the Armed Forces for the purposes of establishing priority for social housing. However, the Housing and Regeneration Act will rectify this and ensure that Servicemen and women looking for social housing are treated fairly.

Petition

Tuesday 27 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flooding (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Isham in the Wellingborough constituency and the surrounding area,

Sheweth

that the village of Isham has seriously flooded three times in the last five years. Previous to this there had been no problems with flooding. Developments of additional housing in the last few years have put pressure on the already strained and ill repaired sewerage and draining systems. The three recent floods have affected several areas of the village, bringing with it immense problems for the homes affected including the leakage of raw sewage. The main trunk road from Wellingborough to Kettering, the A509 also flooded and had to be temporarily closed.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with the Parish Council of Isham, the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire County Council and Anglian Water to find a solution to the problem of local flooding and to properly maintain the local sewerage system.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 10 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 647 .]

[P000296]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Thank you for your Petition of 10 December 2008 on the subject of flooding affecting the village of Isham. I have been asked to reply as policy on flood risk management is the responsibility of DEFRA.

I am sorry to learn of the flooding incidents that have affected Isham. I understand that these problems arise from inadequacies in the surface water drainage system in the village. I know that Anglian Water have been working with the relevant Councils to identify the precise causes for the flooding and ways of remedying them. The solution to the flooding will I understand involve redirecting the surface water from the foul sewer to a suitable surface water drainage system, and Anglian Water are working with the Highways Agency to ensure the work is completed. I do of course urge all the relevant bodies to work together to find lasting solutions to the problems in Isham.

The Government take very seriously the issues around flooding in urban areas and, in response to Sir Michael Pitt's report into the major flooding events in Summer 2007, announced that the Environment Agency will have a new national strategic overview role for all forms of flood risk and local authorities (identified as County Councils or Unitary authorities) will be taking responsibility for local groundwater and surface water management for which no body has previously been clearly responsible. The Agency will work closely with local authorities on their on-the ground management of surface water flooding so that comprehensive assessments of local flood risk will be possible for the first time. I very much hope that this and other changes announced in my response to Sir Michael Pitt's report will help reduce the number of instances of serious flooding as experienced in Isham.

Petitions

Thursday 29 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents of Cuddington and Sandiway, and others,

Declares that Vale Royal Borough Council is failing to listen and take action on the concerns of local residents regarding the flawed site selection process and public consultation for proposed gypsy and travellers sites in Vale Royal.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to put pressure on Vale Royal Borough Council firstly to place on public record that the proposed site at Chester Road, Sandiway is confirmed as unsuitable for a proposed gypsy and traveller site; secondly to halt its public consultation on proposed gypsy and traveller sites until such time as the site selection criteria can be reviewed and amended to ensure that they comply with government guidance and planning policies; and thirdly, to defer this issue until after the completion of the Regional Spatial Strategy and therefore, by definition of the timescales for the Strategy, to pass this issue to the new unitary authority of Cheshire West and Chester.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 13 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 1057 .]

[P000287]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the site selection process and public consultation for proposed gypsy and travellers sites in Vale Royal.

Successive Governments have taken the view that local authorities should be free to carry out their responsibilities with the minimum of interference from central government since they are ultimately answerable to their electors for the discharge of their duties.

I am aware that Vale Royal Borough Council went out to consultation on a number of possible sites for a gypsy and traveller site, of which the aforementioned Chester Road site in Sandiways is one. I understand that the Chester Road site is not allocated in any plans by Vale Royal but was one of those under consideration in the consultation exercise.

Decisions on planning policy for the Vale Royal area, in the transitional period up to 1 April 2009, will be made by the new shadow authority, Cheshire West & Chester, who will develop a Local Development Framework for the area covered by the new unitary authority. As a consequence, and in line with Government guidance on this issue, I would expect that it would be the new authority that will eventually develop policy on the location of gypsy and traveller sites in their Core Strategy to meet the identified need within the area. That decision will be informed, in part, by consultation exercises such as that carried out recently by Vale Royal. All those wishing to make representations against this site or any other would have opportunity to do so as it is taken through the Local Development Framework process.

Furthermore, I am also aware that the site provision for gypsies and travellers is an issue that will be considered as part of the Partial Review of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy, RSS, being conducted by 4NW, the Regional Leaders Forum for the North West of England.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Mrs Jean Everett, the residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that they suspect that there is a hidden agenda in respect of the public open space bounded by The Chase, Thundersley, on the north side, and by Runnymede Chase on the east side. Because a large area adjacent to the annex of the SEEVIC College has been fenced off and they challenge the legal right for this to have been done. Because Castle Point councillors have decided to no longer maintain this space. Because SEEVIC College has been allowed or encouraged to take over the area at certain times. They further believe that this land, like all public assets, belongs to the people, not to the councillors, and that councillors should respect that fact and keep the public fully informed of their and their officers' discussions and intentions regarding the future of all our public assets. We ask councillors to return this land to full and proper public use and to protect it for the future.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press all Castle Point councillors, since they have direct responsibility for this matter, to ensure this public open space is retained for its ancient and established use.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 6 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 104.]

[P000267]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Government acknowledge the resident's concerns about the future of an area of public open space, but it is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted planning authorities with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

Government consider that, in general, locally elected councillors are best placed to take decisions on planning applications in their area. When determining a planning application, local authorities must take into account: the provisions of the development plan for the area; any relevant views expressed by neighbouring occupiers, local residents and other third parties; and any other relevant material considerations which fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned. Local authorities should also be guided by the policies and advice set out in the Department's Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), Planning Policy Statement (PPSs) and planning circulars.

With regard to planning for sport, open space and recreation, as set out in PPG 17 Sport and Recreation, the Secretary of State seeks to ensure that the sport, open space and recreation requirements of the whole community are met by protecting existing facilities and securing appropriate new provision and to create more sustainable patterns of development by locating open space and recreational facilities where they are accessible by a choice of modes of transport and especially by foot, bicycle or public transport wherever possible. The Government recognise that recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for people for social interaction.

An application for outline consent for the demolition of the existing SEEVIC college facilities excluding the west block and redevelopment to provide new college and associated buildings, parking, sports facilities and road junction improvements was referred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 7 November 2008 as the proposals represented a departure from local plan policies. Careful consideration was given to all representations made; however, it was concluded that the Secretary of State would not be justified in taking the exceptional step of removing the decision from the local planning authority. Therefore the Secretary of State decided on 27 November 2008 not to intervene on this application, and return decision-making powers to the local authority.

Public Conveniences (Hull)

The Petition of residents of Hull and others,

Declares their concern at the plans of Hull City Council to reduce staffing at public toilets in the city; and notes that these changes would have a detrimental effect on the safety and cleanliness of the facilities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to put pressure on Hull City Council to maintain staffing levels at public toilets in the city.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Diana R. Johnson, Official Report,* 3 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 1P .]

[P000281]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a decision was made by Kingston Upon Hull City Council, as part of its 2007-08 budget decision, to reduce staffing levels at the City's three attended toilets from two attendants at each to one at each, with a fourth attendant providing cover.

The Secretary of State understands the Petitioners' concerns about the possible impact on the future safety and cleanliness of the facilities. However, this is a local matter for which the Council has responsibility and the Secretary of State is unable to intervene in the decision. Successive Governments have taken the view that local authorities should be free to carry out their responsibilities with the minimum of interference from central government since they are ultimately answerable to their electors for the discharge of their duties.

The Department for Communities and Local Government published a Strategic Guide on "Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets" in March 2008, which highlighted steps that local authority partnerships can take to improve the provision of publicly accessible toilets in their area. Copies were sent to each local authority in the country. The Department published more detailed guidance in November 2008, including step-by-step advice on setting up community toilet schemes, where the public have free access to toilets in participating local shops and businesses.

The action taken by the Department to promote public access to toilets was welcomed and supported by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's report into public toilet provision, published in October 2008.

War Memorials (Essex)

The Petition of the War Memorial Fund Raising Committee, members of the Royal British Legion and residents of Canvey Island,

Declares that Castle Point Council has acted without proper consultation to propose changes to the War Memorial at the Paddocks on Canvey Island; believes that councillors should not take such action without proper consultation and agreement with the stakeholders and wider community and that the overwhelming view of stakeholders and residents is that it should remain at its current site.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to make Castle Point Borough Councillors aware of this petition and of the very deeply and widely held view that Councillors should consult before taking any action to disturb the War Memorial.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 22 October 2008; Vol. 481, c. 416.]

[P000279]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State understands the resident's concerns about the future of the War Memorial, but it is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted them with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

The Secretary of State understands from Castle Point Borough Council that no planning application was needed for the maintenance work. The council have stated that for some time the local community had expressed some dissatisfaction to the council about the condition of this particular War Memorial and the surrounding gardens. The local community asked the council to tidy the area and make the memorial more presentable in time for Remembrance Sunday. The Council agreed with this and the work has now been carried out.

As the work has already been carried out the Secretary of State has no jurisdiction in the matter and can only suggest that the residents of Castle Point contact the Council's monitoring officer—and initiate the council's complaints procedure—who is responsible for investigating any complaints made against the council with regards to possible maladministration.

Petitions

Tuesday 3 February 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Stillbirths

The Petition of Emma and Alexander Pheby (parents of Xanthe Pheby, stillborn on 4 April 2007),

Declares that every one in two hundred pregnancies in the United Kingdom end in stillbirth (around 3,600 children a year) and yet in over half of these cases a cause for the baby's death is not established. There is currently very little funding for research into unexplained stillbirth;

Notes that in the 1980s important research was carried out into sudden infant death syndrome (otherwise known as SIDS or cot death) which in turn led in 1991 to a public health campaign and the numbers of cot deaths were dramatically cut;

Further declares that it is time for the United Kingdom Government to fund additional epidemiological studies and new scientific research to identify risk factors, causes and prevention strategies for unexplained stillbirths so that the country's high rates can be reduced.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government of the United Kingdom to put more resources into research in this area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Charles Clarke .]*

[P000316]

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Coastguard Services (Devon)

The Petition of residents of Hope Cove and the surrounding area,

Declares that the Hope Cove Coastguard lifeboat should be reinstated immediately; further declares that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency should recognise that it is an auxiliary and additional rescue cover to the RNLI lifeboat at Salcombe for one of the most dangerous parts of the South Devon coastline.

Further declares that the inshore Hope Cove lifeboat has been in operation since 1890 and has saved 213 lives alone since 2000, and can be launched within minutes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure that tourists and yachtsmen visiting Hope Cove beaches and the Thurlestone area are adequately protected by way of sea rescue from Hope Cove in the event of an emergency.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Anthony Steen, Official Report,* 14 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 314 .]

[P000304]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) boat at Hope Cove is classified as an additional resource in support of the primary rescue assets in that area. It is not a lifeboat.

Checks in June 2008 showed that the boat was not safe for use by members of the voluntary Coastguard Rescue Service and it was a danger to members of the public. As a result the MCA decided that the boat could no longer be used for coastguard purposes. Following some repairs of deficiencies locally, the MCA agreed to the boat returning to service under restricted conditions in terms of weather and the distance from shore that the boat could operate. The weather restriction meant that the boat was again stood down from being used from 1 November 2008.

As part of the Government's responsibility to deliver search and rescue (SAR) provision around the UK coast, experts in Her Majesty's Coastguard, with many years practical experience of co-ordinating responses to maritime incidents, have been conducting detailed reviews of the SAR needs for a number of areas including the southern part of the south-west peninsula. These reviews have looked at the maritime risks presented by trends, incident types, geography and weather conditions for each area. They have then explored the SAR requirements for each area and have considered what SAR assets are (or should be) available to address those maritime risks. Where a residual risk has been identified, the reviews consider what additional assets would best address the gap and how those assets might be made available. In some cases, the reviews have concluded that SAR cover in particular areas could be better delivered by a different configuration of assets from those currently provided.

Ensuring appropriate SAR provision is of the highest importance not only in meeting our national and international obligations, but also for the individual local communities served. The UK Search and Rescue Strategic Committee and its Operators Group will be asked to provide an independent evaluation of the reviews conducted by the MCA. This Committee is an inter-agency national forum, with responsibility for advising Ministers on the structure, scope and framework of the organisation of UK SAR. The Committee's expert views will be reflected in the final package of recommendations that will result from this review process, which will then be consulted on locally. It is hoped to conclude this procedure in February and the local consultations on the recommendations will begin soon after that.

Petition

Wednesday 4 February 2009

OBSERVATIONS

JUSTICE

Criminal Sentencing

The Petition of Mrs Elizabeth McPhee and others,

Declares that the sentence of 6 years imprisonment for the two men convicted of the murder of Mr Ryan McPhee (17 years of age) on 4th July 2007 is far too lenient. The reality is that these people will serve about 3 years in prison.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Justice to instruct a review of sentencing guidelines in light of the sentence given to the men convicted of the murder of Ryan McPhee.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Lindsay Roy, Official Report,* 15 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 934.]

[P000134]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government expresses their deepest sympathy to Mrs McPhee and her family over the tragic loss of her son, Ryan McPhee.

The Government have the following observations to make.

Sentence imposed

Sentencing in individual cases is entirely a matter for the court, which will take account of all the circumstances of the particular case. In doing so, the court will be guided by relevant case law laid down by the Court of Appeal and any relevant sentencing guidelines when determining the appropriate sentence. The defendants in this case were convicted of manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The Attorney General, with the leave of the Court of Appeal, has powers under sections 35 and 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, to refer to the Court sentences which appear to her to be unduly lenient. This must be done within 28 days of the sentence being imposed. Manslaughter is an indictable only offence and falls within the scheme. The Attorney General did not make a reference in this case; and the time limit has now expired.

Sentencing guidelines

The independent Sentencing Guidelines Council and the Court of Appeal are responsible for producing sentencing guidelines. There is no current guideline on involuntary manslaughter but the courts will take account of relevant case law established by the Court of Appeal. The Council has produced a guideline on manslaughter by reason of provocation and will, in due course, produce guidelines on all offences including manslaughter generally. The Government have no plans to request to the Council to produce a guideline on involuntary manslaughter as a matter of priority.

Petitions

Monday 9 February 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Northern Rock

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern rock of the Hexham constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Atkinson, Official Report,* 21 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 867 .]

[P000298]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern rock of the Houghton & Washington East constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Fraser Kemp, Official Report,* 16 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1070 .]

[P000300]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the Wansbeck constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Denis Murphy, Official Report,* 13 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 182 .]

[P000305]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the Blaydon constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Anderson, Official Report,* 19 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 594 .]

[P000306]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the Blyth Valley constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Ronnie Campbell, Official Report,* 20 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 709 .]

[P000307]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the Gateshead East & Washington West constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Sharon Hodgson, Official Report, 21 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 867 .]*

[P000308]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the City of Durham constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Roberta Blackman-Woods, Official Report,* 19 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 594 .]

[P000309]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the Sunderland South constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Chris Mullin, Official Report,* 20 January 2009; Vol. 486, c. 710 .]

[P000310]

The Petition of small shareholders and supporters of Northern Rock of the Sunderland North constituency in the North East of England,

Declares that it welcomes the acknowledgement by the Government that it must pay compensation for nationalising Northern Rock plc, but that the terms of reference for the valuation of the shares are wrongly based as the company was not in administration and was still a "going concern".

Further declares that if these terms are unchanged there will not be a fair compensation payment which will lead to many in our region having their savings and pensions undermined which in turn will have a negative impact on the North East's economy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to reconsider the terms of reference given to the valuer so that he can fully reflect the true value of Northern Rock shares.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bill Etherington, Official Report,* 4 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 943 .]

[P000314]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government has taken note of these petitions. Given that the issue raised in the petitions is subject to legal proceedings before the High Court, it would be inappropriate for the Government to comment.

Petitions

Tuesday 10 February 2009

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Care Services (Somerset)

The Petition of the residents of Bridgwater and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about cuts to funding by Government which have resulted in Homes in Sedgemoor, and other housing organisations, reviewing the arrangements in their warden-controlled accommodation so that wardens will no longer be resident on site, and the implications that this has for elderly residents and others who have made arrangements to be in warden-controlled accommodation as part of their long-term future care.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review and reconsider funding arrangements to local authorities so that funds are available to allow the continued employment of resident wardens to assist elderly residents in retaining a degree of independence and the peace of mind a warden on site brings them.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Ian Liddell-Grainger, Official Report,* 22 October 2008; Vol. 481, c. 415.]

[P000277]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the funding of resident wardens in warden controlled accommodation.

We are aware that a number of older people are concerned about changes to the warden systems in some sheltered housing schemes, and the implications that such changes might have. I should like to emphasise that the Government are very mindful of the housing and support needs of all older people—wherever they live—whether in their "own homes", or with family, or in supported housing, like sheltered or extra care accommodation, or residential care establishments. The Government wants to ensure that our older citizens should get the best housing and support services that can be made available locally and in the most effective way.

It is, however, for local authorities to determine how to best meet the support needs identified in their communities - we do not prescribe any particular model of support. My Department has given local authorities £1.686 billion of Supporting People funding. Authorities use this funding to provide housing support to a whole range of people, focusing their spending to best meet local need. All decisions about how the services are funded and monitored, which includes satisfaction with the service, are therefore made at the local level.

Once my Department has had a chance to review the report and meet with representatives from Age Concern and Help the Aged as mentioned above, we can then decide how to best work with and support the sector and service users going forward.

Petition

Wednesday 11 February 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Police Stations (Essex)

The Petition of residents of Hadleigh, Thundersley and Benfleet,

Declares that we are concerned about the move of the Coroners' Office from the old Hadleigh Police Station, are deeply worried that Councillors may be considering selling this building off for yet more development which our community cannot absorb, believes there is a need for a Police Station, with public access, in Hadleigh, and that the station is a community asset and residents should be consulted before any decisions are taken on its future and that Councillors should support this petition on behalf of residents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for the Home Department to encourage Essex County Councillors and the Police Authority to return Hadleigh Police Station to police use,

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink.*

[P000317]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 January 2009

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what records the Electoral Commission holds of donations by Catz Club to the *(a)* Labour Party and *(b)* Labour-related regulated donees. [250352]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has received one report of a donation by Catz Club to the Labour Party of £7,500 reported as accepted on 27 June 2008. No other donations from Catz Club have been reported to the Commission by the Labour Party or any regulated donee.

Policy Development Grant

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how the policy development grant is uprated each year; and whether the allocation of policy development grant will be *(a)* cut or *(b)* frozen if yearly retail price index inflation is negative. [250526]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that section 12 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (2000) limits the policy development grant to an annual sum of £2,000,000. The amount of grant is not linked to the retail price index. However, the Act does allow for the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Treasury, to vary the annual amount.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what plans the Electoral Commission has to revise its guidance on regulated donees following recent decisions by the Crown Prosecution Service. [250528]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is currently reviewing the implications of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decision in December 2008, not to bring charges in a case referred by the Commission to the Metropolitan Police.

Pending the outcome of that review, the Commission believes that the guidance it has issued on the reporting obligations of regulated donees remains valid. The Commission will consider whether it is necessary to revise its guidance when it has completed the review and has agreed with Government what steps, if any, are needed to clarify the legal requirements on the reporting of donations by regulated donees.

TRANSPORT

A14: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the detailed plans for the widening of the A14 between junctions 7 and 9 around Kettering will be made available for public consultation. [251081]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is carrying out a detailed assessment of proposals to widen the A14 between junctions 7 and 9 at Kettering to dual three-lane standard within the highway boundary. A public information exhibition on the widening plans is expected to be held in autumn 2009.

Airports: Police

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the policing costs for *(a)* East Midlands airport, *(b)* Humberside airport and *(c)* Bournemouth airport was met by the airport owners in each year since 1997. [250110]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under section 25 of the Aviation Security Act 1982, there are only nine airports where the owners are required to pay for dedicated policing costs: London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Stansted, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow International, Glasgow Prestwick, Birmingham and Manchester. The extent to which airport operators at non-designated airports contribute towards policing costs is a private commercial matter for the parties involved.

Part 6 of the Policing and Crime Bill proposes that all airport operators should be required to meet the costs of any dedicated policing where they have agreed these with the Chief Officer of Police and police authority for the area.

Aviation: Finance

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what oversight his Department has over the allocation and use of *(a)* route development funds and *(b)* other sources of support for air services. [250656]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A regional body wishing to establish a route development fund to provide start-up aid for new air services will be expected to sign up to the Department's Protocol governing the operation of such funds. The Protocol has been published on the DfT website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/domestic/anationalprotocolforukrouted2873

An air route on which a Public Service Obligation (PSO) has been imposed may be eligible for subsidy under the rules set out in Regulation EC 1008/2008. Any application to impose a PSO must be approved by the Secretary of State.

Any other proposals to provide funding for air services must take account of European guidance on the use of State aid. Any resulting State aid notification to the European Commission must be cleared by the Department.

Aviation: Standards

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's practice is with regard to the monitoring of *(a)* seat availability, *(b)* pricing and *(c)* competitive behaviour of individual airlines. [250655]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. A European airline which meets the necessary safety and financial fitness requirements may operate without Government oversight of its seat availability or prices. In the European Union, airlines are of course subject to competition law as overseen by the competition authorities.

Biofuels

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of biofuel produced from used cooking oil; [250792]

(2) what steps he has taken to encourage production of fuel from used cooking oil. [250793]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation requires suppliers of fossil fuel to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply is renewable fuel. Under the scheme biodiesel made from waste cooking oil is an eligible renewable fuel.

The Renewable Fuel Agency administers the scheme and their January quarterly report summarises data on fuel supplied between April and October 2008. This report indicates that used cooking oil made up 3 per cent. (22 million litres) of the biofuel supplied over this period to meet the obligation. Their report is available on the RFA website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/.

Cars: Sales

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many sales of *(a)* petrol- and *(b)* diesel-fuelled cars there were in each of the last three financial years. [250304]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers (in thousands) of petrol and diesel-fuelled cars newly registered in Great Britain in each of the last three financial years were as follows:

	Financial year		
Fuel type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Diesel	900	910	978
Petrol	1,501	1,435	1,392

These data include all cars that have been newly registered in each financial year and will, therefore, include vehicles that have been imported into Great Britain during this time.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provide for staff. [249083]

Mr. Hoon: None.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248419]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1004-05W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248704]

Mr. Hoon: In total £14,070 has been spent within the Department for Transport on staff reward and recognition schemes. This is broken down per year as follows:

	£
2006-07	6,262
2007-08	6,433
2008-09 (to date)	1,375

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247349][1]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its Executive agencies operate three 0845 numbers and one 0844 number. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency uses 0870 revenue-sharing numbers to provide access to nine public services. Information about these is set out as follows:

Number	*DfT or agency*	*Purpose*	*Revenue (yes/no)*
0845 877 0877	DfT	Freight Best Practice helpline providing free information to promote operational efficiency	No
0845 750 4030	HA	Motorway and trunk road information line	No
0845 600 5977	VOSA	Garages hotline for checking MOT standards	No
0844 800 0819	VCA	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment helpline	No

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[1] [*Official Report, 12 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 11MC.*]

Number	*DfT or agency*	*Purpose*	*Revenue (yes/no)*
0870 240 0009	DVLA	Allows the public to ask general driving licence inquiries	Yes
0870 240 0010	DVLA	Allows the public to ask general vehicle inquiries	Yes
0870 600 0301	DVLA	Allows the public to ask advice about health conditions and their effect on driver licensing	Yes
0870 241 1878	DVLA	Allows vocational drivers to seek advice regarding driver licensing	Yes
0870 850 4444	DVLA	Allows the licensing of vehicles over the telephone	Yes
0870 850 0007	DVLA	Allows customers to access information on DVLA's local office network	Yes
0870 608 0604	DVLA	'Continuous registration' fine payment line	Yes
0870 850 2963	DVLA	Helpline for customers using our online driving licence service	Yes
0870 850 1074	DVLA	Allows customers to seek advice on the use of Smart Tachographs	Yes

Revenue information from the DVLA services is only available since January 2005. The figures are shown by calendar year.

	£
2005	2,130,881
2006	2,328,307
2007	3,329,794
2008	3,047,304

In addition, the Driving Standards Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency have recently switched from 0870 to 0300 numbers for calls made to their contact centres. Revenue information about these is set out as follows:

		£
	DSA	*VOSA*
2004-05	706,399	10,386
2005-06	693,254	63,400
2006-07	623,284	72,400
2007-08	672,048	78,600
2008-09	[1]208,512	[2]52,000

[1] DSA switched to 0300 line on 31 October 2008.

[2] VOSA switched to 0300 line on 30 September 2008.

Consideration is currently being given to switching to 0300 numbers for the Freight Best Practice helpline and for the Highways Agency Information Line. DVLA had intended moving to 0300 numbers in line with Ofcom recommendations prior to the retraction of the Ofcom paper on use of 0870 numbers. Preparations to move to 0300 are still in place, once the Ofcom paper and recommendations are republished.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251869]

Mr. Hoon: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not routinely record the details of individual journeys made by cars allocated to Ministers.

Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many appeals were made to traffic adjudicators against fixed penalty notices in each of the last five years. [247901]

Paul Clark: This information is not collected centrally by the Government, but the available figures for the number of appeals made against the issuing of penalty charge notices and the number of appeals upheld for each local authority are set out in the annual reports of the traffic adjudicators: the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS) for London, and the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT) for outside London.

The reports of the PATAS are available at:

www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk.

The reports of the TPT are available at:

www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons his Department decided to implement the new motorcycle test on 30 March 2009; and *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of multi-purpose test centres will be operational from that date. [250921]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The new motorcycle test was due to be implemented on 29 September in accordance with the EU directive 2000/56/EC. However, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) recognised that having 38 multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs) operational at the launch of the new test would mean candidates in significant parts of Great Britain would not have the expected access to a MPTC. 58 per cent. of the population would have been able to reach a MPTC within 45 minutes travelling time. Following consideration of representations from motorcycle interest groups, DSA decided to defer implementation for six months to allow consideration of delivery options which might help with the number of locations to offer the test when it was launched.

Since then we have been consulting on a modular approach to practical motorcycle testing. If adopted, DSA will split the off-road from the on-road part of the test.

By 30 March, DSA will have in place up to 67 operational sites including part-time and temporary sites for the off-road elements. In addition, there are outstanding planning approvals or legal negotiations on a further five sites that the Agency hopes to have ready in time. Not all of these sites are MPTCs. We will have operational sites in 94 per cent. of the original 66 search areas. This means that 89 per cent. of the population could reach a motorcycle testing site within 45 minutes travelling time. DSA will have 104 locations delivering the on-road test.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the maximum distance learner drivers and motorcyclists should have to travel from their homes in order to take their driving tests. [250922]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

Great Western Railway

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the time frame is for the construction of a connection between the Great Western main line and Heathrow Airport from Bristol and the west country. [249693]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport announced on 15 January 2009 that it will work with the airport operator and Network Rail to consider schemes that provide better connections from Heathrow airport to the Great Western main line while maximising the effectiveness of scarce railway paths. Until this work is concluded, it is not possible to determine potential timescales for construction of such schemes nor the destinations which would be served.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what additional risks have been added to the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register since 9 October 2007; and what the *(a)* inherent risk, *(b)* measures in place, *(c)* residual risk, *(d)* status and *(e)* further action are assessed by his Department for each risk; [246775]

(2) what the status is on the most recent edition of the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register of risk *(a)* 1.1.2, *(b)* 1.1.6, *(c)* 1.1.7, *(d)* 1.2.1, *(e)* 1.2.2, *(f)* 1.2.4, *(g)* 1.3.1, *(h)* 1.3.6, *(i)* 1.3.7, *(j)* 2.1.1, *(k)* 2.1.2, *(l)* 2.1.3, *(m)* 2.1.4, *(n)* 2.1.5, *(o)* 2.1.6, *(p)* 2.1.7, *(q)* 2.2.1, *(r)* 2.2.4, *(s)* 2.2.5, *(t)* 2.2.6a, *(u)* 2.2.6b, *(v)* 2.2.7, *(w)* 2.2.8, *(x)* 2.2.9, *(y)* 2.2.10, *(z)* 3.1.1, (aa) 3.1.2, (bb) 3.1.3, (cc) 3.13, (dd) 3.2.2, (ee) 3.2.1, (ff) 3.3.1, (gg) 3.3.2, (hh) 3.3.3, (ii) 3.3.5, (jj) 3.3.6 and (kk) 3.3.7 as identified by the numbering on the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register as at October 2008; [246917]

(3) what the most recent edition of the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register records as *(a)* measures in place and *(b)* further action required in respect of risk (i) 1.1.2, (ii) 1.1.6, (iii) 1.1.7, (iv) 1.2.1, (v) 1.2.2, (vi) 1.2.4, (vii) 1.3.1, (viii) 1.3.6, (ix) 1.3.7, (x) 2.1.1, (xi) 2.1.2, (xii) 2.1.3, (xiii) 2.1.4, (xiv) 2.1.5, (xv) 2.1.6, (xvi) 2.1.7, (xvii) 2.2.1, (xviii) 2.2.4, (xix) 2.2.5, (xx) 2.2.6a, (xxi) 2.2.6b, (xxii) 2.2.7, (xxiii) 2.2.8, (xxiv) 2.2.9, (xxv) 2.2.10, (xxvi) 3.1.1, (xxvii) 3.1.2, (xxviii) 3.1.3, (xxix) 3.13, (xxx) 3.2.2, (xxxi) 3.2.1, (xxxii) 3.3.1, (xxxiii) 3.3.2, (xxxiv) 3.3.3, (xxxv) 3.3.5, (xxxvi) 3.3.6 and (xxxvii) 3.3.7 as identified by the numbering on the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register as at October 2008; [246918]

(4) what his latest assessment is of the *(a)* inherent and *(b)* residual risk for (i) impact and (ii) likelihood of occurrence in respect of risk (A) 1.1.2, (B) 1.1.6, (C) 1.1.7, (D) 1.2.1, (E) 1.2.2, (F) 1.2.4, (G) 1.3.1, (H) 1.3.6, (I) 1.3.7, (J) 2.1.1, (K) 2.1.2, (L) 2.1.3, (M) 2.1.4, (N) 2.1.5, (O) 2.1.6, (P) 2.1.7, (Q) 2.2.1, (R) 2.2.4, (S) 2.2.5, (T) 2.2.6a, (U) 2.2.6b, (V) 2.2.7, (W) 2.2.8, (X) 2.2.9, (Y) 2.2.10, (Z) 3.1.1, (AA) 3.1.2, (BB) 3.1.3, (CC) 3.13, (DD) 3.2.2, (EE) 3.2.1, (FF) 3.3.1, (GG) 3.3.2, (HH) 3.3.3, (II) 3.3.5, (JJ) 3.3.6 and (KK) 3.3.7 as identified by the numbering on the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register as at October 2008; [246919]

(5) with reference to the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register, what change there has been to his Department's assessment of *(a)* inherent risk, *(b)* measures in place, *(c)* residual risk, *(d)* status and *(e)* further action required since the October 2008 update to the register in respect of closed risk (i) 1.1.1, (ii) 1.1.3, (iii) 1.1.4, (iv) 1.1.5, (v) 1.2.3, (vi) 1.2.5, (vii) 1.3.2, (viii) 1.3.4, (ix) 1.3.5, (x) 1.4.1, (xi), 1.4.2, (xii) 1.5.1, (xiii) 1.6.1, (xiv) 1.6.2, (xv) 1.6.3, (xvi) 2.2.3 and (xvii) 3.3.4. [246925]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The risk register to which these questions relate was one of the tools used to manage a project which concluded with the publication, on 22 November 2007 of the consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow". The project board has not therefore met since October 2007, and no further versions of the risk register were produced after this date.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the proposed high-speed link from Heathrow to Scotland to come into operation. [250919]

Paul Clark: The Government's ambition is for a north-south high-speed rail line from London. As a first stage, the Government believe that there is a strong case for a new line between London and the West Midlands serving a Heathrow international interchange station. Direct high-speed services could make use of the new line and the conventional rail network to serve destinations in the north of England and Scotland, cutting journey times and increasing capacity.

The company, High Speed Two, has been created to advise Ministers on a credible, detailed plan for a new line to the West Midlands, and beyond with specific route options, bv the end of 2009. Until this advice is available, it is not possible to determine when high-speed rail services could come into operation.

Level Crossings: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is encouraging Network Rail to take to reduce injuries and fatalities to pedestrians and cyclists at level crossings through the introduction of safer surface material. [249328]

Paul Clark: The Office of Rail Regulation, the independent safety regulator for rail, is working to ensure that Network Rail is making proper use of non-slip surfaces to reduce risks to pedestrians and cyclists at level crossings.

More generally the Office of Rail Regulation is reviewing and revising its guidance on level crossings and one aspect of this includes reviewing the provision of non-slip surfaces on level crossings for all crossing users.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to ensure a full record is kept of all incidents at level crossings involving injury to pedestrians and cyclists but where trains are not involved. [249329]

Paul Clark: Under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), the railway industry must report certain injuries to pedestrians and cyclists at level crossings, where trains are not involved, to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Failure to do so can, ultimately, result in prosecution.

If incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists are not brought to the attention of the relevant body, then they will not be reported to the Office of Rail Regulation.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new vehicles were licensed in each of the last five years; and how many licensed vehicles were sent for scrap in each year. [250746]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of new vehicles licensed at the end of each of the last five years in Great Britain were as follows:

New vehicles licensed at the end of each year

	Number (thousand)
2003	3,081
2004	3,022
2005	2,871
2006	2,752
2007	2,831

Statistics relating to 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published in April 2009.

Statistics are not held on the number of scrapped vehicles.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were the subject of a statutory off-road notice but not sent for scrap in each of the last five years. [250747]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of registered vehicles subject to a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) in each of the last three years were as follows:

Registered vehicles subject to a SORN declaration

	Number (thousand)
2005	1,565
2006	1,691
2007	1,705

Statistics on vehicles subject to a SORN declaration are not held for 2003 and 2004. In addition, statistics relating to 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published in April 2009.

Statistics are not held on the number of scrapped vehicles.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250136]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Parliamentary Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on which routes parliamentary trains within the meaning of the Railways Act 1844 are running; [247440]

(2) how many rail replacement bus services are funded directly by his Department. [247441]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* There are no parliamentary trains within the meaning of the Railways Act 1844.

Mindful of the requirements of relevant legislation, the Department for Transport is currently funding a rail replacement bus service between Ealing Broadway station and Wandsworth Road station. This service, which is a temporary measure until the Department can arrange a replacement rail service in this area, has been operating since 14 December 2008.

Other than the aforementioned service, no rail replacement bus services are directly funded by the Department. London Midland provide rail replacement bus services in place of all trains to Barlaston, Norton Bridge and Wedgewood. The costs for these are part of the overall subsidy payment for the London Midland franchise.

Public Transport: Bus Services

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people using public bus services in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [250059]

Paul Clark: The following tables show the number of bus passenger journeys in Great Britain for each of the last five years together with the frequency of bus use for British residents.

Local bus services passenger journeys: 2003-04 to 2007-08

					Million
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Great Britain	4,681	4,737	4,791	5,097	5,164

Source:
DFT Annual Surveys of Passenger Service Vehicle Operators

Frequency of use of local bus: 2003 to 2007

					Percentage of individuals
	2003	*2004*[1]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
3 or more times a week	17	—	16	16	17
Once or twice a week	11	—	10	11	11
Less than once a week, more than once or twice a month	4	—	4	4	4
Once or twice a month	7	—	8	8	8
Less than once a month, more than once or twice a year	7	—	7	7	7

Frequency of use of local bus: 2003 to 2007

Percentage of individuals

	2003	2004[1]	2005	2006	2007
Once or twice a year	10	—	10	9	9
Less than once a year or never	44	—	45	44	43
Total	100	—	100	100	100

[1] Data not available.

Source:

DFT National Travel Survey

Public Transport: Greater Manchester

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for the funds previously earmarked for public transport improvement in Manchester as part of the Transport Innovation Fund bid. [250149]

Paul Clark: The funding previously earmarked for the Greater Manchester Congestion Transport Innovation Fund package will now be made available to other high quality TIF proposals.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Sir Patrick Cormack: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants his Department and its predecessor provided to subsidise public transport in rural areas in England in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [250067]

Paul Clark: The annual totals of grants paid to local authorities under the rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG) and rural bus challenge (RBC) schemes for the relevant financial years are shown in the following table.

£ million

	RBSG	RBC
2001-02	41.2	12.1
2005-06	53.0	12.3
2008-09[1]	[2]157.0	[3]2.0

[1] Paid to local authorities as part of their area-based grant.

[2] Allocation.

[3] Estimated.

In addition, local authorities support rural transport services using funds from the unhypothecated revenue support grant and local bus service operators, including those in rural areas, receive bus service operators grant from this Department.

Rural railways are funded as part of franchises covering both rural and urban areas or by grants to Network Rail which operates both rural and non rural railway. No separate figures are available for rural rail support.

Railway Stations: Parking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will investigate car parking charge increases which have taken place over the last three years at railway station car parks; and if he will make a statement. [250152]

Paul Clark: There are no plans to investigate increases in station car parking charges, which are a matter either for Network Rail at its managed stations or for the relevant train operating company at the franchised stations.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department gives to rail maintenance companies with regard to *(a)* damage to highways and *(b)* disturbance to residents during anti-social hours, with particular reference to the West Coast Main Line at Hampton-in-Arden. [249644]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member may consider contacting Network Rail's chief executive at the following address:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Railways: Subsidies

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been paid in subsidies from the public purse to the rail network in each financial year since privatisation. [250072]

Paul Clark: Historic Government support to the rail industry is published by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. Copies are available in the Library of the House and the data and accompanying notes are also available on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at the following address:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/xls/nrt-tables-6miscell111208.xls

Road Traffic Control

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department *(a)* has recently produced and *(b)* plans to produce for local authorities on their enforcement of box junction offences; and if he will make a statement. [250222]

Paul Clark: The enforcement of box junctions in London is carried out under legislation promoted by the relevant local authorities. The Secretary of State has, therefore, no specific powers under which to produce guidance. The remaining provisions in part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004—which include the power to enforce box junctions—will be brought into force in due course with regulations. These will be accompanied by statutory guidance setting out the matters to which local authorities using the powers must have regard.

The Department for Transport has been discussing the timing and implementation of these powers with the Local Government Association, and our decisions will be informed by the outcome of their soundings with their membership.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the duties are of *(a)* traffic managers and *(b)* local traffic authorities with regard to (i) responding to and (ii) preventing traffic gridlock; what guidance his Department has issued on this issue; and what plans he has to issue such guidance in the next 12 months. [250227]

Paul Clark: Local traffic authorities have a statutory responsibility (Network Management Duty) to secure the expeditious movement of traffic and to facilitate the same on the networks of others. The Traffic Manager is responsible for carrying out this function. The formal duties are laid out in sections 16 and 17 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Department for Transport has published 'Network Management Duty Guidance' and 'Guidance on Intervention Criteria' to help Traffic Managers understand and implement the duty. These came into force in December 2004 and 12 March 2007 respectively. Currently there are no plans to issue further guidance in this area.

Road Traffic Control: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* locations and *(b)* roads in (i) the Metropolitan Police area of London, (ii) Essex and (iii) Hertfordshire are where box junction cameras (A) are in place and (B) will be in place within the next 12 months for the purpose of monitoring vehicles for offences other than speeding. [250223]

Paul Clark: This information is not kept by the Department for Transport. In London, the enforcement of box junction markings is undertaken mainly by local traffic authorities in accordance with their powers in the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003. Those powers include the option of using cameras to enforce. Outside London, box junction enforcement is the responsibility of the appropriate police authority.

Road Works: Injuries

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people working on roadworks have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in each of the last five years. [250929]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table gives the numbers of fatal accidents and major injuries that have occurred to those working on the Highways Agency's road network in the last five years. There have been no further accidents of these types this year.

	Fatal accidents	*Major injury accidents*	*Total accidents*
2004	1	17	18
2005	5	12	17
2006	2	21	23
2007	0	14	14
2008	1	12	14
Total	10	76	86

Information on road worker casualties on roads that are the responsibility of local highways authorities is not collected by the Department for Transport.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians have been *(a)* injured, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* killed in collisions with (i) cars, (ii) all motor vehicles and (iii) cyclists in each of the last 10 years. [250454]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of pedestrians that were *(a)* injured, *(b)* seriously injured and *(c)* killed in collisions with (i) cars (ii) all motor vehicles and (iii) cyclists in reported personal injury road accidents in each of the last 10 years are given in the table:

Number of casualties

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cars										
All injured	37,367	35,054	34,199	32,955	31,490	29,276	28,116	26,680	24,963	24,169
Serious	8,063	7,451	7,161	6,828	6,496	5,886	5,552	5,251	5,236	5,064
Killed	673	608	590	531	534	533	462	470	471	433
All motor vehicles										
All injured	43,621	41,598	40,783	39,431	37,734	35,337	33,931	32,290	30,060	29,297
Serious	9,492	8,876	8,559	8,169	7,801	7,109	6,746	6,389	6,322	6,224
Killed	904	863	851	825	770	767	669	666	672	642
Pedal Cyclists										
All injured	309	346	291	258	205	255	235	276	223	225
Serious	72	70	66	60	47	45	49	61	47	48
Killed	2	5	3	0	4	4	1	3	3	4

1. All injured includes seriously injured and slightly injured casualties.

Rolling Stock

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much rolling stock operates on *(a)* Northern Rail, *(b)* London Midland and *(c)* franchises providing commuter services in London and the South East. [250717]

Paul Clark: The quantity of rolling stock operating on Northern Rail, London Midland and franchises providing commuter services in London and the South East is outlined in the following table.

Operator	*Number of passenger vehicles in service December 2008*
(a) Northern	663
(b) London Midland	508
(c) c2c	296
NXEA	1,039
FCC	659
Chiltern	156
FGW	609
SWT	1,339
Southern	1,141
South Eastern	1,328

Sea Rescue: Devon

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken to initiate a consultation process following the suspension of the Hope Cove lifeboat by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [250216]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is developing a local consultation which considers the search and rescue provision across a wide area of the South West Peninsular rather than just the provision at Hope Cove. I will be writing shortly to the hon. Member about the plans for local consultation.

Speed Limits: Accidents

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidence his Department holds on the effectiveness in reducing accidents of *(a)* 20 miles per hour zones and *(b)* other speed restrictions. [250877]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There exists a wide range of research which identifies the link between vehicle speed and accident risk. This answer identifies the key papers.

The Transport Research Laboratory conducted two reviews of 20 mph zones in 1996 and in 1998.

Both reports showed that 20 mph zones with traffic calming achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds and a 60 per cent. reduction in accidents whereas in those areas where there was little or no traffic calming, reductions in vehicle speeds were minimal.

For speed restrictions more generally, the Transport Research Laboratory published a review of non-UK studies in 1994 which established a link between vehicle speed and the risk of accidents. This indicated that, in broad terms, a 1 mph reduction in average speed can reduce accident risk by around 5 per cent.

In 2000 the Transport Research Laboratory published a report investigating whether this general rule could be applied to different types of UK roads and to further understand the relationship between vehicle speed and accident frequency.

The report concluded that for each 1 mph reduction in average speed the percentage reduction in accident frequency is between 2 and 7 per cent. depending on vehicle speeds and the nature and layout of the road.

Transport: Finance

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will commission research into the effects of public spending on capital projects and programmes in respect of different modes of transport in stimulating economic activity. [250715]

Mr. Hoon: In 2006 the Department for Transport published the Eddington Transport Study. The study reviewed a broad range of evidence to understand how transport can contribute to economic success. The study highlighted transport's pivotal role in supporting the UK's future economic success. The study is published on the internet at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy

The Department has a comprehensive appraisal framework[1] that is used to assess the costs and benefits of proposed transport schemes across all modes. It includes an 'Economy Objective' concerned with improving the economic efficiency of transport, with a sub objective to provide beneficial wider economic impacts.

The appraisal framework builds on a broad base of evidence and research, including work produced for the Eddington Study. It builds in evidence on the value of time saved and reliability gains to businesses, which are important for economic efficiency. Recent evidence on the contribution of transport to national productivity, such as through transport's impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the labour market is also being incorporated into the assessment framework for schemes.

The Department is currently undertaking research to develop an approach for evaluating the productivity effects of transport schemes, ex post (i.e. after they have been delivered). This forms part of longer term work to generate robust evidence about the actual effects of key transport schemes on business productivity.

[1] The DFT appraisal guidance is on the Internet at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag

Waterloo Station

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects platform 20 at Waterloo Station to re-open for train services; and what services will be provided from that platform. [248331]

Paul Clark: Network Rail has now completed the works to convert platform 20 of Waterloo International for domestic usage. The Department for Transport is engaged with South West Trains seeking to reach agreement whereby they would operate train services into the platform.

Written Questions: Administrative Delays

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to reply to Questions *(a)* 246918, *(b)* 246917, *(c)* 246775 and *(d)* 246919, on the Heathrow Expansion Risk Register, tabled on 18 December. [251347]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A reply has been given to the hon. Member today.

OLYMPICS

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many former prisoners are employed by her Office; and what her Office's policy is on the employment of former prisoners. [246354]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 872W.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent edition of the Olympic Delivery Authority's *(a)* register of board member interests and *(b)* register of gifts and hospitality. [250198]

Tessa Jowell: In accordance with its management statement and its commitment to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Freedom_of_Information_Act>2000

the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has made its register of board members' interests and its gifts and hospitality register publicly available.

The most recent editions of: the ODA's register of board members' interests (quarter ending September 2008), and the ODA's corporate hospitality register (July- September 2008), are available on the London 2012 website. I will have copies placed in the Library of both Houses.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 879W on Olympic Games 2012: construction, what RAG rating has been applied to the *(a)* budgetary and *(b)* timescale elements of the Olympics construction programme in each of the last six months. [250377]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* It is not our policy to release the RAG ratings contained in confidential reports to the Olympic Board as, in isolation, they could be misinterpreted. When reporting to the Olympic Board, RAG ratings reflect the risks that exist, as well as progress to date, and these have recently focused primarily on financial challenges as a consequence of the current economic situation, as reflected in my statement of 22 January. Construction works over the last six months have continued to be delivered within the budget and on programme.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date construction began on *(a)* the Olympic Stadium and *(b)* the Olympic Village. [250269]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority began construction of the Olympic Stadium in May 2008, two and a half months ahead of schedule, and of the Olympic Village in June 2008.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 879W on Olympic Games 2012: finance, what level of contingency was *(a)* requested and *(b)* granted in relation to the (i) additional seating requirements in the handball arena and (ii) the additional building works in the Olympic Stadium. [250376]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The details of contingency releases to date will be contained in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games annual report, due to be published next month, and in subsequent quarterly financial updates.

Olympic Lottery

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the Olympic Lottery scratch cards had raised at the latest date for which figures are available; and when she expects the operator to reach its target of £750 million. [251020]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The National Lottery Commission have advised that as of 28 November 2008, designated Olympic lottery games have raised half of the £750 million target, and are on track to reach £750 million by 2012.

The National Lottery Commission compiles a quarterly report detailing the level of funds that have been transferred to the National Lottery Distribution Fund and the Oylmpic Lottery Distribution Fund, the next of which will be published on 11 February 2009 and will be available at the following weblink:

www.natlotcomm.gov.uk.

Olympic Park: Roads

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date the construction of the temporary roads and bridges required for traffic access to the Olympic Park was completed. [250267]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1255W.

SCOTLAND

Navy: Ports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the future use of Scottish ports by the Royal Navy. [250347]

Ann McKechin: Scotland Office Ministers are in regular contact with Ministry of Defence Ministers on a range of issues.

WALES

Departmental Manpower

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff are employed in his Department's media and communications team; when each member of staff was recruited; what the responsibilities of each member of staff are; and what the salary of each member of staff is. [248513]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has three members of staff employed in the media and communications team who are involved in a range of communication activities:

the Chief Press Officer recruited on 2 October 2006;

Senior Information Officer on 8 January 2007; and

Information Officer on 15 December 2008.

Salary information for individual staff is confidential and cannot be provided.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249860]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in the Wales Office in 2007 or 2008.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in each court area in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [251271]

Paul Goggins: The number of antisocial behaviour orders reported to the Northern Ireland Office by the relevant authorities is set out by court area and year in the following table.

Court Area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Antrim	—	1	1	—	2
Ballymena	—	9	4	16	29
Bangor	—	2	1	—	3
Belfast	1	8	10	4	23
Coleraine	3	—	—	—	3
Craigavon	—	2	—	—	2
Derry	—	3	—	—	3
Downpatrick	—	—	3	2	5
Dungannon	1	2	—	—	3
Enniskillen	—	1	1	—	2
Larne	3	—	—	2	5
Lisburn	—	—	1	1	2
Magherafelt	1	—	—	—	1
Newry	—	2	1	2	5
Newtownards	—	2	—	—	2
Omagh	—	—	1	—	1
Strabane	—	—	—	1	1

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247373]

Mr. Woodward: Details of funding provided by the Northern Ireland Office to charities and voluntary organisations can be found in the 'Government Funding Database' which is located at the following address:

www.volcomgrantsni.gov.uk.

This database allows public access to grant awards made by the Northern Ireland Office and the NI departments. The information spans a number of financial years and is updated regularly by each department.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248706]

Mr. Woodward: The Department does not operate a reward and recognition scheme. Staff performance is recognised through the NIO's bonus arrangements.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249130]

Mr. Woodward: Of the 1,477[1] questions received by my Department, from the beginning of 2008 until the end of the Session, only 24 received no answer on the grounds of disproportionate cost. This represents less than 0.02 per cent. of the total.

If a question is deemed to exceed the threshold it is my Department's policy to provide whatever information it can, if available, within that threshold.

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[1] These figures cover questions tabled in both the House of Commons and House of Lords, including oral questions in the House of Commons. They exclude transferred or withdrawn questions.

Ireland: Official Visits

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions in 2008 the President of the Irish Republic visited Northern Ireland; and which official UK representative met her on each visit. [248933]

Paul Goggins: The President of the Irish Republic has visited Northern Ireland to conduct private working visits on 13 occasions during 2008. I have outlined the locations and confirmed the official UK representative who met the President on each occasion:

(1) Visit to Co. Down on 28 January and met by William Hall, Lord Lieutenant of Co. Down;

(2) Visit to Belfast on 8 February and met by Lady Carswell, Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast;

(3) Visit to Co. Antrim, Co. Londonderry and Co. Tyrone on 20 February and met by Sheelagh Hillan, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Co. Antrim;

(4) Visit to Armagh on 5t March and met by the right hon. the Earl of Caledon, Lord Lieutenant of Co. Armagh;

(5) Visit to Belfast on 18 March and 19 of March and met by Commander Keith Cochrane, Vice Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast;

(6) Visit to Co. Down on 3 April and met by David Shillington, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Co. Down;

(7) Visit to Londonderry on 29 May and met by Denis Desmond, Lord Lieutenant of Co. Londonderry;

(8) Visit to Londonderry on 10 June and met by Denis Desmond, Lord Lieutenant of Co. Londonderry;

(9) Visit to Belfast on 29 June and met by Lady Carswell, Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast;

(10) Visit to Co. Tyrone on 17 September and met by Denis Desmond, Lord Lieutenant of Co. Londonderry (greeted at Derry City Airport);

(11) Visit to the City of Derry on 4 October and met by Donal Keegan, Lord Lieutenant of the City of Londonderry;

(12) Visit to Co. Down on 23 October and met by Commander Keith Cochrane, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast;

(13) Visit to Belfast on 18 November and met by Lady Carswell, Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what quantity of *(a)* firearms, *(b)* ammunition, *(c)* explosives and *(d)* detonators was discovered in Northern Ireland in 2008. [250826]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply to the hon. Member directly, and I will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Reparation By Offenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what methodology is used to *(a)* monitor the progress made by and *(b)* measure the outcome for those participating in community restorative justice schemes funded by his Department. [250827]

Paul Goggins: The Government protocol under which community-based restorative justice schemes are accredited provides that a multi-agency review panel, representative of key criminal justice organisations, will have responsibility for case monitoring, outcome reviews and the overall assessment of the effectiveness of specific interventions for particular categories of offence and offender. Additionally, the protocol provides that accredited schemes will also be subject to inspection by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland who will have access to all records of protocol activity undertaken by schemes to ensure that the prescribed standards are being maintained.

Security

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [248994]

Paul Goggins: The 20th IMC report underlines the very significant progress that Northern Ireland has made towards a more normal society; however, dissident Republicans remain active and committed to killing or injuring police officers. They are isolated within the wider community and I have every confidence in the PSNI's ability to deal with the threat they pose. The extension of the decommissioning scheme provides loyalists with a final opportunity to signal their commitment to move forward and give up their weapons. This scheme does not cut across continuing PSNI efforts to find and remove illegal weapons.

Weapons: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons the Government has extended the deadline for loyalist paramilitary decommissioning. [248362]

Paul Goggins: The Government remain committed to removing illegal weapons from Northern Ireland society.

The Secretary of State would not have sought an extension to the scheme unless he believed there was a reasonable prospect of decommissioning in the coming period. The scheme applies only in restricted circumstances to those who have reached agreement with the IICD on the process of decommissioning. It does not cut across continuing PSNI efforts to find and remove illegal weapons.

Witnesses: Protection

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget for the Key Persons Protection Scheme in Northern Ireland was in each of the last two years. [251272]

Paul Goggins: Admissions to the key persons protection scheme ceased on 31 October 2006 and was replaced by the limited home protection scheme.

Expenditure on the limited home protection scheme in the last two years is as follows:

As at 1 April to 31 March each year	*Expenditure on the scheme (£ million)*
2007-08	[1]2.149
2008-09	[2]1.655

[1] Actual spend.

[2] Budget.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 738-39W, on Iraq and Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the reasons are for the four-month period between the withdrawal of Merlin helicopters from Iraq and their planned redeployment to operations in Afghanistan. [25021[illegible]]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: It is essential that all personnel are fully trained for the demanding operational conditions in Afghanistan ahead of any deployment. The majority of the preparation for the redeployment of Merlin from Iraq to Afghanistan is taking place while the Merlin Force remains committed to Iraq. However, certain key aspects of the flying training cannot be conducted until the equipment deployed in Iraq is released from theatre.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to replace the Harrier aircraft currently operating in south west Afghanistan. [251239]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 134W and 136W, to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster).

Aircraft Carriers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration has been given to the deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles from the future aircraft carriers. [247172]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 14 January 2009]*: We keep our requirements under constant review and are conducting studies into the potential requirement for unmanned aerial systems including maritime systems. So far, this work has not specifically focused on the use of any particular maritime platform such as the future aircraft carrier.

Armed Forces: Health

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* actual personnel medically fit for purpose total is for (i) each battalion of the infantry (ii) 1 Rifles, (iii) 40 Commando Royal Marines, (iv) 42 Commando Royal Marines and (v) 45 Commando Royal Marines. [250402]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The figures requested for the infantry are shown in the following table:

Div	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for purpose strength*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	632	549	502
	1 Coldstream Gds	626	511	511
	1 Scots Guards	685	548	519
	1 Irish Guards	633	602	575
	1 Welsh Guards	626	584	540
Scots	1 Scots	630	554	508
	2 Scots	627	476	451
	3 Scots	629	575	546
	4 Scots	686	588	538
	5 Scots	657	561	535
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	682	683	657
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	623	524	503
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	686	677	650
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	623	505	423
	1 Royal Anglian	658	733	710
	2 Royal Anglian	629	627	613
Kings	1 Lancs	658	670	634
	2 Lancs	612	607	570
	1 Yorks	629	519	500
	2 Yorks	623	489	469
	3 Yorks	686	626	592
PoW	1 Mercian	628	523	487
	2 Mercian	623	564	538
	3 Mercian	658	594	541
	1 Royal Welsh	623	543	522
	2 Royal Welsh	686	625	579
Rifles	1 Rifles	534	542	477
	2 Rifles	623	619	583
	3 Rifles	623	634	628
	4 Rifles	655	647	633
	5 Rifles	686	712	672
RI	1 Royal Irish	650	571	528
Para	2 Para	648	677	624
	3 Para	648	662	660
RGR	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	643	739	720
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	758	925	896

In addition to the battalions shown above there are three incremental guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other guards battalions as required:

Unit	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for purpose strength*
N Coy Grenadier Gds	108	109	105
7 Coy Coldstream Gds	108	90	90
F Coy Scots Guards	108	108	105

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen. "Fit for purpose" has been interpreted as fit for primary role.

The figures for the Royal Marines Commandos Units specified are as follows:

Unit	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for purpose strength*
40 Cdo RM	703	555	521
42 Cdo RM	703	703	649
45 Cdo RM	703	824	790

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 17, what the evidential basis is for his statement that there has been an overall improvement in recent times; and if he will place in the Library all relevant figures on harmony guidelines. [248398]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Maintaining Harmony helps to relieve the stress and burden on our armed forces and their families. Consequently, the Service Chiefs expend considerable effort in increasing intervals between operational tours intervals and maintaining the Harmony Guidelines. As I stated in the House on 12 January 2009, breaches of the Harmony Guidelines have decreased, albeit not as quickly as I would have hoped for, but I am confident that the trend is heading in the right direction and that the Service Chiefs have measures in place to monitor and address the breaches while maintaining operational capability. The first table following gives an indication of mean unit tour intervals, which shows that the Royal Artillery, Royal Signals and the Royal Logistic Corps units are suffering greater commitment than most. However, the unit tour interval does not reflect the degree of trickle posting of personnel through these units or how much separation an individual incurs.

	Average tour interval									
	2007				*2008*					
	September	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Infantry	23	22	22	23	23	23	23	27	27	24
RAC	24.1	24	24	26	26	26	26	26	26	25
RA	19.1	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	21	21	21
RE	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9
R SIGNALS	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.6
RLC	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

The second table identifies the level of separation (Harmony), which incorporates all activities, such as training, support to operations and courses that take service personnel away from their family and friends.

The current levels of Individual Harmony show that:

Less than 1 per cent. of Royal Navy/Royal Marines personnel were in breach of the single service guidelines.

Owing to the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration system, it is not possible at present to identify the exact level of breach of the Harmony Guidelines in the Army. Validated data will not be available until January 2010 but, for administrative purposes, the percentage is currently being held at 10.3 per cent. the last figure in which we can have confidence before the introduction of the new system. However, every effort is being made by all levels of the chain of command to ensure that soldiers are not overly committed.

The level of RAF breaches shows a significant drop from 9.4 per cent. to 6.1 per cent. The degree of change has been brought about by an amendment to the reporting criteria. The RAF Harmony Guideline has changed from 140 days separation in a 12-month period to 280 days in a 24-month period. Without increasing the level of separation commanders now have greater flexibility to deploy personnel on career courses, education and adventure training without breaking the Harmony Guideline.

		Percentage of total personnel who have breached Individual Harmony		
		RN	*Army*	*RAF*
2002-03	Q1	<1	[1]—	5.3
2002-03	Q2	<1	[1]—	5.4
2002-03	Q3	<1	[1]—	5.1
2002-03	Q4	<1	[1]—	5.0
2003-04	Q1	<1	[1]—	6.8
2003-04	Q2	<1	[1]—	6.2
2003-04	Q3	<1	[1]—	6.2
2003-04	Q4	<1	18.1	5.4
2004-05	Q1	<1	17.0	3.6
2004-05	Q2	<1	16.8	3.8
2004-05	Q3	<1	15.5	3.6
2004-05	Q4	<1	15.5	3.9
2005-06	Q1	<1	15.6	4.1
2005-06	Q2	<1	15.3	4.1
2005-06	Q3	<1	15.1	4.2
2005-06	Q4	<1	14.5	3.9
2006-07	Q1	<1	14.0	2.9
2006-07	Q2	<1	13.4	1.7
2006-07	Q3	<1	12.4	5.2
2006-07	Q4	<1	10.3	6.2
2007-08	Q1	<1	10.3	6.7

		Percentage of total personnel who have breached Individual Harmony		
		RN	Army	RAF
2007-08	Q2	<1	10.3	9.2
2007-08	Q3	<1	10.3	10
2007-08	Q4	<1	10.3	9.2
2008-09	Q1	<1	10.3	9.4
2008-09	Q2	<1	[2]10.3	[3]6.1

[1] No record.

[2] This is a holding figure as there is currently insufficient data held on JPA—this should become available in January 2010.

[3] This reflects the changes in the reporting baseline—the RAF Harmony Guidelines has changed from 140-/12 to 280/24 and is now reported against a 0 level threshold.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel are employed at the headquarters of each UK-based regional brigade. [250084]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Brigade	*Military posts*	*Civilian posts*
15 (North East) Brigade	46	46
42 (North West) Brigade	33	53
51 (Scottish) Brigade	34	47
2 (South East) Brigade	26	44
43 (Wessex) Brigade	34	59
145 (South) Brigade	33	42
49 (East) Brigade	40	39
143 (West Midlands) Brigade	47	56
160 (Wales) Brigade	36	56
38 (Irish) Brigade	100	171

Military numbers include posts filled by non regular permanent staff and full-time reserve service personnel working alongside regular Army personnel.

Civilian numbers include some posts which are filled by contracted personnel who are not civil servants. Some of these posts may not be currently filled.

38 (Irish) Brigade figures are not in line with a typical regional brigade pending the full implementation of Northern Ireland normalisation plans.

Armed Forces: South Georgia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Royal Navy stations any vessels in the region surrounding South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. [250288]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no Royal Navy vessels permanently stationed near South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. There are regular patrols in this area by the Falkland Islands Patrol Vessel, HMS Clyde, and the Atlantic Patrol Task (South). Visits would also normally include the Antarctic patrol and survey vessel in the austral summer (HMS Endurance). Regular air and land patrols also take place.

The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Government also have their own fisheries protection vessel, MV Pharos.

Army: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow rates of each army infantry battalion were in each month of 2008; [249727]

(2) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow rates of each army corps were in each month of 2008. [249728]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information broken down by each Infantry Battalion is not held centrally and is therefore currently unavailable. Flows information by Army Service is not currently available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the inflow to the trained strength of the total army can be found in Table 4 of Tri-Service Publication four UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manning Report and the outflow from the trained strength of the total army can be found in Table 6 of Tri-Service Publication four which can be viewed on the DASA web at the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=20&date=2008-11-27&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30.00&from=home&tabOption=3

Athena Mechanism

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to the Athena mechanism in the last six months. [249697]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A number of changes have been made to the Athena mechanism in the last six months. The resulting revised Athena mechanism document 16561/08 dated 16 December 2008 has been published and can be found within the Council of the European Union's website at:

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st16/st16561.en08.pdf.

I can confirm that the UK was successful in delivering our key goal of ensuring that the eligibility for common funding remained within previously agreed levels.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what evidence his Department holds on the safety of airborne particulate debris arising from the functioning of the Main Process Facility at AWE Burghfield. [249007]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The release of radioactive material to the environment is regulated by the Environment Agency (EA) under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA93). Under this regulatory regime, the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) has an authorisation, issued by the EA, which places various requirements and limits on AWE operations, including those associated with the main process facility for the assembly/disassembly of nuclear warheads at AWE Burghfield.

The methodology used by AWE and accepted by the EA is based on air sampling and modelling and shows that actual discharges are well within safe levels i.e. those required by legislation. Sampling results are reported regularly by AWE plc to the EA and to the Ministry of Defence.

The EA is content that radioactive releases from the existing AWE Burghfield facility would have negligible impact upon the environment, even at the maximum permissible release limits as set out in the AWE Burghfield RSA93 Authorisation. The proposed replacement facility will be required to operate under the same regulatory regime and it is anticipated that radioactive releases from the proposed replacement facility will be no higher than the already negligible releases from the existing facility.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the risk from activity in the gravel gerties to *(a)* building workers, *(b)* other on-site workers and *(c)* the general public is below the basic safety objectives in the Burghfield assembly facility. [248811]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The basis for demonstrating the safe operation of nuclear facilities is that the requirements of good practice in engineering, operation and safety management are met. Risks from activities in the gravel gerties have to meet the legal requirement to be As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). There are also in place numerical risk targets defined by the independent nuclear safety regulator, the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII).

When compared to these numerical targets, risks for building workers lie between the Basic Safety Objective and the Basic Safety Level and have been assessed to be ALARP. The risks for other on-site workers and the public are below the Basic Safety Objective. An ongoing programme of work in the gravel gerties, agreed with the NII, continues to drive risks down further. The NII is satisfied with this strategy and that operations continue to be completed safely.

Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the McKinsey and Co study, "Transforming the UK's Defence Procurement System". [249720]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Yes. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Management Board

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* Defence Board (08) Paper 03, Strategic Risk—Making The Defence Case, *(b)* Defence Board (08), Paper 02, Strategic Review of Remuneration, *(c)* Defence Board (08), Paper 10, Typhoon Tranche 3 and Future Support, *(d)* Defence Board (08) Paper 13, Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Legislation, *(e)* Defence Board (08) Paper 17, Balanced Scorecard and *(f)* Defence Board (08) Paper 47, Departmental Management of International Acquisition; [249698]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* Defence Management Board DMB (07) Paper 24, Defence Attaches Review, *(b)* DMB (07) 25, The Future of NAAFI, *(c)* DMB (07) 28, Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide, *(d)* DMB (07) 28, Maximising Defence Capability Through R and D, *(e)* DMB (07) 46, Managing Our Military Strategic Balance 2, *(f)* DMB (07) 57, the Future of NAAFI, *(g)* DMB (07) 58, Update on Maximising Defence Capability Through R and D, *(h)* DMB (07) 58, Update on Maximising Defence Capability Through R and D and *(i)* DMB (07) 60, Pay Strategy 2008; [249710]

(3) what Defence Management Board papers were taken in 2008; [249711]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 11 Crown Immunity, *(b)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 12 Maximising Benefit from Defence Research, *(c)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 13 Crown Immunity in Defence, *(d)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 15 Comprehensive Spending Review 07—Value for Money Reviews, *(e)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 16 Science and Technology Rapid Assistance to Operations (STRATOS), *(f)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 33 DMB Involvement with Investment Approval Decisions and *(g)* Defence Management Board (07) Paper 34 Defence Balanced Scorecard Revision. [249712]

Mr. Hutton: The Defence Management Board was renamed the Defence Board in early 2008. It is the main corporate board of the MOD, providing strategic level leadership and strategic management of Defence, with responsibility to Ministers for the full range of Defence business, other than the conduct of operations.

It is a forum in which judgments about advice to Ministers are made, policy formulated, and issues relating to defence, national security and international relations (including some involving classified information, commercial and legal advice) are discussed. It is important that there should be a free and frank exchange of views. Accordingly, most of the papers it considers cannot be released.

However, reports on "Maximising Benefit from Defence Research" and "Maximising Defence Capability Through R and D", which formed the basis of Defence Management Board papers (06)12 and (07)30 are publicly available on the MOD website. I have placed in the Library of the House copies of Defence Management Board papers (06)34 "Defence Balanced Scorecard Revision" and (07)58 "Update on Maximising Defence Capability Through R and D" and Defence Board paper (08)13 "Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Legislation".

Lists of the papers taken by the Defence Board in 2008 and of those taken by the Defence Management Board in previous years are published on the MOD's website, together with meeting agendas and unclassified summaries of conclusions.

Defence: Military Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed-wing aircraft serve as *(a)* transport and troop carriers and *(b)* air refuelling craft; and where each such aircraft is based. [250085]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The aircraft that comprise the air transport and air to air refuelling fleets are in the following table.

Aircraft	*Role*	*Base*
Hercules C130K	Air Transport	RAF Lyneham
Hercules C130J	Air Transport	RAF Lyneham
C-17 Globemaster	Air Transport	RAF Brize Norton
VC10	Dual-role Air Transport and Air to Air Refuelling	RAF Brize Norton
Tristar	Dual-role Air Transport and Air to Air Refuelling	RAF Brize Norton

Communications and training aircraft have been excluded.

For the aircraft numbers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 105W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tranche 3 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft are on order for *(a)* Saudi Arabia, *(b)* Japan and *(c)* the UK; and if he will make a statement. [250091]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are currently no Tranche 3 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft on order for any nation.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 253W, on departmental air travel, whether staff who travel in a cheaper class than that to which they are entitled receive a *(a)* personal and *(b)* pecuniary benefit from doing so. [250049]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence or Defence Agency staff entitled to first or business class air travel may travel at a lower class if they wish. Where employees travel outside their entitlement, they receive no personal or pecuniary benefit for doing so.

Departmental Fuels

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what volume of *(a)* petrol, *(b)* diesel, *(c)* aviation fuel and *(d)* other fuels derived from petroleum his Department consumed in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [249634]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As MOD central financial systems do not record total fuels consumption, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Figures are, however, available for marine fuels consumed (including fuels for operations) by UK gallon and are set out in the following table:

UK gallon

	Financial year		
Fuel type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
F-76 (marine diesel)	50,127,440	48,431,460	49,506,380
MGO (marine gasoil)	6,421,140	9,632,920	11,299,200
F-44 (marine aviation)	3,132,360	2,633,400	2,574,220

Some figures are also available for the amount purchased by UK gallon of aviation and ground fuels and these are set out in the following table:

UK gallon

	Financial year		
Fuel type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avtur F-35 (aviation turbine)	138,991,189	152,765,198	131,781,498
ULGAS F-67 (unleaded petrol)	1,766,740	1,712,115	[1]—
Dieso F-54 (road diesel)	13,276,872	12,219,604	13,450,000

[1] Figure not yet available.

The figures in this table exclude fuel card purchases and some refuelling arrangements with other nations. Moreover, they do not include fuel for use on operations as non-marine fuels are obtained by arrangement with NATO and the United States.

Departmental ICT

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008 to the hon. Member for Chesterfield, *Official Report*, columns 897-8W, on departmental ICT, (1) how many of the principal operators of the *(a)* 65 memory sticks lost or stolen from his Department in 2008 and *(b)* 11 memory sticks recovered by his Department in 2008, had security clearance to enable then to access (i) confidential, (ii) secret and (iii) top secret information; [249502]

(2) how many of the principal operators of the *(a)* 120 laptops lost or stolen from his Department in 2008 and *(b)* 26 laptop computers recovered by his Department in 2008, had security clearance to enable then to access (i) confidential, (ii) secret and (iii) top secret information; [249503]

(3) how many of the principal operators of the *(a)* 12 desktop computers lost or stolen from his Department in 2008 and *(b)* the desktop computer recovered by his Department in 2008, had security clearance to enable then to access (i) confidential, (ii) secret and (iii) top secret information; [249504]

(4) how many of the principal operators of the *(a)* 74 hard drives lost or stolen from his Department in 2008 and *(b)* five hard drives recovered by his Department in 2008, had security clearance to enable then to access (i) confidential, (ii) secret and (iii) top secret information. [249505]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1176-77W, on departmental manpower, whether civilian staff who are allocated to the redeployment pool are required to relocate to *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary positions in specific parts of the country. [250043]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Generally, full-time civilian staff at band D and equivalent and above have a full mobility obligation. All part-time staff and those below band D have a minimum mobility obligation, within the travel to work area. All civilian staff, whether in the redeployment pool or not, may be required to transfer within the terms of their mobility obligation, which may be to a permanent or temporary position.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many mobile telephones *(a)* were reported as lost or stolen from and *(b)* have since been recovered by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each year since 2003. [249501]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD units are not required to report centrally incidents of loss or theft of mobile phones. The information requested therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EC Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes in EU defence policy took place during the 2008 French Presidency. [250244]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the Explanatory Memorandum (EM number 30250) submitted for parliamentary scrutiny by the Minister for Europe on the presidency report of the European Security and Defence Policy. This EM was placed in the Library of the House on 10 December 2008 and sets out the HMG view on developments and changes for the European Security and Defence Policy that took place during the French presidency of the EU.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department of providing Britain's commitment to the EU Battlegroup was between July and December 2008. [249742]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answers my predecessor gave on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 278W, and 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 681W. The UK EU Battlegroup did not deploy and hence there were no additional deployment-related costs to the UK.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from veterans who were present at the nuclear tests which took place in and around Malden Island in the 1950s; if he will make compensation payments to such veterans whose health was affected by the tests; and if he will make a statement. [250209]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave today to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) and to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes).

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations his Department has received from the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association (BNTVA) over claims for compensation from such veterans; and what the outcome was of his most recent meeting with the BNTVA to discuss compensation. [248784]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In December 2008 I received a letter signed by the Chairman of the BNTVA John Lowe, the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) and my hon. Friend hon. the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson). That letter set out a case for an end to the atomic veterans litigation and for payment of damages to "nuclear test veterans and their affected offspring". While I have considered the points made, the Ministry of Defence has seen no general evidence of damage to nuclear test veterans' health, and therefore in my view the atomic veterans litigation must proceed at the High Court. I will place a copy of that letter and my reply in the Library of the House.

I do, however, take the concerns of our nuclear test veterans very seriously. For that reason, I met with representatives of the BNTVA, John Baron and Ian Gibson in October 2008 to discuss taking forward a study into the health of the offspring of nuclear test veterans. Officials also met the BNTVA and John Baron on 4 December 2008 to discuss preliminary scientific and ethical considerations that may be relevant to such a study. Both meetings were in clear agreement that compensation should not be discussed in advance of the forthcoming legal case. The Ministry of Defence has received no other recent representations from the BNTVA concerned with claims for compensation.

We are currently arranging a follow-on meeting to include the BNTVA and scientific experts, to take place as soon as practicable.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress has been made on the position of the A400M project; and if he will make a statement; [249608]

(2) what the expected delivery dates for the A400M aircraft are; whether the aircraft will meet the Royal Air Force's heavy lift requirement needs; what recent discussions his officials have had with Airbus on the project; and if he will make a statement. [249609]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A contract for the development and production of the A400M aircraft was signed with Airbus Military on 27 May 2003 by the Organisation for Joint Armaments Co-operation (OCCAR) on behalf of participating nations (Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Turkey and the UK). The UK offtake is 25 aircraft from a total order of 180. The A400M is proving to be a challenging programme, and several delays and programme slips have been announced. Most recently, EADS/Airbus Military announced a slow down in production and that the first flight of the A400M prototype aircraft will slip until the "second half of 2009".

EADS/Airbus Military have recently presented a proposed way ahead for the A400M programme and announced that they wish to discuss the delivery schedule and specific performance characteristics. The implications of these proposals are being studied by the nations and OCCAR.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between his Department and the Department for International Development in Operation Telic. [250853]

Mr. Hutton: There is strong and effective cooperation between officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development on Operation TELIC and in other areas of stabilisation and conflict prevention activity. On a recent visit to Basra, the US Commanding General in Iraq, General Ray Odierno, praised the levels of UK civil-military integration in Basra, describing it as 'the way forward' for Iraq.

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter. [248373]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Soames)

Met Office: Consultants

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Meteorological Office has spent on *(a)* public affairs firms and consultants and *(b)* external public relations companies in the last five years; and on which firms the money was spent. [250236]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is provided in the following table.

£

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Public affairs companies					
Politics International Ltd.	12,053	25,919	49,201	60,725	25,275
Cavendish Place Communications	—	—	—	—	4,000
External public relations companies					
Citigate Communications	20,924	—	—	—	—
Primus Communications Ltd.	6,127	1,250	—	—	—

Payments to public affairs firms relate to training for Met Office witnesses appearing before Select Committees; training for Met Office staff in stakeholder management; assistance with the development and strengthening of relationships with key stakeholders, and support for Met Office participation in stakeholder events relating to meteorology and climate science.

Payments to external public relations companies relate to the provision of general PR support and advice. The Met Office no longer uses external public relations companies for this purpose.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters were available for deployment by each service in each year since 2001. [249702]

Mr. Quentin Davies: All aircraft in the Forward Fleet are available for potential deployments worldwide. The Forward Fleet figures for each helicopter type by service are shown in the following table.

	Financial year							
Helicopter type	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Royal Navy								
Merlin HM1	13	17	19	19	21	25	26	23
Lynx Mk 3	28	28	27	26	20	21	22	21
Lynx Mk 8	17	19	20	19	21	23	21	20
Sea King Mk 2/7	7	6	6	9	8	9	9	9
Sea King Mk 5	8	8	9	9	10	11	11	11
Sea King Mk 6	17	12	6	4	3	0	0	0
Sea King Mk 4 and 6c	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
Army								
Apache	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	35	39	46	50
A109	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Gazelle	[2]—	[2]—	75	69	53	49	42	42
Lynx Mk 7 and 9	[2]—	[2]—	75	75	75	66	59	59

Helicopter type	Financial year							
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
RAF								
Chinook	[2]—	[2]—	31	31	27	27	29	29
Merlin Mk 3	8	10	12	15	15	14	15	17
Puma	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	28	26	25	22	23
Sea King Mk 3/3a (Search and Rescue)	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17

[1] Not in service

[2] Not recorded

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in the review of catering and other ancillary services provided to military bases in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [251132]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department sent a consultation document to trade unions on 9 January 2009 seeking agreement on recommendations for the future delivery of catering, retail and leisure services and soft facilities support in Northern Ireland. The trade unions have 30 working days to respond plus an additional 15 days if required.

Navy: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what Royal Navy assets will form the UK contribution to Op Atalanta in the *(a)* second quarter, *(b)* third quarter and *(c)* fourth quarter 2009; [249713]

(2) what Royal Navy assets are *(a)* currently participating and *(b)* planned to participate in (i) CTF 151 and (ii) Op Atalanta; [249714]

(3) which EU member states are contributing to the EU's Op Atalanta; and what each is contributing. [249744]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK will contribute the Operation Commander and the Operation Headquarters to Op Atalanta throughout 2009, and the Royal Navy is currently providing HMS Northumberland for the first period of this EU counter-piracy mission.

Contribution of any further vessels is dependant on European Security and Defence Policy force generation requirements and UK operational priorities.

A number of European countries are contributing to Operation Atalanta. Questions regarding the specific contribution of other EU member states should be referred to the appropriate EU authorities.

HMS Portland will, on a case by case basis, support Combined Task Force 151 for counter-piracy operations. The UK will continue to provide a frigate to broader coalition operations in the region, including Combined Task Forces 150 and 151.

Nuclear Weapons: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many settlements have been made by his Department of claims made by British nuclear test veterans; [248978]

(2) for which medical conditions his Department has accepted liability in relation to British nuclear test veterans; [248979]

(3) what reviews have been undertaken by the Government of the claims for compensation of British nuclear test veterans in the last 30 years; [248980]

(4) how much compensation has been paid to British nuclear test veterans to date. [248981]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has not settled any common law claims for compensation relating to participation in the British nuclear testing programme of the 1950s and 1960s. The MOD does, however, have a long established war pension scheme which pays no-fault compensation in the form of tax-free pensions and allowances for ex-service personnel injured or made ill as a result of their service before 6 April 2005. There are no time limits for making a claim under the war pension scheme. The scheme is administered by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). Information on awards under the scheme is published quarterly by the Department's Defence Analytical and Services Agency (DASA) derived from data from the war pension computer system. Those data do not enable injuries or illnesses to be linked to service at a particular location. It is not, therefore, possible to identify payments made to British nuclear test veterans under the war pension scheme. Nor is it possible to say how much has been spent on war pensions to nuclear tests veterans.

The Department is committed to compensation policy and individual decisions reflecting case facts and the relevant law, which are evidence based and in line with contemporary medical and scientific understanding. To meet this commitment there is routine scrutiny of the published peer reviewed literature and any other evidence of suitable quality.

When considering a claim for a war pension the facts of each case are considered on their individual merits. The test of proof is unique to the war pension scheme and is preferential to the claimant. It is more advantageous than the normal civil test of proof. In a war pension claim made more than seven years after leaving service there has to be no more than reliable evidence to raise a reasonable doubt that there is a connection between service and the claimed condition.

For nuclear test veterans, entitlement may be given under the war pension scheme for leukaemia, other than chronic lymphatic leukaemia, and polycythaemia rubra vera, in both cases where the condition arose within 25 years of presence at a nuclear test. This is based on the findings of the three National Radiological Protection Board epidemiological studies on mortality and cancer incidence of nuclear test participants 1952 to 1998 (published in 1988, 1993 and 2003). For these conditions, entitlement relates to presence at the sites and not exposure to ionising radiation. Otherwise the studies concluded that levels of mortality and cancer incidence in participants and controls were similar, with overall mortality less than expected from national rates.

A war pension, however, may be awarded in any individual case where the evidence shows that the individual is suffering from a recognised radiogenic disease and was exposed to a significant level of ionising radiation. It is important to note that the overwhelming majority of British nuclear test veterans received a "zero" dose of ionising radiation.

Pirates

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards reaching an international agreement on a legal framework for the detention and trial of pirates. [250677]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Piracy is a crime of universal jurisdiction which any state is entitled, as a matter of international law, to prosecute. However it remains for individual countries to ensure legislation or suitable arrangement are in place for the detention and trial of pirates.

In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1851, the inauguration of the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia took place on 14 January to discuss an international response to piracy. The Contact Group was attended by 24 countries and five organisations, including UK representatives. One of the key focus areas is strengthening judicial frameworks for arrest, prosecution and detention of pirates, exploring regional arrangements, bilateral arrangements, and international judicial systems. A working group is taking forward discussions on this important issue.

Small Scale Focused Intervention Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiment or battalion forms the Small Scale Focused Intervention Force (SSFIF); whether it is fully equipped; whether the present SSFIF is deployed; and when the future SSFIF will take over from the present SSFIF. [249737]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Small Scale Focused Intervention Force was replaced by the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group (SSCBG) in January 2009 and is currently formed by 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. A rotation of the SSCBG will take place in December 2009, for which a replacement unit has yet to be determined.

The SSCBG is not currently deployed, but is in a state of high readiness to deploy at 30 days notice.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles deployed by the Royal Air Force are fitted with precision munitions. [248631]

Mr. Quentin Davies: RAF Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles are capable of carrying 500lb laser guided bombs and Hellfire air-to-surface missiles. The actual weapons fitted during each operational deployment can and does vary and will be tailored to meet the operational requirement.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1053W, on unmanned air vehicles, what drone systems were procured prior to the purchase of the Reaper system in the last 10 years; and at what cost. [250852]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have taken the term "drone" to mean Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) rather than aerial target drones. The information requested is contained in the following table.

Year of procurement	*System*	*Cost (£ million)*
2003	Desert Hawk I	0.95
2003	Buster	0.28
2005	Desert Hawk I+	2.8
2006-08	Desert Hawk III	8.1

In addition to the systems listed above, the Hermes 450 UAS was declared In Service in July 2007. The Hermes 450 is not owned by MOD but is provided through a service provision contract with a Thales/Elbit consortium.

The ongoing Watchkeeper tactical UAS procurement programme, worth about £900 million, began in 2005.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual level of spare part availability is for each (i) frigate, (ii) destroyer and (iii) submarine type in the Royal Navy. [249707]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no requirement to measure the availability of spare parts for Royal Navy vessels in the format requested as availability is measured at equipment, rather than platform, level. Instead, the Department holds data on the number of demands made for spare parts and whether the required delivery date for each line was met.

There are over 700 different types of equipment fitted to vessels across the fleet, made up of over 450,000 line items. These include items that support the systems and equipment onboard the vessels themselves, as well as the medical and general stores and the weapons and helicopters that they carry. Records of all replacement equipment demands are not currently held centrally as they are classified. A new system is, however, being rolled out that holds details for some 270,000 line items across 400 types of equipment. Performance statistics for demands placed against those items on the new system in the last 12 months are provided in the following table:

Vessel type	*Percentage delivered by required date*[1]
Type 23 Frigate	84
Type 22 Frigate	85
Type 42 Destroyer	88
Swiftsure Class Submarine	88
Trafalgar Class Submarine	85

[1] Spares that were delivered in time to meet the required delivery date specified by the demander (e.g. ships' crews).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to increase public understanding of agriculture and horticulture. [243186]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has undertaken a variety of activities to increase public understanding of agriculture and horticulture. These include:

A public awareness campaign celebrating 21 years of DEFRA agri-environment schemes highlighting the importance and contribution agriculture makes to protect the natural environment.

A regular stand at the Royal Show to highlight key agriculture and horticulture issues to the public.

Regular ministerial attendance of a wide range of agriculture and county shows.

A programme of ministerial regional visits to raise profile of key DEFRA projects in the regions.

Commitment to developing the understanding young people have of both where and how their food is produced by supporting the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) led Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto.

Working closely with DCSF, the Department of Health, and other stakeholders to support the Year of Food and Farming (YFF) in Education, an industry-led initiative to reconnect children and young people with the countryside.

Supporting Open Farm Sunday, an industry run initiative, organised by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) with the objective of encouraging the public to visit farms, find out what farmers do, why they do it and why farms matter.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 485W, on agriculture: subsidies, how the £10,000 for additional costs was allocated. [246402]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The £10,000 figure put against 'additional costs' was the estimate for dealing with 'appeals' against penalties imposed by the Rural Payments Agency on applicants who had a breach of cross compliance reported by the Environment Agency (EA). This relates to the time spent by the EA team in head office and the area inspector involved with the case.

The figure is an estimate as no direct cost measurement is in place.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims were made under the single farm payment scheme in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [247175]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The following table gives the total number of claims made to the Rural Payments Agency under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) in England for scheme years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

SPS scheme year	*Number of claims*
2005 SPS	119,964
2006 SPS	100,354
2007 SPS	106,341

The aforementioned figures are claims made and include, for example, duplicates and claims not subsequently valid for payment.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the administrative cost of processing an individual claim under the single farm payment scheme was in the latest period for which figures are available. [247176]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The average administrative cost of processing an individual Single Payment Scheme claim in 2007-08 is estimated at £742.

This figure was obtained by considering the direct processing costs and the total number of claims received. It is not however representative of the actual costs of processing individual claims because in practice, these vary in complexity and thus processing effort is required to validate and pay them.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims of under *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10, *(c)* £20, *(d)* £50, *(e)* £150, *(f)* £200, *(g)* £250 and *(h)* £400 were made under the single farm payment scheme in 2007. [247177]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The following table gives the value of claims made under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) in England in 2007, falling into various size categories.

SPS claim value	*Number of claims*
<£5	5
≥£5 ≤£10	6
≥£10 ≤£20	34
≥£20 ≤£50	591
≥£50 ≤£150	4,361
≥£150 ≤£200	2,303
≥£200 ≤£250	2,188
≥£250 ≤£400	5,157

The figures represent the number of claims which have a claim value before any deduction is made, for example, taking off EU and National Modulation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce a de minimus level for single farm payments; and what the smallest such payment was in 2008. [249574]

Jane Kennedy: Under the recently agreed CAP health check, member states will be required to introduce a de minimis threshold, within defined limits, for 2010 EU direct payments, including the single payment scheme (SPS). For the UK, this means having the option of setting the minimum either in the range of €100 to €200 or in the range of one to five hectares. A consultation exercise will be undertaken during 2009 on how this discretion will be exercised in England.

The smallest payment made so far under the 2008 SPS is £0.70.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of single farm payments in respect of *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09 remain outstanding; and what the sum of such outstanding payments for each year is. [249871]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the proportion and sum of single payment scheme (SPS) outstanding payments in England for the scheme years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008:

SPS scheme year	*Percentage of total SPS payments outstanding for the scheme year concerned (rounded)*	*Value of outstanding SPS payments (rounded) (£)*
2005	0.005	£75,000
2006	0.006	£93,000
2007	0.03	£446,000
2008	24.8	£400,000,000

For 2005 and 2006 the outstanding payments are held up awaiting the granting of probate for customers or the resolution of other legal issues blocking payment. Granting of probate is also the largest single issue holding up the remaining 2007 payments. The 2008 figure reflects the statement published on the Rural Payments Agency website on 22 January 2009.

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1070-1W, on animal welfare: prosecutions, what steps are being taken (1) to increase the number of prosecutions for those abusing animals; [247841]

(2) to reduce the numbers of animals being abused. [247842]

Jane Kennedy: The introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 has already had a significant impact on improving the welfare of animals. We believe the new welfare offence, tightening up the law relating to animal fighting and ending the loopholes that allowed miscreants to circumvent disqualification orders introduced in the Act will help reduce the number of animals being abused. We are also currently in the process of producing new codes of practice for keeping dogs, cats and horses. These will help educate the public as to how to better keep their animals. We are also working on new secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act to help protect the welfare of racing greyhounds, and new codes of practice on the keeping of primates by private collectors and the rearing of gamebirds.

Badgers: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards establishing a team to manage the implementation of the badger vaccine deployment project. [248222]

Jane Kennedy: A DEFRA project team has been set up to develop the Injectable Badger Vaccine Deployment Project. A project board has also been established to manage the process and long term implementation. This board includes DEFRA officials, representatives from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Animal Health and Natural England, and an independent farmer. The project team are currently planning the project to allow initial deployment once the vaccine is licensed in 2010.

Bluetongue Disease: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of a bluetongue outbreak on agricultural livestock in Copeland constituency. [249465]

Jane Kennedy: The symptoms of bluetongue and its potentially high mortality rate represent a significant threat to livestock welfare. Infection rates tend to be greater in cattle, but symptoms and mortality are generally more severe in sheep (studies in Europe suggest up to 30 per cent. mortality for BTV8).

No data are available on the likely effect of a bluetongue outbreak on agricultural livestock in Copeland constituency. However, we have worked in partnership with industry through the Joint Campaign Against Bluetongue to encourage vaccination, the only effective tool against bluetongue, in Cumbria and across the country.

The effects of bluetongue will be minimised in a vaccinated herd or flock. In unvaccinated livestock, given the experience in continental Europe, the effects of Bluetongue, and the economic consequences, could be significant.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the supply of doses of bluetongue vaccine available to protect agricultural livestock in Copeland constituency in the event of an outbreak of the disease. [249464]

Jane Kennedy: Under a voluntary vaccination programme in 2008, DEFRA underwrote the purchase of 28 million doses of vaccine, sufficient to vaccinate all susceptible livestock in England. This was made available according to priority areas as vaccine consignments became available. Sufficient doses were made available to livestock keepers in the Copeland constituency on 1 September 2008.

Because uptake in the North of England was lower than hoped, there is a surplus of 12 million doses of vaccine, which is being made available for use in 2009, subject to expiry dates.

DEFRA does not intend to underwrite further supplies of vaccine in 2009 but livestock keepers can purchase from their vets any of the three authorised BTV8 vaccines produced by Intervet, Merial or Fort Dodge. This flexibility provides farmers with a choice as to the best purchase options for their stock.

Further detail on vaccination in 2009 is available in the Delivery Plan For Vaccination Against Bluetongue Serotype 8 In England (2009), published on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether there is a correlation between the numbers of reported cases of bovine tuberculosis in cattle and the areas affected by floods in 2007. [244513]

Jane Kennedy: TB herd incidence in all counties is monitored through DEFRA's routine monthly collection of TB statistics. It is not possible to make a formal assessment of whether there is a correlation between bovine TB and flooding.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence there is of any link between the incidence of bovine tuberculosis herd breakdowns and the intensification of dairy farming. [248788]

Jane Kennedy: No specific research has been carried out to assess the link between bovine tuberculosis (TB) herd breakdowns and the intensification of dairy farming.

Surveillance data routinely collected and analysed by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency indicate that confirmed incidence in dairy herds is no higher than for other herd types when herd size is controlled.

Philips 'et al' in their 2000 report on the role of cattle husbandry in the development of a sustainable policy to control 'M. bovis' infection in cattle recognise that cattle farming systems have increased in the intensity of production in recent decades, with increased milk yield and growth rates of cattle. However, they draw no conclusions between this and an increase in risk of Bovine TB herd breakdown. This report is available on the DEFRA website.

While there may be a correlation between variables related to the intensification of dairy farming, such as increased herd size and risk of TB (e.g. Goodchild and Clifton-Hadley 2001), TB has a complex epidemiology and due to the number of variables that contribute to the risk of a TB breakdown, it is not practically possible to isolate the direct impact of one measure.

Goodchild, AV and Clifton-Hadley, RS (2001). Cattle-to-cattle transmission of *Mycobacterium bovis*. Tuberculosis 81 (1/2): 23-41.)

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made towards distinguishing between vaccinated and infected *(a)* cattle and *(b)* wildlife in relation to bovine tuberculosis. [248221]

Jane Kennedy: Tests to differentiate infected from vaccinated animals (so called 'DIVA' tests) have been developed under DEFRA funded project SE3222: Development of improved diagnostic tests for detection of bovine TB, which is due to report this year. This work will be continued under project SE3233: Cattle TB Vaccine: Development of a DIVA test.

A DIVA test for cattle is required because vaccines based on BCG will potentially make cattle react to the current tuberculin test as if they were infected with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*). Badgers and other wildlife are not routinely tested for TB and therefore there is no need to develop a DIVA test for use in this species.

Further information about these DEFRA-funded projects is available on the DEFRA website.

Compost: Licensing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether compost heaps at *(a)* allotments, *(b)* schools, *(c)* churches and *(d)* grounds of voluntary organisations will be exempt from proposals within the Environmental Permitting Regulations to require a £50 composting permit on anything which is outside a private individual's garden; and if he will make a statement. [250536]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: Between July and October 2008, DEFRA, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Environment Agency, carried out a consultation to review the waste exemptions from environmental permitting. This included holding several workshops.

The consultation proposals seek to retain an exemption from permitting for small scale community composting, which would include allotments, schools, churches and the grounds of voluntary organisations where they meet the other requirements of the exemption. The consultation also proposed that exempt waste operations would be required to re-register every three years and pay a registration charge.

Officials are currently analysing the 286 responses to the consultation. No decisions have been made as to whether to introduce charging for some or all exempt waste operations. A summary of the consultation responses received and the Government's response to them will be published as soon as possible.

Disease Control: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce his policy on animal health cost sharing following his Department's consultation on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [249804]

Jane Kennedy: We plan to consult on specific proposals for implementing responsibility and cost sharing for animal health shortly.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Kennel Club on plans to improve dog breed health. [248786]

Jane Kennedy: Officials and my predecessor have had discussions with the Kennel Club on ways to improve the health of pedigree dogs before, during, and since the Animal Welfare Act was passed in 2006. I also welcome the Kennel Club's decision to carry out a joint review with the Dogs Trust of dog breeding.

I have met the Kennel Club and Dogs Trust for discussions.

Farms: Local Authorities

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have disposed of smallholdings in each year since 1980; and on what date each such smallholding was disposed of. [244258]

Jane Kennedy: I regret that the information requested is not readily available in DEFRA and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by drawing on the resources of local authorities in England.

I am aware that over the years, faced by growing financial pressures, a number of local authorities have taken the decision either to dispose of all or part of their smallholding estates. In 1970, the total number of smallholdings held by local authorities in England was 10,971 with a total area of 148,044 hectares. By 2007, the number of smallholdings had fallen to 3,138, a reduction of 72 per cent., and the total area had decreased to 94,063 hectares, a reduction of 36 per cent.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of food consumed in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 which was produced domestically. [250759]

Jane Kennedy: In 2006, 49 per cent. of all food consumed in the UK was produced in the UK. In 2007 the figure was 51 per cent. This is based on the farmgate value of unprocessed food. The figure for 2007 is provisional. Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* vegetables and *(b)* fruits consumed which was produced domestically in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [250760]

Jane Kennedy: In 2006, 57 per cent. of all fresh vegetables supplied in the UK were produced in the UK. In 2007 the figure was 55 per cent. In both 2006 and 2007, 6 per cent. of all fresh fruit supplied in the UK were produced in the UK.

These estimates are based on volume. The figure for 2007 is provisional. Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Gamebirds

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the welfare of gamebirds. [241709]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has commissioned research on the use of bits and spectacles used in the rearing of gamebirds for sport shooting. The research report is currently being peer reviewed and will be published shortly.

Landfill: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in meeting the UK's recycling targets under the EU Landfill Directive; and if he will make a statement. [248926]

Jane Kennedy: The EU landfill directive does not set any recycling targets for the UK.

England is making good progress towards meeting its share of the UK's landfill diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste set in the EU landfill directive. Overall considerable progress has been made in recent years and England landfilled less in 2007-08 than its 2010 target. The further targets in 2013 and 2020 remain challenging, but achievable. DEFRA will continue to work with local authorities to build on the progress made to date.

The devolved administrations are responsible for delivering their proportion of the UK targets, and are best-placed to make assessments of progress made in their respective areas.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste disposal plants *(a)* have been built and *(b)* will be needed in the future to comply with the proposed recycling targets in the EU Landfill Directive; what the timetable is for building these plants; and how they will be funded. [248927]

Jane Kennedy: The number of plants required and the timetable for building them to meet the EU landfill directive targets will depend on the size of plants and the waste management strategies of each local authority.

DEFRA is working with waste disposal authorities to ensure that the total waste diversion capacity delivered by existing and future plants is sufficient to meet the diversion targets for 2010, 2013 and 2020 and that the recycling targets set out in the Waste Strategy for England 2007 are met.

These plants will be funded through a combination of public private partnerships (PPP) and private finance initiative (PFI) and some authorities are likely to utilise capacity available from the private sector.

Lighting

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what date the *(a)* sale and *(b)* use of iridescent light bulbs will end; and if he will make a statement. [247677]

Jane Kennedy: Under an implementing measure agreed by EU member state experts in December 2008 under the eco-design for energy-using products directive, though yet to be formally adopted by the European Parliament and Council, all frosted incandescent bulbs and clear bulbs above 100W will be removed from the market by September 2009. A phase out of 75W lamps in September 2010 and 60W lamps in September 2011 will follow, and by September 2012 all other incandescent lamps will be removed from the market. In addition, by September 2016 the least efficient halogen lamps will be removed from the market.

There are no plans to regulate the use of incandescent lamps.

In advance of this measure, a voluntary initiative led by some UK retailers and energy suppliers to remove incandescent lamps from sale began in January 2008 with the phase out of 150W lamps. 75W and 100W lamps will be removed by January 2009, 60W lamps by January 2010 and all others by the end of 2011.

According to the Energy Saving Trust the use of energy efficient compact florescent lamps can save householders up to approximately £60 over the lifetime of each bulb.

New Technologies Demonstrator Programme

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme in diverting biodegradeable municipal waste from landfill; [249176]

(2) how many waste projects contract payments were *(a)* reduced and *(b)* delayed under the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme; [249177]

(3) how many waste projects under the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme had *(a)* cost overruns and *(b)* start-up dates later than those originally proposed; [249178]

(4) how many waste projects under the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme were completed in accordance with their original contract; [249179]

(5) how much his Department paid out under the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme (Waste Implementation Programme) in each year of the programme. [249180]

Jane Kennedy: The objective of the New Technologies Demonstrator programme (NTDP) is to provide impartial information and impart industry experience to waste stakeholders on new innovative technologies not yet established in England. The intention is to overcome the real and perceived risks and barriers of introducing such technologies in England. This is being achieved through the provision of impartial technical, environmental and economic information and performance data for the project facilities. This includes real experiences of planning and permitting, reaching financial closure and on wider issues such as informing policy development, for example the renewables obligation.

An assessment of the effectiveness of the programme can only truly be made once all the technical and commercial information has been derived from the facilities and through the successful deployment of similar technologies in England over the coming years. This will also be ultimately achieved through assessing the total volume of wastes diverted from landfill.

The programme runs until 31 March 2009 and following this date impartial technical papers will be produced on the performance of the facilities, which are being written under the guidance of the Technologies Advisory Committee.

DEFRA has a commercial contract with each project, and payments are made against the achievement of milestones related to agreed deliverables, not to specific dates.

Most of the facilities had start-up dates later than originally proposed, due to a variety of technical and commercial reasons.

DEFRA is only providing a contribution to the final costs of each project. We therefore do not hold information on the project's own cost overruns.

Of the total nine projects, two have withdrawn and one has completed in accordance with their contract with DEFRA. We do not envisage that all of the remaining six projects will complete their full contractual requirements by 31 March 2009 and as such there will be reduced payments made where this is the case.

	Amount paid out by DEFRA (£)
2006-07	4,145,797
2007-08	9,728,367
2008-09 to date	5,781,592

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had regarding the participation of Scarborough Power Ltd. in the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme. [249568]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment (Hilary Benn) has held no such discussions on this topic.

Recycling

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of recycling markets and *(b)* the impact of volatile commodity prices on the viability of the country's recycling strategies. [247904]

Jane Kennedy: The UK has tripled the amount of household waste it recycles in the last 10 years, and on the back of this there is a growing recycling and reprocessing industry in the UK, particularly for materials such as glass, newsprint and plastic bottles. Not all of the materials collected for recycling are re-processed into products in the UK: some are re-processed abroad, reflecting trends in the global economy. As with all commodities, the prices for recyclable materials rise and fall according to supply and demand. In the current economic downturn, demand for raw materials—including recyclable waste—has declined, leading to a fall in prices.

The Government are monitoring the situation closely, working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme, the Local Government Association, the Environment Agency, the waste management industry and others. According to the best available information, markets for recycled materials have stabilised, though at lower prices. Recycling continues to be an economically viable and environmentally beneficial part of the UK's waste strategy, and we are encouraging householders to continue to put out waste for recycling.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the cost of operating all recycling programmes in the country and *(b)* the value of material collected under all recycling programmes in the latest period for which figures are available. [247906]

Jane Kennedy: No assessment has been made of the cost of operating recycling programmes in the UK. The

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that the total value of materials recycled from households in England in 2007 was around £310-330 million.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department has made available to local authorities which have decided to develop biogas projects. [248207]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA provides assistance to some local authorities through private finance initiative (PFI) credits to assist with their waste management solutions, these projects may include a biogas element.

DEFRA also operates the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme to demonstrate innovative waste treatment technologies (including anaerobic digestion (AD)/Biogas) as possible alternatives to landfill. Under the renewables obligation AD plants, as an advanced conversion technology, will receive two renewables obligation certificates (ROC) per megawatt hour.

The Organics Capital Grant Programme provides financial assistance towards the capital costs of plant, equipment and infrastructure for food waste processing capacity, including anaerobic digesters.

The Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme supports the installation of biomass-fuelled heating and combined heat and power projects, including anaerobic digesters.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many municipal collection vehicles collected from the kerbside *(a)* food waste, *(b)* recycled waste, *(c)* domestic waste and *(d)* garden waste in (i) 1998 and (ii) 2008. [247905]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Waste Disposal: Oil

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he has taken of *(a)* the provisions of the Waste Incineration Directive and *(b)* the decision by Corus to cease accepting oil as a reductant in the provisions he has made for the safe (i) disposal and (ii) recycling of waste lubricating oil. [249323]

Jane Kennedy: The provisions of the waste incineration directive have applied to relevant facilities burning waste oil since December 2005. There has been no change in those provisions. We are aware that for commercial reasons Corus has ceased taking waste oil for use as a reductant in one of its steel plant. Other outlets for that waste oil exist including export to re-refining plant in other member states which can recycle the oil back into base lubricating oil. The Environment Agency is maintaining a close dialogue with the waste oil sector to ensure that waste oil can continue to be managed in an environmentally sound manner.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Aerials: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations transmit from the Winter Hill transmitter. [248348]

Andy Burnham: The broadcasters which use the Winter Hill transmitter are:

BBC
ITV
Channel 4
Five
Digital 3 and 4
SDN (S4C Digital Networks)
Arqiva
Century 105
Rock FM
Smooth
Bauer
CE (Capital Emap)
Digital One
MXR.

In addition Orange, 3, Airwave and Vodaphone operate on or near the Winter Hill site.

Ofcom has published a list of businesses which are licensed to use the transmitter, e.g. BT, on its website at

<http://spectruminfo.ofcom.org.uk/spectrumInfo/licences?service=all&freqStart=&freqStop=&unit=GHz&ngrloc=sd660144&offset=0.5&submit=Submit+search&nw=&ne=&se=&sw=&googloc=&googoffset>=

<http://spectruminfo.ofcom.org.uk/spectrumInfo/licences?service=all&submit=Submit+search&unit=GHz&ngrloc=SD660144&offset=0&page=.

Arts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual growth rate of the creative industries was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [249677]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The annual growth rate of the creative industries in the UK for each of the last three years for which figures are available was as follows:

	Percentage
2005-06	-3
2004-05	5
2003-04	6

Source:
DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates—based on Annual Business Inquiry data (ONS).

The drop in growth rate from 2005 to 2006 is the result of drops in GVA for the advertising, publishing and software sectors, which are among the largest of the creative industries.

However, these data are taken from sample surveys and are subject to sampling errors. Therefore too much emphasis should not be placed on fluctuations in the figures.

These rates do not include crafts and design, as figures are not available for these sectors.

Arts: Reviews

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff provided support for the Creative Britain Review. [248902]

Andy Burnham: At the time of Creative Britain's publication in February 2008 there were 3.3 full time employees working on it. A group of around 10 other officials in this Department also contributed to the research and drafting of the publication, while also working on other priorities.

Big Lottery Fund: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by the Big Lottery Fund; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250257]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund have advised that they do not own any buildings or land but they are legal tenants of properties which they sub-let, all of these leases are short-term operating leases, and therefore no value is assigned to them by the Big Lottery Fund.

Big Lottery Fund is the legal tenant of the following offices, which are sub-let to others:

1st, 2nd and 3rd Floors
1 Plough Place
London
EC4A 1DE.
Ground Floor (Part)
Apex House
3 Embassy Drive
Birmingham
B15 1TR.
3rd Floor
Dominion House
Guildford
GU1 4BN.
Elizabeth House
Chesterton
Cambridge
CB4 1YW.
6th Floor
Baron House
4 Neville Street
Newcastle
NE1 5NL.

Broadcasting Programmes: Television

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase the use of audio description on television broadcasts; and if he will make a statement. [250578]

Andy Burnham: The Communications Act 2003 sets minimum targets for the audio description of programmes by broadcasters. However, it is the responsibility of Ofcom to ensure that these requirements are met.

The steps taken by Ofcom to increase the use of audio description include a successful TV campaign to raise awareness, requirements that the Electronic Programme Guide indicate which programmes have audio description, and discussions with manufacturers to encourage them to provide accessible equipment.

Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the charity Catz Club has received from each of the Lottery funds to date; and on what dates each of the payments was made. [250502]

Barbara Follett: The charity Catz Club has been awarded £203,134 in lottery funding. £80,296 on 26 June 2003, £117,311 on 17 October 2003 and £5527 on 10 February 2006.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* total cost of the Byron Review. [248901]

Andy Burnham: The information is as follows:

(a) During the six-month period of the Byron Review, it was supported by two full-time DCMS staff. Using capitation rates[1] this equates to £51,992.

(b) The total cost of the review (excluding staffing costs) were approximately £275,000. This included expenditure on consultation with parents and other stakeholders, and a comprehensive literature review. This expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the Cabinet Office guidelines and a value for money assessment.

[1] Capitation rates cover average pay, national insurance and pension contribution costs, by grade, incurred by the Department.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Angus of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1737-8W, on departmental property, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* Government Art Collection reference number was of the art work stolen from his Department in 2006. [250092]

Barbara Follett: The works of art listed in the following table were prints reported as missing from various Government offices in the UK and around the world and recorded in DCMS's Losses Register in 2006.

Title	*GAC number*
Paradox No. IV	GAC 12096/15
Blackfriars from Southwark Bridge	GAC 3295
Lower Wessex Lane, Summer	GAC 12360
Lower Wessex Lane, Spring	GAC 12254
Strand on the Green	GAC 6016
Third day of Creation	GAC 12705
Gondola III	GAC L983
Hall of Christ Church Hospital	GAC 15326

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243577]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 870W, by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson).

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department completed its review into its relationship with its non-departmental public bodies; and if he will publish its findings. [249812]

Andy Burnham: The March 2007 report of the Department's Capability Review recommended that the Department should develop a more robust, risk-based approach to engagement with its sponsored bodies and to managing performance. We have responded by carrying out risk assessments of our public bodies and tailoring the relationship with each body to the level of risk; working to reduce the number of reports required of sponsored bodies, and setting up an Advisory Board of sponsored-body representatives which considers strategic issues and ways to improve our working relationship. The Capability Review team will be looking at this as part of its re-review of the Department in February and March, and will publish a report of its findings.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the extent to which the functions and services currently carried out by his Department could be carried out by other Government departments. [250871]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans to carry out such a review. The Department's existence reflects the importance of the sectors we sponsor, which already account for some 13 per cent. of the economy and are central to the quality of life of every citizen. Following our Capability Review published in 2007, we have restructured and refocused the Department to ensure that we continue to increase our added value.

Digital Broadcasting: Selkirk

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date the national help scheme for the digital switchover process in the area around Selkirk was initiated; and on what date communications for the help scheme began. [249411]

Andy Burnham: Under the scheme agreement, help scheme eligibility within a region starts eight months prior to switchover. Switchover in Selkirk took place on 20 November 2008. Using the Department for Work and Pensions data and data provided by local authorities and care homes, the help scheme contacted about 17,000 eligible people in the Selkirk transmitter area directly by mail to invite them to take up the offer of help. Of these around two-thirds responded.

The scheme was mentioned in the very earliest publicity about switchover in Selkirk and when Digital UK announced the date for switchover in the Scottish Borders in October 2007. Further information about the scheme was available throughout 2008 through press and radio adverts, regional events and on screen analogue TV captions.

Digital Radio Working Group: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff have provided support for the Digital Radio Working Group. [248922]

Andy Burnham: The Digital Radio Working Group (DRWG) were supported by up to four members of staff, with a varying degree of their time allocated to the project; taken together their time represented a full-time equivalent of 1.4 posts.

Horserace Betting Levy Board

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to begin the process of appointing a new chairman of the Horseracing Betting Levy Board; and if he will make a statement. [247353]

Andy Burnham: My officials are currently planning the appointment process in consultation with the Horserace Betting Levy Board in order to minimise disruption to its work, which includes facilitating discussions around the review of the Levy System. We hope to begin the process shortly.

National Lottery Commission: Consultants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* the National Lottery Commission and *(b)* the Gambling Commission on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [249791]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) The National Lottery Commission has provided the information in the following table for spend on recruitment consultants.

Financial year	*Cost of recruitment agencies (£)*
2003-04	49,012
2004-05	76,718
2005-06	47,901
2006-07	12,530
2007-08	55,811

Note:
All figures include VAT.

The recruitment companies used were as follows:

Capita Resourcing Ltd.

Career Moves Ltd.

Coby Philips (RBS Factors)

Connect Executive Resourcing Ltd.
Hays Office Support
Jonathan Wren
KPMG UK
Morgan Hunt Public Sector Ltd.
Parkway Associates
PMR Ltd.
Tate Employment
Thomas International UK Ltd.
Total Jobs Group Ltd.

The National Lottery Commission is unable to provide the names of recruitment consultants used in financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 except at disproportionate cost as their electronic finance system was changed for financial year 2005-06 onwards and to provide the information would require thorough examination of two years of invoices.

(b) The Gambling Commission has provided the information in the following table for spend on recruitment consultants. The Gambling Commission came into existence on 1 October 2005.

Financial year	*Cost of recruitment agencies (£)*
2005-06[1]	286,286
2006-07	276,991
2007-08	152,551

[1] 1 October 2005 to 31 March 2006.

Note:
All figures include VAT.

The recruitment companies used were:

Adecco UK Ltd.
Badenoch and Clark
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Carlisle Staffing
Elan Computing
Ellis Jay Consulting
Frazer Jones
G2 Legal
Hays Office Support
Hudson Global Resources
Katie Bard
Michael Page
Morgan Hunt
Odgers Ray and Berndston
Pathway Resourcing
PPS
Reed Payroll Management

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 880W, on non-departmental public bodies, on how many occasions bodies for which his Department is responsible requested authority to incur expenditure above the delegated limits set out in their financial memoranda in the last 12 months. [247496]

Andy Burnham: In the last 12 months, my Department received 19 requests from our non-departmental public bodies for approval to incur expenditure above the delegated limits set out in their financial memoranda.

Press

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the future prospects of local newspapers; and if he will make a statement. [250150]

Andy Burnham: I have had no recent discussions with the European Commission on the future prospects of local newspapers. However, the future of the local press is an important issue and is being taken forward under the Digital Britain project, which is shortly to publish an interim report.

Public Libraries

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance his Department plans to provide to local authorities to improve public access to library services. [248482]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is undertaking the Library Service Modernisation Review, which was launched by the Secretary of State on 9 October 2008. This seeks to define the Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service and sets out some of the steps necessary to achieve it. There are already some excellent library services across the country, which serve their communities' needs and support the delivery of a range of outcomes. With the review's findings, which will be published in the spring, we aim to help empower all library services to reach this standard, and help the best to go even further.

The Museums Libraries and Archives Council is the Government's strategic adviser on the public library sector, and it continues to work to deliver its Action Plan for public libraries funded by DCMS through grant in aid. More details are at

<http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/strategies/library>.

Royal Parks: Nature Conservation

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Royal Parks Agency is taking to protect wildlife in London's Royal Parks. [250896]

Barbara Follett: The Royal Parks advise that they take a range of steps to protect wildlife in all the sites under their care and management, and each of the Royal Parks has a management plan which incorporates ecological objectives.

The Royal Parks also advise that they carry out regular ecological surveys to provide data to inform management practice; biannual assessments and ongoing projects to improve the ecological quality of major water bodies; and where appropriate, employ consultants for specialist work. They also work in partnership with relevant organisations and with central Government to inform management and planning.

Although all parks staff receive training in wildlife management as required, the Royal Parks also employ staff with specialist skills and knowledge who have specific responsibility for wildlife protection and biodiversity enhancement and directly protect wildlife through a range of works. Projects include feeding wildlife in extreme weather, physically protecting vulnerable habitats, and providing nest and roost boxes for birds and bats.

The Royal Parks also create areas of conservation priority habitat, such as reed-beds, and manage and restore other habitats of biodiversity importance. The parks also include protected areas of land, such as Richmond Park which is a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Management of these sites is undertaken in accordance with best practice and relevant legislation.

Sport England: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on Sport England: public appointments, on what date the previous chairman left the employment of Sport England; and by what date he expects to appoint a new chairman and deputy chairman. [247358]

Andy Burnham: The previous chair of Sport England, Derek Mapp, resigned on 29 November 2007. Sport England board member, Michael Farrar, has been acting as interim chair since December 2007. The process to appoint a new chair and deputy chair is currently in progress and we expect to appoint a new chair by March and a deputy chair soon after. Both of these ministerial appointments will be made following an open competition regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Sports: Public Participation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's 20 public service agreement 3 targets to increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by those aged 16 years and above from each of the priority groups have been achieved; and if he will make a statement. [249674]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: Four out of the 20 targets that make up the overall PSA3 target have been assessed as achieved. These are:

3 percentage point increase in those from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds attending historic environment sites;

2 percentage point increase in those from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds attending museums and galleries;

2 percentage point increase in those from lower socio-economic backgrounds attending museums and galleries;

3 percentage point increase in those from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds attending arts events.

The assessment was made by comparing the baselines collected during 2005-06 with the final estimates from 2007-08.

We always knew these would be very challenging targets, and we remain committed to increasing participation in culture and sport across all sectors of the community. Our programme of research is helping us to better understand and address the barriers to participation. The results should help us in giving more people the opportunity to take part.

Swimming: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities in Greater London have indicated that they have a short-fall in the funding awarded to them for the provision of free swimming. [249558]

Andy Burnham: I was delighted that of the 33 eligible London boroughs, 31 have chosen to participate in the free swimming programme.

In terms of the amount of funding available, the Government made it clear when the programme was announced that councils would not be forced to take up the offer. Indeed, we were keen that the programme should encourage local authorities to put in additional funding and to stimulate partnership at local level.

Swimming: Public Participation

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of representations received by his Department from the Amateur Swimming Association on making two million more people active by 2012. [247572]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2200W, and the position remains the same.

The Department has not received representations from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) in relation to the policy of getting two million more people active by 2012. As the National Governing Body of Swimming, the ASA are working with Sport England to finalise their new whole sport plan. This will identify the contribution they will make to Sport England's commitment of getting 1 million more people playing sport by 2012, as part of the wider 2 million target. The ASA are also working with the Department, Sport England, the Local Government Association and others in the design and delivery of the Government's Free Swimming Programme.

Tourism: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to provide additional funding for tourism in respect of the London 2012 Olympics. [250851]

Barbara Follett: I have no plans to provide additional funding for tourism in respect of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in this comprehensive spending round.

The Government remain fully committed to tourism, as illustrated by the Prime Minister in his speech at the National Tourism Summit on 8 January 2009.

VisitBritain's strategic review, to be presented in February 2009, will make the most of the substantial amounts that the public sector puts into tourism.

VisitBritain: Consultants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much VisitBritain spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [249797]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain has provided the information in the table for spend on recruitment consultants:

Financial year	*Cost of recruitment agencies*
2003-04	£262,578.32
2004-05	£343,080.59
2005-06	£346,885.31
2006-07	£237,647.94
2007-08	£323,997.97

The recruitment companies used were:

360 Degrees Advertising
A. T. Kearney Ltd.
Absolute Appointments
Accountants On Call
Acme Appointments
Adia Alfred Marks
Agents Support Systems
Barringer Technical
Berliner Morgenpost
Bhavya Enterprises
Bond St. Personnel
Branded Limited
Brightwater Total
British Council Hungary
British Council Trading
Catho Group
Charles Summers Ltd.
Commerce Partners Group
Computer Futures Solutions
Crystal UK Ltd.
Dagnely
Demel Limited
Department of Culture Media and Sport
Dezainwerkz Pte Ltd.
Discover Momentum ll
El Pais
Elle Recruitment
Emma Publishing
Expat Web Services
Fasco
Foretagens
GCS computer recruitment
Glen info recruitment
Gobal Solutions Ltd. (gsl)
God People Ltd.
Gafenstein freizeit
Fafton Recruitment
Hadfield Recruitment
Haymarket Media Group
Hays Human Resources
Headway Recruitment
Heron Solutions Ltd.
HR-com
Huntress Recruitment
Llya pinassi
Imprint Consulting Limited
Info Edge (India) pvt Ltd.
Inspired selection
Javelin/Young and Rubicam Ltd.
JFL search and selection
Job DB Singapore pte
Jobs DB Hong Kong Ltd.
Jobstreet.com
Jugglers publishing
JWT Specialised Communications
Kapoor Systems Limited
Kershaw Leonard
Knightsbridge Secretaries
Koukoku no Gendai
KP Personnel Ltd.
Latpro.com
Lindy Williams Ltd.
Manpower
Manpower KFT
Manpower UK Ltd.
Market Research Society
Media Centrix
Medialabor
Meteorite Marketing
Michael Page UK Ltd.
Monster
Monster Worldwide SC
Monster Worldwide
Monster.be
Monsterboard.nl
Monstertrak
Morgan Hunt Public Sector Ltd.
Mortimer Spinks
Nationalevakature
Office Angels Ltd.
Originals
Ortus/EMR group
P.E. corporate
Park Hyatt Toronto
Pathfinders
Pathway Resourcing
Personnel Resources
Poolia Parker Bridge
Progressive Recruitment
Public Relations Institute
PW Recruitment Ltd.
Recruitment International
Red Pepper Advertising
Reed (Elsevier)
Reed Personnel Services
Robert Half Ltd.
Robert Half Technology
Robert Walters Operations
Rogers Publishing Ltd.
RP Cushing Ltd. Total
Sarah Buldum
SCMP Publishers
Seek Limited
Seriously Digital
Sigmar Recruitment Ltd.
Student Employment Services Ltd.
Tabs on Travel Ltd.
tfpl Ltd.

The British Council
The EMR Group (Ortus)
The Media Network
The Mersey Partnership
The Stopgap Group
The Tourism Society
Toronto Star
Touchstone
Tourism management
Transition hrd consultants
Travel courier
Travel personnel
Travelads total
Travelweek
Trident Hilton
Tusma e.v.
Uday advertisers
Vacature
Variety, Inc.
VMA Group
Wendy's Travel Personnel
Williams (Hong Kong)
Work Station Solutions
Young Executive Recruitment
Young Samuel Chambers Ltd.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by the Government Equalities Office had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244720]

Maria Eagle: At 15 December 2008, 30 letters from Members of Parliament to Government Equalities Office Ministers and 38 Treat Official and e-mail inquiries had not yet been responded to.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been spent by the Government Equalities Office on staff reward and recognition schemes since its inception. [248724]

Maria Eagle: Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on staff reward and recognition schemes.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many permanent staff within the Equality and Human Rights Commission are *(a)* staff without posts, *(b)* part of a people action team, *(c)* pre-surplus, *(d)* priority movers and *(e)* otherwise do not have a formal permanent position. [250499]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) was established in October 2007. Jobs within the EHRC were available to staff from the commissions the EHRC replaced (the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Disability Rights Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality). Six permanent staff from a complement of 525 currently employed within the EHRC are yet to be matched to roles following their transfer from one of the former Commissions. These six are being helped to find suitable job matches within the EHRC. Five of the six are actively engaged on priority EHRC projects, and the other is currently on maternity leave. EHRC do not have any individuals who are part of a 'people action team', are 'pre-surplus', or are 'priority movers'.

PRIME MINISTER

Sir Fred Goodwin

Gregory Barker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on which dates and at which venues he has met Sir Fred Goodwin in his capacity as *(a)* Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Prime Minister since 1997; [250966]

(2) how many times he had discussions with Sir Fred Goodwin in connection with his membership of the International Business Advisory Council; and when and for what reasons Sir Fred Goodwin ceased to be a member of the Council. [251174]

The Prime Minister: Sir Fred Goodwin was a member of the High-Level Group on the City. The meetings of the group are a matter of public record. My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what information the House of Commons authorities provide to Commons staff on workers' rights to opt out of the trades union political levy. [250351]

Nick Harvey: The House Service does not provide staff with information on their right to opt out of the trades union political levy. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform advises that individual unions must immediately inform their members if they wish to set up a political fund and give them the right to "contract out" of paying the levy if they wish to do so.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse has been of the Afghan Social Outreach programme; and how its performance is assessed. [246708]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has agreed to provide $590,000 to fund the roll-out of the Afghan Social Outreach Programme pilots in the Helmand province districts of Nad-e-ali, Garmsir, Gereshk and Musa Qaleh until 31 March 2009. The programme will be monitored throughout its implementation and will be regularly evaluated including immediately after the completion of each phase of the roll-out. We will carry out monitoring and evaluation in conjunction with the government of Afghanistan, other international donors, the Afghan Independent Directorate of Local Governance, and local Provincial and District councils.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1512-13, to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell).

Departmental Press

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department receives on subscription each week; and at what cost. [250513]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not subscribe to the *Morning Star* publication.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249138]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not record this information.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department is providing to the Ogaden area of Ethiopia in 2008-09. [249659]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not target funding specifically to the Ogaden area of the Somali region of Ethiopia.

In 2008-09, DFID will spend £17.4 million in the Somali region of Ethiopia: £11.9 million through the United Nations and NGOs in response to the humanitarian crisis; and £5.5 million to help improve education, health, water and sanitation, agriculture and roads in the region.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Malaria

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in sub-Saharan Africa towards meeting targets on the provision of bed nets by World Malaria Day in 2010. [250924]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Progress on halting and reversing the spread of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa has not been sufficient and there is a high risk that the target under Millennium Development Goal 6 will be missed. However, there has been some significant progress in some African countries. In Eritrea, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe, deaths from malaria have been halved by following the recommended measures, including providing bed nets. Of the 647 million people at risk in Africa, the percentage protected by bed nets rose from 3 per cent. in 2001 to 26 per cent. in 2006.

Between 2000 and 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) funded approximately 40 million bed nets worldwide (mostly for sub-Saharan Africa) and we estimate that these will have saved 660,000 lives. Over the course of 2008-11 we will provide at least 20 million bed nets in sub-Saharan Africa and it is estimated that these should save 330,000 lives.

Our support towards the provision of bed nets is usually part of a larger package of measures to improve health and to combat malaria, through a number of programmes and health sector approaches which include the purchase and distribution of bed nets. It is therefore difficult to disaggregate the costs of the bed nets alone. For example, we contribute to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) who estimate that they financed 120 million bed nets between 2001 and 2006, during which period we provided approximately 8.7 per cent. of GFATM financing.

Sudan: Humanitarian Situation

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he has visited Darfur to assess the humanitarian situation in the region in the last 12 months. [250925]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for International Development (DFID) last visited Darfur in July 2007. DFID officials visit Darfur regularly to monitor the humanitarian situation, and provide monthly humanitarian updates to Ministers.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Debates: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make it her policy to provide for an annual debate on tourism on the floor of the House. [250663]

Chris Bryant: Although the Government have no immediate plans to do so, the topic of future debates is kept under constant review.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House what discussions she has had with members of the 1922 Committee on the exemption of hon. Members from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of their expenses. [250758]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend has frequent private discussions with Members from all parts of the House on a range of issues relating to her ministerial responsibilities.

Ministerial Statements

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Leader of the House what guidance she gives to Ministers on making statements on Government policy to the House. [250657]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues when deciding whether an oral statement should be made to announce Government policy. This is done against the general principle set out in the Ministerial Code that when Parliament is in Session, all important announcements of Government policy should be made in Parliament, in the first instance.

Right of Search

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Leader of the House what meetings she has attended with Mr Speaker on the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford and the search of his office; what was discussed; if she will place in the Library a copy of records held by her Department of such meetings; and whether she has received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from the hon. Member for North Essex for this information. [250885]

Chris Bryant: The Leader of the House has regular meetings with Mr. Speaker on a variety of subjects.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission: Debts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1368W, on the Child Support Agency, if he will place in the Library a copy of the overview of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission's policy on negotiating the recovery of debt. [246631]

Kitty Ussher: The Commission's current policy in negotiating arrears settlements with non-resident parents has been placed in the Library. However, it is worth noting that this guidance is under constant review and Members having future queries should refer this to the Commission.

Children: Maintenance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what value of child support arrears has been categorised as *(a)* collectable, *(b)* possibly uncollectable and *(c)* probably uncollectable by the Child Support Agency, broken down by the smallest possible geographic area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [249314]

Kitty Ussher: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 21W.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246656]

Jonathan Shaw: Between 1 January 1997 to 21 December 2008, 164 complaints about 122 cases were raised with the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) about advertisements sponsored or funded by the Department for Work and Pensions. None of these complaints was upheld.

This information was provided by the ASA.

Broadcast advertising complaints only became the responsibility of the ASA in 2004. Complaints prior to that date were handled by the Public Affairs team at Ofcom. These figures exclude data on broadcast advertising between November 2004 and May 2006. Changes in the ASA database systems in this period mean that extracting this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The ASA has stated that breaking the figures down into yearly totals would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Complaints

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to make his Department's customer information system compliant with Cabinet Office rules; and when he expects this will be achieved. [249682]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: The Cabinet Office published requirements for accreditation of IT systems only apply to those systems that were introduced after 1 July 2008, and are not retrospective. However, the Department is currently reviewing the technical options that will enable the Customer Information System to meet the new requirements. Until this review has been completed, it is not possible to confirm the timescale for this work.

All IT systems that become operational from 1 July 2008 will be formally accredited.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245352]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no instances where the Department or its agencies have authorised, through any contracts, the storage of personal data overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245373]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's head of legal group was appointed senior information risk owner as from 1 September 2008. Prior to that date, the Department's chief information officer performed the role. Both are directors general, and are members of the Department's Executive team.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245394]

Jonathan Shaw: All IT systems that have become operational since 1 July 2008 are formally accredited.

For systems that were operational before that date, there is no requirement under the Data Handling Review for formal accreditation. Nevertheless, all current systems are routinely assessed for compliance against the Department's Information Systems Security Standards, and are fully authorised for use. Any residual risks have been identified and are being managed.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, (b) ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246017]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions holds the following information on the diversity of its work force:

(a) 68.5 per cent. of DWP staff are women;

(b) 10.2 per cent. of staff have disclosed that they are from an ethnic minority;

(c) The age breakdown of DWP staff is

	Percentage
16-24	4.4
25-34	16.6
35-44	30.5
45-54	33.4
55-64	14.5
65+	0.6

(d) 5.7 per cent. of staff have disclosed that they are disabled.

(e) A new system to allow staff to disclose their sexual orientation was introduced in April 2008. As we would expect at this early stage, the disclosure rate has yet to reach a level that could allow the current data to be considered representative.

(f) DWP does not monitor the religion or belief of its staff at present but will start to do so in order to meet its commitments under the Civil Service Diversity Strategy.

The Department's performance against its diversity targets is monitored regularly and is reported in its equality schemes. The latest available figures (from October 2008) show that DWP's performance against its 2008 diversity targets was as follows:

Grade	*Target*	*Percentage Representation in October 2008*
Ethnicity		
Senior Civil Service	5.0	4.2
Grade 6/Grade 7	4.0	3.8
SEO	4.0	4.2
HEO	5.5	6.3
Women		
Senior Civil Service PB2 and above	30.0	23.9
All Senior Civil Service	39.0	36.8
Grade 6	45.0	43.2
Grade 7	45.0	45.1
Disability		
SCS	6.0	3.8
Grade 6/Grade 7/SEO	4.0	4.2
HEO/EO	7.0	6.5
AO/AA	6.0	5.2

Results show a marked improvement in the Department's performance since 2002, both at SCS level, and at feeder grade levels—with an increase in female staff at Grade 6 and Grade 7 of nearly 20 per cent. and ethnic minority representation rates more than doubling at grades HEO, 6, 7 and SCS over the same period.

However, there remains work to be done—women and ethnic minority staff remain under-represented at senior grades, and there has been little change to the proportion of disabled staff at all grades since 2002.

New targets for 2011 covering gender, ethnicity and disability will be published shortly. DWP does not currently have targets relating to age, sexual orientation or religion or belief.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment of value for money he has made of his Department's IT contracts with *(a)* BT and *(b)* EDS. [246682]

Jonathan Shaw: Since the realignment of the EDS and BT contracts in 2005 the overall combined spend with EDS and BT is on track to reduce by around 40 per cent. from the overall spend of £840 million in 2005-06 to around £508 million by 2010-11.

At the same time IT operational performance has improved, with all 25 of the Department's major critical systems available 100 per cent. of the time in August 2008.

The BT contract has also provided the Department with a single modern converged telephony data network that has enabled new contact centre technology, offering major improvement dealing effectively with the growth in customer call volumes.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248070]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not retained centrally; to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2008 to question 245661, how many days staff took as sick leave from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the 12 months from 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008; what the average number of working days lost per staff year in his Department and in each agency was during that 12 month period; and if he will make a statement. [249183]

Jonathan Shaw: The information was contained in my earlier answer on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 575W, in the table headed 2008-09.

In the notes to the previous answer, it was stated that the information contained in the table 2008-09 covered the period from December 2007 to November 2008.

The following table provides the required information.

Data for 12 month period from 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008

Business	*Working days lost*	*Average working days lost per staff year*
Jobcentre Plus	643,445	9.7
Disability and Carers Service	52,429	9.6
The Pension Service	100,445	9.4
Other, including central directorates	73,781	6.8
DWP	870,100	9.3

Notes:
1. The table reflects data currently held on the Department's personnel computer system.
2. The averages shown are the average per full time staff year, rather than per employee, to take account of part-time workers.
3. Any difference between the sum of the agency figures and the total for DWP is due to rounding.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247925]

Jonathan Shaw: Quantitative and qualitative research is an integral part of the development of communications campaigns. The cost of such is often included within those campaign development costs and the specific costs are not held separately. To attempt to extract those costs, covering a three year period, would be at disproportionate cost to the tax payer.

My Communications Department has also conducted omnibus surveys on public attitudes to the Government's welfare reform programme and a small amount of research on attitudes to savings and retirement in the last three years.

Details per financial year are provided in the following table.

	Cost (£)
2005-06	50,000
2006-07	32,030
2007-08	46,800

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants received awards of disability living allowance on the basis of drug or alcohol dependency in each of the last 11 years. [248761]

Jonathan Shaw: Entitlement to disability living allowance is not dependent on a diagnosis or condition but relies instead on the care and/or mobility needs arising. In the case of someone with drug or alcohol dependency, needs may arise as a result of their substance dependence or a physical or mental complication caused by drugs or alcohol. Many people with drug or alcohol dependence have an underlying psychiatric illness. Information about the number of people receiving disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is recorded as drug and alcohol abuse is in the following table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment where the main disabling condition is recorded as drug and alcohol abuse

As at May each year	*Number*
2008	19,300
2007	16,800
2006	15,300
2005	13,800
2004	12,000
2003	10,800
2002	9,100
2001	7,600
2000	6,400
1999	5,600
1998	4,900

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and have been uprated to be consistent with WPLS data.
2. Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data has been used in this case because it provides some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of Disability Living Allowance claimants.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to Disability Living Allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes. For example, a customer would not be awarded Disability Living Allowance on the basis of a diagnosis of drug/alcohol abuse. The decision is based upon the care/supervision and difficulty getting around as a result of the substance dependency and any associated physical or psychological complications.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent sample

Employment Schemes: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the £1.3 billion funding announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 to help people find work will be allocated to *(a)* the public, *(b)* the voluntary and community and *(c)* the private sector. [247511]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The pre-Budget report allocated an additional £1.3 billion over CSR07 to help to deliver effective support to unemployed people and extend these services. The Department is deciding how best to allocate the additional money and we are currently re-planning right across the organisation and working closely with our delivery partners to ensure that the support needed by unemployed people is delivered in the most effective manner

This money includes the additional measures that were announced in the pre-Budget report—expansion of the Local Employer Partnerships and further expansion of Jobcentre Plus' Rapid Response Service.

Health and Safety Executive: Bootle

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the Health and Safety Executive's equality impact assessment carried out for its move to a single headquarters in Bootle. [248499]

Jonathan Shaw: Yes. An initial equality impact assessment (EIA) was published on the HSE intranet in November 2007. This will be placed in the House of Commons Library. The final EIA will be produced after the end of the How and Where We Work Programme, scheduled for March 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the planned size and structure is of the new Health and Safety Executive Policy Group in Bootle. [248500]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive is currently carrying out a public consultation over its new strategy 'Health and Safety in Great Britain—be part of the solution'. The future size and structure of its policy group will be determined for the coming two years in light of HSE Board decisions on the strategy consultation.

Health and Safety Executive: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the 326 Health and Safety Executive staff in London, identified in How and Where We Work, were still working in Rose Court at the end of November 2008; and how many of them are expected to be doing so by the end of March 2009. [248501]

Jonathan Shaw: There were 351 HSE staff in London (including loans, secondments, career breaks and long-term special leave) identified as being within the scope of the How and Where We Work Programme at November 2007. The figure of 326 is the full-time equivalent of the 351 identified in the outline business case.

At the end of November 2008 there were 199 in-scope HSE staff working in Rose Court.

On the basis of confirmed staff intentions, it is expected that 162 in-scope staff will be working in Rose Court at the end of March 2009.

Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* replacement and *(b)* temporary staff have been recruited in Bootle to fill the positions vacated in Rose Court by the Health and Safety Executive. [248502]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

(a) To date, 112 replacements have been recruited in Bootle to fill positions vacated in Rose Court.

(b) There are currently three temporary staff employed in Bootle replacing posts vacated in Rose Court.

Health and Safety Executive: Resignations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have left the Health and Safety Executive at Rose Court premises since July 2007 *(a)* on permanent transfers to other departments, *(b)* as leavers to private sector, *(c)* on retirement, *(d)* as leavers under early release schemes and (e) on loans/secondments. [248503]

Jonathan Shaw: Since July 2007 the numbers of HSE staff that have left Rose Court under the five categories are as follows:

(a) 84 on permanent transfer to other departments;

(b) 18 have resigned. Central records are not kept of their next job;

(c) seven have retired;

(d) 12 have left under an early release scheme; and

(e) 19 are on loans/secondments.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1382W, on incapacity benefit, what the total monetary value of the benefits paid to claimants whose recorded diagnosis includes drug dependency was in each of the last five years. [241855]

Jonathan Shaw: Drug dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. The medical assessment of incapacity for work is the personal capability assessment. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work. A majority of people with a recorded diagnosis of drug dependency also have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which results in their incapacity for work.

We do record the diagnosis of incapacity that is written on a claimant's medical certificate. The available information is in the table.

Estimated incapacity benefits expenditure on claimants whose diagnosis includes drug dependency (nominal terms)

	£ million
2003-04	186
2004-05	189
2005-06	188
2006-07	190
2007-08	195

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefits includes incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance payable to working-aged adults.
2. Figures include incapacity related income support expenditure for Credits Only claims.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
4. Estimates are based on information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and published DWP benefit expenditure tables.
5. The expenditure figures are consistent with PBR 2008. DWP benefit expenditure tables can be accessed at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Income Support

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed the minimum income guarantee in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since its introduction. [244899]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The answer is in the following tables.

Number of household recipients of pension credit in Great Britain 2003-08

	Total pension credit	Guarantee credit only	Savings credit only	Guarantee and savings credit
November 2003	2,084,700	709,310	242,010	1,133,010
May 2004	2,490,760	735,030	485,980	1,269,450
May 2005	2,682,730	767,260	593,740	1,321,680
May 2006	2,717,390	775,570	598,560	1,343,230
May 2007	2,733,500	805,730	597,650	1,330,090
May 2008	2,719,140	882,070	590,800	1,246,240

Number of household recipients of pension credit in the North East 2003-08

	Total pension credit	Guarantee credit only	Savings credit only	Guarantee and savings credit
November 2003	124,280	34,570	17,590	72,090
May 2004	147,570	35,590	33,000	78,970
May 2005	156,680	36,510	38,940	81,230
May 2006	157,430	36,660	38,560	82,210
May 2007	157,440	38,200	38,190	81,050
May 2008	156,350	43,410	37,660	75,280

Number of household recipients of pension credit in Tees Valley 2003-08

	Total pension credit	Guarantee credit only	Savings credit only	Guarantee and savings credit
November 2003	29,750	9,200	4,420	16,150
May 2004	35,000	9,450	7,840	17,730
May 2005	37,160	9,500	9,300	18,350
May 2006	37,420	9,480	9,310	18,620
May 2007	37,480	9,910	9,140	18,430
May 2008	37,470	11,270	9,070	17,120

Number of household recipients of pension credit in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency 2003-08

	Total pension credit	Guarantee credit only	Savings credit only	Guarantee and savings credit
November 2003	3,960	1,120	620	2,220
May 2004	4,710	1,170	1,120	2,420
May 2005	5,030	1,210	1,280	2,530
May 2006	5,130	1,200	1,290	2,640
May 2007	5,120	1,260	1,280	2,590
May 2008	5,190	1,480	1,270	2,440

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Tees Valley is made up of Hartlepool, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland local authorities.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Jobcentre Plus: Recruitment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 619W, on employment, how many staff he estimates will be recruited to *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) temporary and (ii) permanent positions in Jobcentre Plus; how many of these appointments will be made from staff originally recruited to support the introduction of employment support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [241780]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question in reference to his Statement of 25 November 2008, Official Report, column 619W, on employment, how many staff he estimates will be recruited to (a) full-time and (b) part-time (i) temporary and (ii) permanent positions in Jobcentre Plus and how many of these appointments will be made from staff originally recruited to support the introduction of Employment Support Allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are still planning for the impact of the Pre-Budget Report announcements at the moment. In practice, we try to accommodate applicants' preferences for working patterns, subject to business needs. Currently, around 35 per cent of the staff in Jobcentre Plus work part time and we anticipate a similar proportion of part time staff amongst our new recruits.

We plan to recruit the majority of people to fixed term appointment contracts, normally for 1-2 years, although there will be local variations and this will include some permanent appointments. There will be periods of the year, at the start and during the summer months, where we recruit temporary staff to cover known peaks of work or scheduled leave. Currently, we do not plan to recruit significant numbers of temporary staff outside these periods.

We are unable to identify through our Resource Management reporting system whether someone has been recruited specifically for Employment and Support Allowance backfill. However, in the first quarter of 2009, we anticipate converting up to 300 staff from temporary to permanent contracts, and although it is not possible to say how many may apply for permanent appointments, we encourage people to do so.

Current Civil Service Commission rules mean that someone on a temporary contract can only secure a permanent appointment by applying through fair and open competition via one of our recruitment exercises. The Civil Service Bill allows for some recruitment flexibilities. One of these is the capacity to convert temporary employees to permanent status by a fair and objective process approved by the Civil Service Commissioners. This applies to employees at Administrative level at or after 12 months employment. DWP is currently writing a submission to the Commissioners on the process it proposes to use for the conversion of up to 300 temporary staff.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the list of responsibilities, *(b)* the job description and *(c)* the personal specification used when advertising a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser vacancy. [246584]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will place in the Library a copy of a) the list of responsibilities, b) the job description and c) the personal specification used when advertising a personal adviser vacancy in Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I attach to this reply a copy of the information you require. A copy has also been placed in the Library. The responsibilities, role description and person specification outlined is not exhaustive and will sometimes be tailored within each recruitment exercise to reflect changes in business processes, changes in the provision available to unemployed customers and any particular initiatives within local labour markets.

Jobcentre Plus: Resignations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have left their post in Jobcentre Plus in each region in each month of the last five years. [241449]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff have left their post in Jobcentre Plus in each region in each month of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Leaver information by region is not available prior to May 2006 due to data capacity reasons. The attached tables show the total number of leavers from Jobcentre Plus in each region for each month since May 2006.

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, May 2006 to October 2006

	2006					
Region	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*
East Midlands	21	11	30	21	41	21
East of England	50	86	32	25	22	20
London	53	64	48	56	69	46
North East	18	23	25	47	62	45
North West	51	88	55	42	68	71
Scotland	44	32	40	48	52	54
South East	57	29	38	35	39	24
South West	58	33	46	28	36	31
Wales	15	43	29	19	30	15
West Midlands	46	68	47	58	47	48
Yorkshire and Humber	24	46	47	31	55	44
Unknown[1]	261	242	269	333	690	264

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, November 2006 to March 2007

	2006		2007		
Region	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
East Midlands	27	34	29	46	68
East of England	45	125	22	25	213

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, November 2006 to March 2007

	2006		2007		
Region	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
London	56	37	270	43	45
North East	50	56	93	35	142
North West	47	57	67	72	125
Scotland	33	124	62	109	239
South East	40	42	66	101	108
South West	32	28	70	85	49
Wales	26	21	55	30	62
West Midlands	31	45	49	33	59
Yorkshire and Humber	32	34	70	44	107
Unknown[1]	182	208	203	477	391

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, April 2007 to August 2007

	2007				
Region	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*
East Midlands	25	36	32	103	56
East of England	14	24	22	36	37
London	36	30	44	43	65
North East	28	43	47	52	57
North West	43	96	88	105	138
Scotland	28	60	63	76	135
South East	34	36	47	57	42
South West	22	44	36	50	72
Wales	16	33	40	42	50
West Midlands	26	77	48	45	71
Yorkshire and Humber	32	67	74	105	88
Unknown[1]	129	2	2	2	0

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, September 2007 to January 2008

	2007				2008
Region	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*
East Midlands	64	53	32	36	28
East of England	[illegible]	30	28	24	34
London	53	32	46	72	39
North East	82	53	31	25	37
North West	163	90	74	66	97
Scotland	130	230	59	56	57
South East	74	34	23	38	25
South West	64	42	43	88	64
Wales	100	40	39	94	50
West Midlands	81	36	73	78	40
Yorkshire and Humber	165	57	39	56	51
Unknown[1]	1	0	1	0	0

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, February 2008 to June 2008

	2008				
Region	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
East Midlands	32	39	25	35	34
East of England	23	38	22	42	32
London	28	38	34	51	30
North East	32	48	56	31	26
North West	90	160	140	90	52
Scotland	113	59	113	76	70
South East	163	47	28	44	30
South West	127	65	35	46	41
Wales	26	53	29	36	25
West Midlands	32	40	60	43	27
Yorkshire and Humber	82	99	86	60	56
Unknown[1]	0	0	0	0	0

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, July 2008 to November 2008

	2008				
Region	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*
East Midlands	45	42	36	35	18
East of England	29	57	80	37	25

Number of staff who have left Jobcentre Plus by region, July 2008 to November 2008

	2008				
Region	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*
London	33	39	35	57	30
North East	31	44	52	36	8
North West	74	105	129	80	45
Scotland	63	102	114	79	29
South East	43	51	100	42	26
South West	58	60	82	54	23
Wales	52	35	47	34	19
West Midlands	52	60	71	34	14
Yorkshire and Humber	56	63	91	53	27
Unknown[1]	0	0	0	0	0

[1] In a minority of cases it has not proved possible to identify the region that an individual works in. This is due to the data not being available in the Jobcentre Plus Resource Management system.

Note:

The figures include those coming to an end of a temporary contract. This does not include people who have left Jobcentre Plus to take up a post elsewhere in the Department for Work and Pensions.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus.

Jobseeker's Allowance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants waited longer than the target average actual clearance time for Jobseeker's Allowance in the most recent available period; and what has been the average actual clearance time for Jobseeker's Allowance for the most recent available period. [241645]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about how many claimants waited longer than the target average actual clearance time for Jobseeker's Allowance in the most recent available period, and the average actual clearance time for Jobseeker's Allowance for the most recent available period. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The target for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) is 11.5 days. The latest AACT performance for JSA is 10.0 days for the month of November 2008. The year to date performance is also 10.0 days.

To manage the spread of clearance times in each month, Jobcentre Plus collects information on volumes of processed claims over several time bands. These are shown in the table below for November 2008.

The table shows that 67% were processed in 1-10 days and 33% processed in over 10 days. This does not map exactly to the target of 11.5 days but shows that most of our customers had their benefit processed within the target.

	Number	*Percentage*
JSA claims processed in 1-10 days	184,277	67
JSA claims processed in 11-21 days	76,581	27
Total JSA claims processed (including those processed in more than 21 days)	276,544	[1]100

[1] Including 6% processed in over 21 days

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people flowed on to *(a)* contributions-based and *(b)* income-based jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 12 months. [244474]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of flows onto jobseeker's allowance by type—quarterly

	Total income and contribution based	*Income based*	*Contribution based*
November 2006	358,700	272,600	110,600
February 2007	350,500	262,300	110,600
May 2007	295,600	221,400	90,200
August 2007	291,700	223,600	83,500

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Claimants can be in receipt of both income based and contribution based JSA, and therefore may appear in both columns. A total number of flows onto JSA has therefore been produced separately.

3. The information provided is the latest full year for which information is available as information for the quarter ending November 2007 is not available.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5 percent terminations dataset

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people flowed on to *(a)* contribution-based and *(b)* income-based jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [244553]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of flows onto jobseeker's allowance by type

As at August each year	*Total income-based and contribution-based*	*Income-based*	*Contribution-based*
1998	1,692,800	1,276,900	546,900
1999	1,704,600	1,288,700	540,800
2000	1,565,800	1,179,000	497,500
2001	1,483,600	1,090,100	500,800
2002	1,474,500	1,049,500	539,900
2003	1,457,200	1,033,000	534,700
2004	1,350,400	969,500	472,800
2005	1,355,300	992,500	464,300
2006	1,396,800	1,052,200	446,400
2007	1,296,500	979,900	394,900

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

2. Annual flows totals have been derived from quarterly data and based on the last four quarters of data available.

3. Claimants can be in receipt of both income-based and contribution-based jobseeker's allowance, and therefore may appear in both columns. A total number of flows onto jobseeker's allowance has therefore been produced separately.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5 percent terminations dataset

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2-4WS, whether he plans to revise the *(a)* savings and earnings disregards and *(b)* tariff income applied to jobseeker's allowance claimants' savings; [250824]

(2) if he will suspend the business assets disposal rule for new customers applying for jobseeker's allowance; [250825]

(3) if he will *(a)* suspend and *(b)* revise the (i) savings disregards, (ii) earnings disregards and (iii) tariff incomes for savings for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) customers moving from contribution-based JSA to means-tested JSA in 2009-10. [250844]

Mr. McNulty: There are no plans to change the income and capital rules used when determining eligibility to jobseeker's allowance.

The additional funding for this Department announced in last year's pre-Budget report and other measures have helped to ensure that people continue to leave jobseeker's allowance quickly, the great majority within six months of claiming. The new measures announced on 12 January will provide additional help for people who are still unemployed after six months. The Government's aim is to do everything they can to help people into jobs.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond substantively to *(a)* Question 241441, on provision of emergency support for Jobcentre Plus customers, tabled on 4 December 2008 and *(b)* Question 245228, on payment of child maintenance to parents with care, tabled on 15 December 2008; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply is in each case. [250917]

Kitty Ussher: I replied to the hon. Member's questions *(a)* 241441 on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1443-44W, and *(b)* 245228 on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1687W. I apologise for the delay in replying to these questions, which was due to the time required to conduct and check the relevant analysis.

Pension Protection Fund: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed pension payments from the pension protection fund in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [246559]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension Protection Fund was set up to protect members of eligible defined benefit and hybrid pension schemes. Individuals do not need to make a claim to be eligible for PPF compensation.

The PPF commenced operations in April 2005 and the first schemes transferred to the PPF in December 2006.

As at 30 November 2007 there were 1,167 members receiving compensation from the PPF, with 6,024 members due to receive compensation in future as it falls due. 75 members receiving compensation and 370 deferred members resided in the South East of England (excluding London).

As at 30 November 2008 there were 7,703 members receiving compensation from the PPF, with 12,942 members due to receive compensation in future as it falls due. 439 members receiving compensation and 733 deferred members resided in the South East of England (excluding London).

A breakdown of the aforementioned figures below regional level is not available.

While in the PPF assessment period, the process which determines whether a scheme transfers to the PPF, the trustees remain responsible for the running of the scheme with benefits being paid to members at PPF levels when they fall due. As at 30 November 2008 there were 121,300 scheme members, across the UK, in the assessment period.

Poverty: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to reduce levels of relative child poverty in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [249060]

Kitty Ussher: We have made substantial progress in tackling child poverty. 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99. As a result of the support we have introduced, families and children in the poorest fifth of the population are, on average, £4,100 a year better off than in 1997. The measures we announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 will increase this to £4,400 from April 2009. These measures will continue to benefit children in Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire.

In addition, Government measures over the past two years will result in lifting around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty. Our plans for reducing levels of child poverty in England were set out in "Ending child poverty: everybody's business", which is available in the Library.

Sick Leave: Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of working days lost due to musculoskeletal conditions in the last three years. [249270]

Jonathan Shaw: The estimated number of working days lost in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, taken by people who believed that they were suffering from a work-related musculoskeletal disorder, are given in the following table:

Estimated full-day equivalent working days lost (in thousands) due to self-reported work-related musculoskeletal disorders

		95 (per cent.) C.I.	
	Central	Lower	Upper
2007-08	8,845	7,422	10,268
2006-07	10,715	8,973	12,457
2005-06	9,450	7,885	11,015

Notes:

1. 95 per cent. C.I.: 95 per cent. confidence interval, the range within which we are 95 per cent. confident that the true value lies in the absence of bias.

2. Figures for earlier years are available on HSE's website at:
http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/0708/swit1.htm

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Social Fund

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual applications to the Social Fund for *(a)* community care grants, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* crisis loans there were in each month from July to December 2008. [250891]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following table.

Discretionary social fund applications received in Great Britain from July to December 2008

	Number of applications received		
2008	*Community care grants*	*Budgeting loans*	*Crisis loans*
July	52,820	132,360	236,230
August	45,940	108,740	218,690
September	49,560	128,660	235,660
October	52,550	159,930	252,290
November	52,250	189,940	236,740
December	40,900	125,920	227,620

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Social Services: Private Sector

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of regulation of private sector contracted welfare services for incapacity benefits claimants at a typical investment rate of £62,000 as proposed by David Freud. [244200]

Jonathan Shaw: The White Paper (Cmnd 7560, published 10 December 2008) announced our intention to pilot the approach recommended by David Freud. One outcome from these pilots will be information on the cost of managing the contracts that we shall let.

State Retirement Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women he estimates will begin claiming the basic state pension between the end of the first full week in December 2008 and the end of (i) January and (ii) February 2009. [246583]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available on a weekly basis. The estimated numbers of people who are expected to claim the basic state pension from the beginning of December 2008 is given in the following table.

	December 2008 to January 2009	*December 2008 to February 2009*
Men	45,000	70,000
Women	57,000	89,000

Notes:
1. Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand claims.
2. Estimates include claims from residents of Great Britain and those residing overseas.
3. Some individuals may not claim until some time after they reach state pension age (65 for men and 60 for women).
4. Individuals are considered here to begin claiming at the point at which their claim is processed.
Source:
DWP forecasts

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology was used to calculate the additional entitlement to the state pension for those over 80 years of age. [246756]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The weekly age addition was introduced in 1971 for those pensioners over the age of 80. This amount has not been uprated by successive Governments.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of recent exchange rate fluctuations on UK pensioners resident abroad. [248820]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Pensions paid to UK residents abroad are always subject to fluctuations in exchange rates which means that the local purchasing power of the state pension can go up and down.

All economies are vulnerable to the effects of global financial markets. While the Government understands the difficulties current exchange rates are causing for some pensioners who choose to live abroad, no assessment has been made of the effect of recent exchange rate fluctuations on UK pensioners resident abroad.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reservations his Department is seeking in relation to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [248195]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department has been considering the implications of article 12.4 of the convention on the arrangements whereby a person may be appointed to exercise rights in relation to social security claims and payments on behalf of an individual who is for the time being unable to act.

Article 12.4 states that

> "States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests".

The arrangements for appointees are not at present subject to the safeguard of regular review, so we are now actively working towards a proportionate system of review. We are currently considering the terms of the specific text which will be necessary to make our position clear on this article when the UK ratifies the convention.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which constituencies are covered by each weather station used for the calculation of cold weather payments; [245140]

(2) how many *(a)* payments and *(b)* recipients there were of cold weather payments in each constituency in each of the last five years. [245141]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information pensioners are required to provide to his Department to receive winter fuel payments. [248738]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The vast majority, over 95 per cent., of winter fuel payments are made automatically, based on information already held in DWP records. In these cases there is no need for an individual to provide further information or to make a claim.

However there are a small group of people who may qualify for winter fuel payments but cannot be identified by DWP records. This is usually because they are not in receipt of a state pension or other benefit administered by the DWP. These people need to complete a claim form so that their eligibility can be assessed.

Information required by the winter fuel payment claim form includes: name, address, date of birth, national insurance number and bank/building society details so that we may make a payment direct into a person's bank account. People are also asked to declare, for example, whether there is anyone else aged 60 or over in their household and whether they are in hospital or a care home. The claim form is available from the Pension Service website.

Winter Fuel Payments: Sight Impaired

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2226W, on sight impaired: disability living allowance, how much it would cost to extend the winter fuel payment to the same group of people with severe sight impairment. [246863]

Jonathan Shaw: Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over. The cost of such a change would depend on the precise definition used. On the same basis as used in the previous question, the estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to all people under 60 with severe sight impairment is £4 million.

This estimate is based on a £200 winter fuel payment.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many accidents at work have occurred involving individuals who have been exposed to high temperatures at work in each of the last five years. [249054]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The information requested is as follows:

Injury severity	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]	*Total*
Fatal	0	0	0	1	0	1
Major	2	6	4	12	3	29
Over 3 day	1	2	4	12	3	23
Total	3	8	8	25	6	53

[1] Provisional

Source:

Reports submitted under the Reporting of the Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices were issued to persons who were drunk and disorderly in Essex in each of the last five years. [249647]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over for being drunk and disorderly, in the Essex police force area from 2004 to 2007 are given in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for offences of being drunk and disorderly[1] in the Essex police force area, 2004 to 2007[2]

	Number
2004	738
2005	672
2006	905
2007	478

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;

Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what materials are used by her Department and its agencies to ensure young people are aware of the implications of alcohol abuse for their *(a)* home life, *(b)* health and *(c)* education. [247667]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The 10-year Drug Strategy "Protecting families and communities", published in February 2008, sets out a series of steps to address the problems associated with young people's misuse of drugs, alcohol and volatile substances.

The strategy committed Government to conduct a review of drug and alcohol education. This has taken place and Ministers announced their intention to make PSHE statutory in October 2008, in recognition of the key role it plays in equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy and successful lives. At the same time, Ministers launched an independent review of how this might be achieved in the most effective and practicable way. Sir Alasdair Macdonald, head teacher of Morpeth school in Tower Hamlets, is conducting the review and will report to Ministers in April 2009. Proposals for the statutory implementation of PSHE will be the subject of a full public consultation.

Frank, the joint DCSF, Department of Health and Home Office drugs advice and information campaign for young people, continues to play a key role in helping to prevent drug use among young people (11-18) by changing their attitudes and perceptions towards drugs and drug users. A new Frank Cocaine campaign was launched in December 2008. Awareness of Frank remains very high: in the latest tracking study (report July 2008) 83 per cent. of young people were aware of the campaign. This figure is unchanged from 2007.

The Drug Strategy also committed to publish guidance to help the commissioning and delivery of treatment services with a greater focus on the needs of parents and families, and to that effect the National Treatment Agency (NTA) published carers' guidance in October 2008. The NTA will also shortly be publishing commissioning guidance for local drug and alcohol commissioners and partnerships which will have a greater focus on the needs of families.

To meet our commitment to provide intensive support to substance misusing parents through a range of recently established family interventions, targeting families at risk, the substance misuse agenda has been included in remit letter for local parenting support advisers and in the broad remit for Parenting and Early Intervention projects. Furthermore, Family Intervention Pilots have been extended to 500 further families affected by substance misuse. The NTA is working with DCSF in the development of the Child Poverty Family Intervention Projects in 10 pilot areas during 2008-09. This will be rolled out to further areas in the next two years.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* between 16 and 19 years old received penalty notices for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in 2007. [248655]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged between 16 and 19 for being drunk and disorderly in 2007 are given in the following table. Data on the number of PNDs issued are published for persons aged 16 and over only.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 to 19 years for offences of being drunk and disorderly[1], England and Wales, 2007[2]

Age	*Number*
16	936
17	2,111
18	4,182
19	3,989

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Crime: Motor Vehicles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of car theft in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [249579]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Reducing car theft remains a Government priority and we are seeking to maintain the reductions that were achieved in exceeding PSA1. We expect Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) to prioritise this crime where it is identified as a local problem as part of their work to reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC). It has been included within the definition of Serious Acquisitive Crime as part of our new set of PSAs and is included under the SAC indicator (NI 16) in the National Indicator Set for Local Area Agreements. NI 16 has been chosen as a priority indicator in the Middlesbrough Local Area Agreement. While Redcar and Cleveland have decided not to include NI16 in their Local Area Agreement indicators, the CDRP has an action plan in place and activity is under way to tackle and reduce vehicle crime.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in the North East region undertake a range of activities based upon local priorities identified through strategic assessments that have contributed to this success. This work includes:

offering targeted crime prevention advice in 'hot spot areas' to help prevent victimisation and repeat victimisation

working to secure car park areas

targeting prolific offenders in 'hot spot' areas

making regular use of automatic number plate recognition operations

undertaking operations with a 'sting' vehicle equipped with CCTV camera at peak times in 'hot spot' areas.

Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* thefts were reported in the Metropolitan Police Force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the detection rate in each such year was. [248063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and is given in the following tables.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detections over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 1: Number of offences recorded and detection rates for selected offences in the Metropolitan Police area—1998-99 to 2001-02[1]

	Burglary		*Violence against the person*		*Theft offences*[2]	
Financial year	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
1998-99	123,861	13	131,549	44	383,665	14
1999-2000	129,145	10	156,880	31	426,235	10
2000-01	112,375	10	155,263	28	415,148	9
2001-02	116,026	10	161,351	26	443,523	9

[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

[2] Includes offences against vehicles and other thefts.

Table 2: Number of offences recorded and detection rates for selected offences in the Metropolitan Police area—2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

	Burglary		*Violence against the person*		*Theft offences*[2]	
Financial year	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
2002-03	113,427	13	178,782	24	463,665	8
2003-04	105,361	12	186,187	26	448,818	8
2004-05	101,474	13	201,923	43	412,264	10
2005-06	103,510	15	197,262	45	400,387	11
2006-07	96,728	16	182,354	31	365,714	10
2007-08	93,894	13	172,741	36	332,156	12

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] Includes offences against vehicles and other thefts.

Crimes of Violence: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against the person were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100 population in (i) Uxbridge constituency and (ii) the London borough of Hillingdon between 1997 and 2008. [250897]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available data relate to recorded offences of violence against the person in the Hillingdon Basic Command Unit. Data at Basic Command Unit level for violence against the person are only available from 1999-2000. Data for Uxbridge are not collected centrally.

Table 1: Recorded offences of violence against the person in the Hillingdon Basic Command Unit -1999-2000 to 2001-02[1]

	Number of offences	*Rate per 100 population*
1999-2000	3,713	1.5
2000-01	4,094	1.6
2001-02	4,766	1.9

[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Recorded offences of violence against the person in the Hillingdon Basic Command Unit—2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

	Number of offences	*Rate per 100 population*
2002-03	4,983	2.0
2003-04	5,222	2.1
2004-05	5,921	2.4
2005-06	6,261	2.5
2006-07	5,911	2.3
2007-08	5,882	2.4

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Driving Under Influence: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving offences have been recorded in the area served by the Northern Basic Command Unit of Cambridgeshire Constabulary in each quarter since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [250806]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Offences of driving while unfit through drink are summary offences and do not feature in the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

The Home Office does collect data on recorded offences of 'Causing death by dangerous or careless driving' (including whilst under the influence of drink or drugs). However, it is not possible to determine from the information held centrally which, if any, of these offences were committed while the offender was under the influence of alcohol.

Driving Under Influence: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug and *(b)* drink driving were recorded in (i) Uxbridge constituency and (ii) the London Borough of Hillingdon in each year since 1997. [250770]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Offences of driving while unfit through drugs or drink are summary offences and do not feature in the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

The Home Office does collect data on recorded offences of "Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including whilst under the influence of drink or drugs)". However, it is not possible to determine from the information held centrally which, if any, of these offences were committed while the offender was under the influence.

The available information for the above offence is given in the following table. The data relate to the Hillingdon basic command unit and data at this level are only available from 2000-01. Data for Uxbridge are not collected centrally.

Recorded offences of causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs) in the Hillingdon basic command unit

	Number of offences
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	1
2003-04	1
2004-05	2
2005-06	3
2006-07	0
2007-08	0

Drugs: Statistics

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the announcement on her Department's Research, Development and Statistics website, why the National Statistics bulletin Drug Offenders England and Wales is being withdrawn with immediate effect. [250467]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The decision to withdraw this bulletin has been made for several reasons.

Responsibility for offender statistics passed to the Ministry of Justice last year. MOJ has absorbed the drug offender series into its overall offender statistics outputs, such as the Criminal Statistics command paper. My statisticians conducted an extensive consultation exercise, both internally and externally, which revealed dwindling demand for a separate drug offenders bulletin. They have been assured by their MOJ colleagues, that any material previously published in the Drug Offenders England and Wales bulletin would continue be available either in MOJ publications or on request.

The recommendation to withdraw this bulletin was endorsed by the national statistician, the chair of the UK Statistics Authority, the chief statistician and the chief scientific adviser in the Home Office and myself.

Electronic Surveillance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which agencies outside the United Kingdom are permitted to undertake remote surveillance of the use of an individual's computer in the UK; and under what legislation such surveillance is permitted. [250874]

Mr. Coaker: None. Such activity without the system owner's permission would constitute an offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Extradition

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited from the UK to *(a)* Zimbabwe, *(b)* Colombia, *(c)* Cuba, *(d)* Iraq, *(e)* Israel and *(f)* the Russian Federation in each year since 1997. [248615]

Meg Hillier: Statistical information of this kind is only available from 1998 onwards. In the period from 1998 to 2008, the United Kingdom extradited three persons to Israel (one in 1998 and two in 2006). There were no extraditions to the other countries listed.

Human Trafficking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department is using to ascertain the number of people who have been trafficked into the UK; and if she will place in the Library a copy of that research. [244930]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The covert nature of the crime makes it very difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Serious Organised Crime Agency continue to develop our knowledge of the scale of human trafficking through a variety of means, including analysis of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2 and ongoing intelligence collation. In addition to the work being undertake by these agencies, funding is in place for dedicated intelligence officers in each of the 10 Regional Intelligence Units in England and Wales to focus on organised immigration crime, including human trafficking.

We expect to have an up to date assessment of the extent of the problem faced by the UK by the end of the year.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what protocols her Department operates when managing people deemed to have been trafficked. [247520]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 17 December 2008 we ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings. By April 2009 at the latest we will introduce a reflection period of 45 days and a renewable one year residence permit for identified victims of human trafficking. Additionally we are introducing formal identification measures under a national referral mechanism by which victims are systematically identified by a competent authority and referred to appropriate support.

This will further strengthen our existing collaborative way of identifying, referring and supporting victims.

Identity Cards: Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether identity cards will be produced *(a)* in English and Welsh, *(b)* in English only and *(c)* in Welsh only when asked for by an individual; [247079]

(2) what estimate she has made of the extra costs of producing identity cards in Welsh and English instead of in English. [247080]

Meg Hillier: The initial identity cards issued to British citizens, starting in the second half of 2009 to airside workers at a small number of airports, including Manchester and London city airports, will have headings in English and French in line with travel document standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). This follows the practice for passports.

The Government are looking at the possibility of issuing identity cards in Wales that would in addition have headings in the Welsh language and, while it cannot be for the initial cards issued from 2009, we are exploring this for the next generation of identity cards.

Details of the cost of doing so are not yet available.

Immigration: Appeals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of appeals against determination by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors were successful in each of the last 10 years. [249925]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The latest figures are available from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 2007 ("Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007"), which was published in August 2008. This bulletin indicates that, between 1998 and 2007, (a) 874,885 appeals were lodged with the asylum and immigration tribunal, or its jurisdictional predecessors, against decisions by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and (b) 250,930 of those appeals were allowed (comprising asylum, in-country, entry clearance and other non-asylum cases). The bulletin only provides figures between the years of 1997 to 2007 as figures for 2008 are not yet available.

It should be noted that the following figures relate to immigration adjudicator/judge decisions and do not include immigration appeals tribunal decisions or asylum and immigration tribunal reconsiderations of appeals for each of the last 10 years as this information is not available in the published bulletin.

	Total determined	*Allowed*	*Proportion (percentage)*
1998	38,200	5,200	14
1999	28,610	7,630	27
2000	27,130	5,960	22
2001	56,815	13,335	24
2002	84,260	21,910	26
2003	108,350	29,025	26
2004	109,220	34,245	31
2005	100,250	30,440	30
2006	167,310	54,860	32
2007	154,740	48,365	31
Total	874,885	250,930	29

Notes:
1. Prior to April 2005, the figures are based on data supplied by the Presenting Officers Unit within the Home Office. From April 2005 the figures are based on information supplied by the Ministry of Justice.
2. The figures for 1997, 1999, and 2000 are rounded to the nearest 10, figures for 1998 rounded to the nearest 100, and figures for 2001 onwards are rounded to the nearest five. All percentages are calculated by the Ministry of Justice using the figures contained in the bulletin and are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. The bulletin states that some of the figures provided for 2005 and 2006 have been revised. It also states that the figures for 2007 are provisional only.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted of knife possession and *(c)* sentenced to prison for knife possession between (i) June and October 2008 and (ii) June and October 2007. [241863]

Mr. Coaker: Data showing the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and given a custodial sentence at all courts for knife possession, from 1 June 2006 to 31 October 2006 and from 1 June 2007 to 31 October 2007 in England and Wales, are in the following table. Data for 2008 are due to be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Information on knife crime has also been published on 22 January 2009 as part of the quarterly crime statistical bulletin.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and given immediate custody at all courts, for knife possession[1], England and Wales for the periods 1 June 2006 to 31 October 2006 and 1 June 2007 to 31 October 2007[2, 3, 4]

	2007	2006
Proceeded against	3,258	3,288
Found guilty	2,720	2,729
Given immediate custody	499	480

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Having an article with blade or point in public place—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (2)(5)(b) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
E & A Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* prosecuted for attempting to purchase a knife under age in each of the last 10 years; [248640]

(2) how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* prosecuted for selling a knife to a young person under age in each of the last 10 years. [248641]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons cautioned and proceeded against for selling a knife or other article with a blade to a young person under age in England and Wales from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) are given in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

It is not an offence to 'attempt to purchase a knife under age'—therefore no data can be supplied.

Number of offenders cautioned[2] and defendants proceeded against for selling a knife or other article with a blade to a young person under age, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[3, 1]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cautioned	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
Proceeded against	1	2	—	4	4	9	6	21	43	32

[1] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Organised Crime: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the European database of dangerous offenders to prevent homicide associated with organised crime is expected to be operational; and what funding her Department has allocated to the database. [246853]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Work is ongoing to reach an agreed position with EU member states. No funding has been allocated by the Home Office.

Police and Community Support Officers: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in Crosby in each year since 1997. [251464]

Mr. Coaker: The available data for the Basic Command Unit of Sefton are given in the following table. Data are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

Police officer and police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] for the Basic Command Unit[2] of Sefton as at 31 March in the given years

	Police officers	*PCSOs[3]*
2003	433	—
2004	440	—
2005	479	—
2006	505	—
2007	523	57
2008	501	60

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Data by BCU were first collected in 2002-03.

[3] Police community support officer data at BCU level were first collected in 2006-07.

Police: Standards

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her statement of 4 December 2008 on police targets, *Official Report*, column 158, which targets have been removed. [250109]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The Policing Green Paper—From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing Our Communities Together—stated that

> "with one exception the Home Office will neither set nor maintain top-down numerical targets for individual police forces—a significant gesture of trust and reduction of bureaucracy."

The Government have already removed the targets for the police that concerned frontline officers the most, such as the target to bring more offences to justice. Following the Green Paper announcement, the Government have removed centrally set, top-down targets for police forces relating to efficiency, and the 10-year race employment targets come to an end at 31 March 2009, when a final report against a centrally set progression target will also be made.

Going forward, we will expect police authorities to set their own local targets on these issues.

The Government have also set multi-agency targets for Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) for 2008-09 on enforcement (including fail to appear (FTA) warrant enforcement, community penalty breach enforcement and licence recall), asset recovery and the Persistent Young Offender pledge. LCJBs are multi-agency partnerships which include the police, and LCJBs' targets measure jointly the performance of the police and their partner agencies. In response to the Policing Green Paper, there will be no top-down numerical targets for

LCJBs for 2009-10. Instead, LCJBs have been asked to set their own local targets according to local priorities and circumstances.

The one remaining target the Government will set for police forces will be on confidence that they and their partners are tackling the crime and antisocial behaviour issues that matter most locally.

Proceeds of Crime: Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of operating the suspicious activity reports regime has been since its creation. [247622]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 January 2009]*: Suspicious activity reports (SARs) are submitted to the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Approximately £20,080,465 has been spent on the operation of the UKFIU since April 2006, when SOCA assumed responsibility for it. This figure includes the running costs of the SARs Transformation Project, an IT-enabled business change project focused entirely on improving the SARs regime.

In addition, the overhead costs associated with running estates and IT for the UKFIU in 2008 was approximately £1,280,000.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's definition of a prostitute working for another person's gain applies where the other person is *(a)* a receptionist, *(b)* also working as a prostitute, *(c)* working as a prostitute on the same premises, *(d)* a partner or a flatmate who shares premises with the prostitute woman or man, *(e)* a landlord letting the premises where the prostitute woman or man is working and *(f)* a dependant. [244923]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We announced our intention to include the offence of paying for sexual services of a prostitute controlled for gain in the Policing and Crime Bill. An explanation of the intended application of this offence will be given during the passage of this Bill.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's definition of a prostitute working for another person's gain applies in circumstances where the prostitute has entered into a working relationship with another person in the absence of force or coercion. [244924]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have included the offence of paying for sexual services of a prostitute controlled for gain in the Policing and Crime Bill, which was introduced on 18 December. An explanation of the intended application of this offence will be given during the passage of this Bill.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* evaluated on the average age at which people first enter prostitution; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each such piece of research. [247521]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's consultation paper on prostitution, "Paying the Price", provides a summary of research on the age of first involvement in prostitution. This paper is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/paying_the_price.pdf?view=Binary

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services and schemes are available to people working as prostitutes to assist them with *(a)* housing, *(b)* poverty, *(c)* childcare, *(d)* drug addiction and *(e)* health care; how much is planned to be spent on each such service or scheme in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [247528]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Support for individuals in relation to these issues is the responsibility of appropriate local agencies and funding is devolved accordingly.

To support local partnerships the Home Office has produced specific guidance for criminal justice integrated teams to assist in improving the engagement of those individuals with a Class A drug problem involved in prostitution, and to help develop effective working practices with specialist projects.

As part of the co-ordinated prostitution strategy the Government will develop guidance for local areas on commissioning services for those involved in prostitution.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what schemes and services are available to people working as prostitutes to assist them in reporting incidents of violence and abuse. [247529]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have expanded the range of services supporting victims of sexual violence including those involved in prostitution, through the development of sexual assault referral centres (SARCS), and independent sexual violence advisers (26 SARCS are now up and running, with one in every police force area planned by 2011). In order to implement one of the recommendations of the Tackling Demand Review, and a key action of the Government's Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy we will be developing comprehensive guidance, including on advocacy services to support women in prostitution who become victims of serious violent and sexual crime.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted for incidents of prostitution-related activity in each of the last five years; [248013]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted in respect of and *(c)* convicted of offences of controlling prostitution for gain in each of the last five years; [248014]

(3) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted in respect of and *(c)* convicted of offences relating to loitering or soliciting for purposes of prostitution in each of the last five years; [248025]

(4) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted in respect of and *(c)* convicted of kerb-crawling in each of the last five years; [248036]

(5) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* prosecuted in respect of and *(c)* convicted of brothel-keeping in each of the last five years. [248037]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and sexual offences. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons proceeded against and found guilty of selected prostitution offences in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007, are in the table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected prostitution offences, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

		Proceeded against					Found guilty				
Offence	*Statute*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Causing or inciting prostitution for gain	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.52	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	2	1
Controlling a prostitute for gain	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.53	—	1	12	18	23	—	—	3	11	24
Keeping a brothel used for prostitution	Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33A as added by Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.55	—	3	11	39	41	—	4	8	27	29
Keeping a brothel	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 33.	11	26	13	34	37	4	15	11	12	31
Letting premises for use as a brothel	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 34.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 35.	—	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	2	1
Tenant permitting premises to be used for prostitution	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 36.	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	2
Keeping a brothel for homosexual practices	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 33 as amended by Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Letting premises for use as a brothel for homosexual practices	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 34 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 6.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tenant permitting premises to be used as a brothel for homosexual practices	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 35 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 6.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerb-crawling	Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 1.	956	841	717	625	554	834	760	635	532	491
Persistent soliciting of women for the purpose of prostitution	Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 2.	70	64	41	47	78	50	48	34	38	53
Placing an advertisement relating to prostitution	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.46.	420	410	435	431	366	396	376	408	392	341
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution	Street Offences Act 1959 Sec 1.	2,956	2,002	1,376	845	874	2,627	1,735	1,116	648	526

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there have been for soliciting for prostitution in each year since 1997. [248354]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and sexual offences. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of defendants found guilty of soliciting for prostitution in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 are given in the following table.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for soliciting for prostitution, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1,2]

	Number
1997	5,695
1998	5,223
1999	3,378
2000[3]	3,385
2001	2,841
2002	2,668
2003	2,627
2004	1,735
2005	1,116
2006	648
2007	526

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Prostitution: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for violent offences in cases where the victim worked as a prostitute in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [247525]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These data are not available centrally.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what schemes and services there are with the objective of increasing the number of convictions of those who have committed violence towards a person working as a prostitute. [247530]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As part of the Government's Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy the Ugly Mugs scheme which enables those involved in prostitution to share information on dangerous clients, has been expanded through the existing Crimestoppers helpline that allows crime to be reported anonymously.

Prostitution: New Zealand

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will visit New Zealand to assess the effects of the legislation which decriminalised prostitution in that country. [247527]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government recently published the findings of a review that considered what action could be taken to tackle the demand for prostitution. As part of this review, Ministers considered research into the experience of different countries including New Zealand. Ministers conducted fact-finding visits to both the Netherlands and Sweden. There are no plans for further ministerial visits to other countries in relation to this matter.

Prostitution: Rape

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for rape in cases where the victim worked as a prostitute in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [247524]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally. The data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought. It is therefore not possible to identify rape offences where the victim was a prostitute.

Theft: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* theft and *(b)* burglary have been reported in (i) Greater London, (ii) the London Borough of Hillingdon and (iii) Uxbridge constituency in each year since 1997. [250771]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available data relate to recorded offences in the Metropolitan Police Service area and the Hillingdon basic command unit. Data at basic command unit level for theft and burglary are only available from 1999-2000. Data for Uxbridge are not collected centrally.

Table 1: Recorded offences of theft and burglary in the Metropolitan Police Service area and in the Hillingdon basic command unit—2000-01 to 2001-02[1]

	Metropolitan Police		Hillingdon	
	Theft offences[2]	Burglary offences	Theft offences[2]	Burglary offences
2000-01	415,148	112,375	10,577	4,085
2001-02	443,523	116,026	10,539	3,643

[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

[2] Includes offences against vehicles and other theft offences.

Table 2: Recorded offences of theft and burglary in the Metropolitan Police Service area and in the Hillingdon basic command unit—2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

	Metropolitan Police		Hillingdon	
	Theft offences[2]	Burglary offences	Theft offences[2]	Burglary offences
2002-03	463,665	113,427	10,794	3,569
2003-04	448,818	105,361	10,725	3,183
2004-05	412,264	101,474	9,883	3,143
2005-06	400,387	103,510	9,687	3,137
2006-07	365,714	96,728	9,983	3,182
2007-08	332,156	93,894	8,621	3,361

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] Includes offences against vehicles and other theft offences.

Tobacco: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* were prosecuted, *(b)* were cautioned and *(c)* received a penalty notice for disorder for selling cigarettes to an under age person in the last 12 months. [248643]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons proceeded against and cautioned for selling cigarettes to an under age person in 2007 (latest published) are given in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The Penalty Notice for Disorder scheme currently does not extend to the offence of selling cigarettes to an under age person.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and cautioned[1] *for selling cigarettes to an under age person, England and Wales, 2007*[2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against	Cautioned
2007	58	1

[1] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] The proceeded against statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are employed in managing the Refugee Integration Strategy; how many she estimates will be employed in 2009-10 and 2010-11; how much that strategy is expected to cost in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [245683]

Meg Hillier: The UK Border Agency is intending to publish a refugee integration strategy early in 2009. The strategy will confirm Government commitment to supporting refugees through integration and resettlement. The cost of developing the document and of any subsequent delivery activity will be resourced from existing provision for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its predecessor and *(c)* its agencies have provided funding to the charity (i) Catz Club and (ii) Schoolfriend in the last five years. [250350]

Mr. Khan: The Department, its predecessor and its agencies have not provided funding to the charity (i) Catz Club and (ii) Schoolfriend in the last five years.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the £3 million innovation and challenge fund she announced on 10 December 2008 will be allocated in 2009-10 and 2010-11; what the criteria for awarding grants will be; what the maximum grant size is expected to be; who will administer the fund; what the annual administration costs of the fund are expected to be; how grants from the fund will be evaluated; and if she will make a statement. [249588]

John Healey: The £3 million challenge and innovation fund is for the financial year 2009-10 only. The criteria for awarding grants; the maximum grant size; fund administration; annual administration costs; and grants evaluation will be published in due course.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in each year since the Department's inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper in that time; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248804]

Mr. Khan: Expenditure by Communities and Local Government on maintaining, decorating and improving departmental buildings is shown in the following table:

CLG Maintenance, Decorating, Improvements

	Total costs (£)
2006-07	6,116,496
2007-08	8,207,273
2008-09	2,068,049

CLG does not record how much is spent on wallpaper.

Plans for further spending on departmental decoration are currently under review.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets her Department and its agencies provide for staff. [249069]

Mr. Khan: In relation to CLG's London HQ buildings, a staff restaurant service is provided at Eland House and a snack bar service is provided at Ashdown House. These are non-subsidised, directly-operated outlets provided by Mitie PLC as part of the Department's Integrated Facility Management contract.

In relation to CLG agencies, staff catering services for the Planning Inspectorate at Temple Quay House, Bristol and the Fire Service College at Moreton in Marsh, are provided on a non-subsidised, directly-operated basis as part of the facility management contracts for those premises with Eurest and Operon respectively.

In relation to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, the catering concession holder, Leith's, provides a non-subsidised, directly-operated canteen facility for all staff working at the Centre.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at her Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249855]

Mr. Khan: The numbers of bonuses paid to all senior civil service staff and the cost of these in 2008 and 2007 are given in the following table:

Senior civil servants (SCS)	*Number of bonuses*	*Cost of bonuses (£)*
2008	111	856,932
2007	104	686,000

The bonuses are non-consolidated, non-pensionable cash payments that reward excellent performance during the year, based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Senior civil service staff members are assessed against a range of factors, such as:

The achievement of their prime objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;

Degree to which business objectives are met;

Delivery for Ministers;

Demonstration of skills such as judgment, leadership and the PSG skills;

Effective resource management

Details of bonuses paid in the Department's agencies are not held centrally.

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 948W, on departmental personnel, what the current figure is for staff without posts or in the career transition centre or in a people action team in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* each of the Government Offices for the Regions; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such after returning from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for (i) at least six months and (ii) at least 12 months. [250541]

Mr. Khan: My information is that there are currently no staff without posts in my Department, its agencies or the Government offices.

Fire Services: Contracts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 196W, on public sector: contracts, whether general break clauses have been included in the contracts for regional fire control rooms. [250280]

Mr. Khan: Break clauses are not included in the contracts for regional control rooms for reasons of national resilience and to provide continuous public service.

Fire Services: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* malicious false alarm fire emergency calls have been received in (i) the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire and (ii) the City of Southampton in each of the last five years. [250172]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is available in the following table, however information regarding incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service is not available at a local level.

False fire alarms attended by Fire and Rescue Services, England, 2003-07[1]

	England				*Hampshire*			
	Total false fire alarms	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*	*Total false fire alarms*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
2003[1]	387,032	47,010	108,721	231,301	10,333	788	2,945	6,600
2004	365,304	39,229	91,178	234,897	9,827	666	2,431	6,730
2005	354,786	30,264	92,151	232,371	10,018	592	2,695	6,731
2006	349,846	25,428	94,651	229,767	9,565	612	3,018	5,935
2007[2]	334,045	22,306	94,322	217,417	7,746	505	3,205	4,036

[1] Includes estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action.

[2] Provisional.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters there were per 100,000 residents in each fire and rescue authority area in England in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available; and how many such firefighters there were in each year in each region. [250704]

Mr. Khan: Information on the number of firefighters per 100,000 population and firefighters in England is shown as follows.

Firefighters per 100,000 resident population and number of firefighters

	Firefighters per 100,000 residents			Number of firefighters		
Fire authority	*1997-98*	*2003-04*	*2007-08*	*1997-98*	*2003-04*	*2007-08*
Avon	88	89	83	861	891	880
Bedfordshire and Luton	81	76	84	447	436	500
Royal Berkshire	74	73	68	588	584	562
Buckinghamshire	75	79	82	500	547	588
Cambridgeshire	90	87	83	624	635	632
Cheshire	82	82	78	806	815	782
Cleveland	124	118	114	685	657	636
Cornwall	122	121	115	590	618	608
Cumbria	147	149	150	718	729	743
Derbyshire	90	85	81	859	832	803
Devon and Somerset	116	119	116	1,779	1,898	1,929
Dorset	93	93	93	636	652	660
County Durham and Darlington	93	95	90	558	560	546
East Sussex	91	91	86	665	677	656
Essex	87	86	88	1,368	1,395	1,486
Gloucestershire	89	92	88	496	523	514
London	82	81	80	5,771	5,990	6,047
Greater Manchester	88	84	79	2,207	2,135	2,014
Hampshire	91	91	93	1,473	1,512	1,586
Hereford and Worcester	98	95	99	689	691	728
Hertfordshire	83	81	78	842	842	831
Humberside	117	122	120	1,026	1,072	1,092
Isles of Scilly[1]	2	2	2	44	51	51
Isle of Wight	176	162	154	224	221	215
Kent	110	105	106	1,697	1,681	1,741
Lancashire	97	96	89	1,374	1,374	1,298
Leicestershire	79	74	68	721	694	658
Lincolnshire	103	108	111	637	716	771
Merseyside	107	97	94	1,490	1,319	1,264
Norfolk	94	90	99	727	730	836
North Yorkshire	99	90	92	726	687	722
Northamptonshire	85	83	79	520	531	537
Northumberland	126	124	125	388	385	387
Nottinghamshire	88	91	89	898	936	943
Oxfordshire	85	87	93	506	538	593
Shropshire	111	114	119	472	510	539
South Yorkshire	76	77	70	973	977	911
Staffordshire	80	83	79	837	867	844
Suffolk	101	95	106	666	643	752
Surrey	83	75	71	864	803	778
Tyne and Wear	93	92	86	1,036	993	933
Warwickshire	98	91	83	487	475	438
West Midlands	80	77	75	2,073	1,979	1,944
West Sussex	98	93	96	720	704	744
West Yorkshire	92	87	78	1,906	1,823	1,692
Wiltshire	90	87	90	536	543	576
England	92	90	88	44,710	44,871	44,990

[1] Firefighters per 100 population

Source:

Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Fire Services: Radio

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the national implementation of the FireLink project; and if she will make a statement. [248672]

Mr. Khan: The project is making good progress. The existing radio communications infrastructure has been enhanced to provide a more resilient network. The project has now moved into the next phase, the provision of new digital radios into fire and rescue service appliances and cars. The installation of radio equipment is almost complete in the first region on the rollout schedule, the North East. Users have welcomed the improved clarity of the system and the better reception compared to the previous analogue networks.

Fire Services: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire and rescue authorities did not meet the public service agreement sub-target of having an annual fatality rate from accidental fires in the home of no more than 1.25 times the national average in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [250703]

Mr. Khan: Because of inherent fluctuations in the number of fatalities in individual Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) areas, the definition of this sub-target takes the average data across a five year period, and this runs from April 2005 to March 2010.

The comparable statistics that can be calculated now are for the five year period 2002-03 to 2006-07, and are shown in the table. However this should only be used for guidance purposes and not as a means of judging FRA performance or ability to meet PSA 3 targets.

Fire authorities exceeding 1.25 times the national average rate of accidental dwelling fires

Area	*Average fatality rate (per 100,000 population) based on 2002-03 to 2006-07 data*
England average	0.49
Rate 1.25* the National Average	0.61
Lancashire	0.87
Greater Manchester	0.74
West Yorkshire	0.66
Durham	0.64
South Yorkshire[1]	0.61

[1] The figure for South Yorkshire is higher than 1.25* the national average when taken to three decimal places.

Fires

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many electrical fires occurred in *(a)* newly rewired and *(b)* newly built properties in England in each year from 1997 to 2003. [251425]

Mr. Khan: Fire and Rescue Services in England do not collect information on property construction dates or a history of electrical maintenance in buildings when attending fires. Information on the number of building fires in each year from 1997 to 2003 started by electrics is available in the following table.

Fires in buildings started by electrical appliances and sources of ignition, England, 1997 to 2003

Country and source of ignition	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
England	17,766	17,615	16,969	16,072	16,372	15,531	15,226
Cooking appliances	2,127	2,231	1,924	1,817	1,950	1,600	1,386
Electric space heater	128	110	114	179	192	173	140
Plugs	107	65	75	78	73	90	56
Sockets and switches	305	323	279	288	341	342	308
Leads to appliances	354	466	465	432	370	485	495
Wire and cable	3,106	3,157	3,361	3,383	3,310	3,218	3,276
Washing machine	2,336	2,023	1,789	1,441	1,507	1,306	1,075
Dishwasher	427	510	395	450	464	389	443
Refrigerator	603	580	658	628	637	539	628
Tumble and spin driers	812	847	903	818	828	833	853
Lighting	2,174	2,431	2,255	2,279	2,408	2,432	2,417
Blanket or bedwarmer	568	440	388	316	309	243	252
Television	640	547	569	512	588	534	425
Iron	107	101	63	70	[illegible]	68	60
AV, VDU or computer	403	333	313	282	310	329	246
Other electrical	3,569	3,451	3,418	3,099	2,972	2,950	3,166

Home Information Packs

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on home information packs, if she will make gas safety certificates a mandatory part of home information packs where a gas supply is present. [249571]

Margaret Beckett: No. A gas safety certificate is authorised for inclusion in the HIP where one exists and the seller wishes to include it. The new property information questionnaire (PIQ) includes information on the service history of heating systems. The PIQ will be completed by sellers and will become a required HIP document from 6 April 2009.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer from the Minister for Housing in the Communities and Local Government Committee on 23 October 2008, Q16, on home information packs, what recent discussions the Minister has had on *(a)* the updating of home information packs and *(b)* the period of validity of home information packs from the date of commission; with which authorities she has had discussions; what conclusions she has reached; and if she will make a statement. [250818]

Margaret Beckett: The stakeholder panel, which I chair, meets regularly to consider how to improve the home buying and selling process, including home information packs. My announcement of 8 December sets out, and makes clear how we plan to improve the content of HIPs to help realise their full potential for consumers. In particular, I have asked Ted Beardsall to convene a working group to consider local property searches. The group will consist of industry and consumer representatives and will consider consumers' needs, utility and presentation of existing searches information. We will also be working with RICS and other key stakeholders to look at how to ensure consumers receive appropriate information about a property's condition.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish a breakdown of the interim budget of the Homes and Communities Agency. [250445]

Margaret Beckett: The following table provides a break down of the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) budget. This gives the full HCA budget for 2008-09 for the reason set out in my response to the hon. Gentleman on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1076W.

£ million

	Planned 2008-09 budget (12 months)			
Programme	*Near-cash*	*Non-cash*	*Capital*	*Total*[1]
HCA administration costs	[2]90	4	2	96
National Affordable Housing Programme	3	0	2,629	2,631
Land and Property/ Regeneration	[3]1	95	[3]206	[3]302
Growth Areas	24	0	241	265
Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)—total	0	0	37	37
CIF 1	0	0	20	20
CIF 2	0	0	17	17
Housing Market Renewal Fund	25	0	356	381
Academy for Sustainable Communities	6	0	0	6
Gypsies and Travellers	0	0	1	1
Places of Change	0	0	33	33
Gap Funding	0	0	123	123
Procurement Efficiency	2	0	0	2
Thames Gateway	3	0	41	44
Total[1]	[3]154	99	[3]3,668	[3]3,920

[1] Total figures may not sum due to rounding to £ millions.
[2] Of which £4 million is transitional costs incurred by the predecessor bodies.
[3] Net budget figures which exclude revenue and capital receipts. Revenue receipts include rent, interest receivable and non-trading revenue such as claw back. Capital receipts derive from sales of land.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the start-up costs of the Homes and Communities Agency were; and if she will give a breakdown of the cost of its administration in its first year since establishment. [250471]

Margaret Beckett: The costs of the Homes and Communities Agency are set out in the Housing and Regeneration Bill-Impact Assessment, a copy of which is in the House Library. This states that the one-off cost of setting up the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will be £20 million over three years.

A break down of the 2008-09 administration running costs of the HCA is provided in the following table. This gives the full HCA budget for 2008-09 for the reason set out in my response to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1076.

	2008-09 (12 months) (£ million)
Staff pay costs	59
Administration costs	10
Office rental and accommodation costs	8
Professional fees and temporary staff	4
IT and telecommunications	4
Corporate marketing	1
Total	86

Homes and Communities Agency: Pay

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role she has in monitoring increases in salaries of staff of the Homes and Communities Agency. [248753]

Margaret Beckett: The Secretary of State's role is to approve the overall annual pay proposals for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) bearing in mind the terms of the annual guidance on pay for civil and public servants issued by Her Majesty's Treasury. It is then for individual non departmental public bodies (NDPBs), including the HCA, to determine pay and conditions for their staff.

The Secretary of State also approves the annual inflation increase for the Chief Executives of Communities and Local Government's NDPBs, including for the HCA. The Chairman of the HCA also confers with my

Department if the Board is minded to award an annual performance bonus to the Chief Executive.

Furthermore, the HCA will consult my Department on any proposed major structural changes to the HCA's pay and grading systems, and on the pay for any appointments made at Director level or above, including the Chief Executive.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the composition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be announced; how it will be determined; and what consultation will take place with representatives of relevant industries. [249766]

John Healey: Recruitment of the chair of the new Infrastructure Planning Commission has already commenced. The process of recruiting the other members of the Commission will follow shortly. These are all public appointments and the recruitment is being carried out in accordance with the rules of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) with an independent OCPA assessor supervising the process. In addition, the appointments of the chair and deputy chairs will be subject to the pre-appointment hearing by the relevant Parliamentary Select Committee. It is open to anyone who considers they meet the essential criteria to apply for the posts.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Railfreight Interchange Investment Group on the composition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [249768]

John Healey: There have been no discussions with Railfreight Interchange Investment Group and the Department of Communities and Local Government on the composition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Local Government Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 1049W, on local government finance, what estimate she has made of the resources required by local authorities in England to carry out their proposed new responsibilities for strategic commissioning of education for 16 to 18-year-olds; and what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the matter. [247762]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 1049W. My Department maintains a regular dialogue with other Departments at both ministerial and official level on policies which affect local government, including resource implications.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what local authority revenue was provided from *(a)* central Government, *(b)* council tax revenues and *(c)* special grants for each region in each of the last 12 years, ranked in descending order according to the size of increase. [250719][1]

John Healey: Details of local authority funding provided by central Government, council tax revenues and specific and special revenue grants for each region in England in each of the last 12 years are shown in the following tables.

Central Government grant

£ million

	North East	*North West*[1]	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total England*
1996-97	1,952	5,037	3,554	2,561	3,660	3,112	7,029	4,460	2,757	34,121
1997-98	1,931	4,986	3,495	2,570	3,623	3,120	7,049	4,483	2,784	34,041
1998-99	2,028	5,276	3,685	2,659	3,826	3,242	7,254	4,630	2,880	35,480
1999-2000	2,146	5,529	3,876	2,793	4,010	3,391	7,533	4,809	3,024	37,112
2000-01	1,418	3,588	2,455	1,614	2,493	1,891	5,519	2,537	1,624	23,139
2001-02	2,288	5,897	4,153	3,022	4,287	3,740	8,096	5,301	3,264	40,048
2002-03	2,309	5,957	4,181	3,034	4,322	3,754	8,206	5,323	3,270	40,358
2003-04	2,496	6,514	4,565	3,352	4,760	4,094	8,790	5,781	3,588	43,940
2004-05	2,611	6,830	4,777	3,540	5,049	4,307	9,271	6,044	3,743	46,172
2005-06	2,767	7,226	5,058	3,771	5,395	4,594	9,833	6,410	4,004	49,058
2006-07	1,573	3,819	2,624	1,784	2,723	2,011	5,784	2,714	1,825	24,857
2007-08	1,622	3,943	2,708	1,855	2,819	2,086	5,964	2,787	1,893	25,677

Council Tax

£ million

	North East	*North West*[1]	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total England*
1996-97	525	1,529	974	829	1,059	1,099	1,643	1,759	1,044	10,461
1997-98	570	1,651	1,043	885	1,142	1,185	1,748	1,890	1,127	11,241
1998-99	618	1,784	1,143	985	1,244	1,330	1,866	2,114	1,249	12,332
1999-2000	660	1,887	1,211	1,071	1,343	1,457	1,999	2,297	1,353	13,278
2000-01	695	1,988	1,283	1,153	1,435	1,583	2,127	2,474	1,462	14,200
2001-02	736	2,111	1,380	1,238	1,551	1,709	2,301	2,655	1,565	15,245
2002-03	803	2,234	1,492	1,374	1,686	1,902	2,482	2,930	1,745	16,648

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[1] *[Official Report, 24 February 2009, Vol. 488, c. 1-2MC.]*

Council Tax

£ million

	North East	*North West*[1]	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total England*
2003-04	879	2,442	1,656	1,518	1,869	2,209	2,955	3,415	2,004	18,946
2004-05	938	2,576	1,772	1,633	1,980	2,376	3,174	3,678	2,172	20,299
2005-06	985	2,698	1,868	1,712	2,077	2,492	3,324	3,867	2,291	21,315
2006-07	1,028	2,834	1,968	1,802	2,179	2,633	3,505	4,083	2,421	22,453
2007-08	1,077	2,977	2,070	1,894	2,284	2,785	3,659	4,305	2,557	23,608

Specific and special Revenue grants

£ million

	North East	*North West*[1]	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total England*
1996-97	97	235	177	120	170	140	341	205	133	1,618
1997-98	110	284	237	125	201	141	384	206	139	1,826
1998-99	112	394	264	146	235	177	534	281	193	2,335
1999-2000	143	441	326	193	289	216	713	382	219	2,921
2000-01	216	649	471	311	425	358	1,223	595	364	4,615
2001-02	332	946	681	419	591	486	1,888	742	472	6,558
2002-03	457	1,269	850	578	811	666	2,484	1,059	717	8,891
2003-04	662	1,740	1,142	806	1,119	842	4,831	1,368	902	13,413
2004-05	733	1,978	1,201	925	1,186	946	4,604	1,509	1,009	14,090
2005-06	781	2,074	1,332	968	1,303	1,031	4,660	1,567	1,070	14,785
2006-07	2,098	5,789	4,081	3,216	4,266	3,903	9,403	5,524	3,462	41,741
2007-08	2,203	6,052	4,368	3,390	4,530	4,115	10,123	5,948	3,757	44,486

[1] Includes Merseyside

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn Summary (RS) returns.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and police grant) and Greater London Authority (GLA) grant. In past years, where applicable the SSA reduction grant and Central Support Protection Grants have also been included.

The definition of specific and special grants used here is Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effects of the economic downturn on the income of local authorities; and if she will review the level of revenue support grant paid to local authorities. [250916]

John Healey: The effects of the economic downturn on the income of local authorities was an issue identified in a recent report by the Audit Commission entitled 'Crunch Time', which looked at the impact of recent economic changes on local authorities' finances. The report found that councils are generally prepared for the impact of the economic downturn.

Following consultation with local authorities on the provisional local government finance settlement 2009-10, I confirmed our plans for the funding of local authority revenue spending through Formula Grant on 21 January which is now subject to parliamentary approval. Overall Government grant to local authorities will next year be £73.1 billion which provides an increase of 4.2 per cent. on a like for like basis. This is the second year of a three year settlement which provides councils with an additional £8.9 billion up to 2010-11 and gives them the certainty and flexibility they need to plan ahead and manage their budgets. We also expect authorities to deliver £4.9 billion net cash-releasing savings over that period, which can be used to improve services and control council tax pressures.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to bring forward payments to local authorities in order to mitigate the amount of interest forgone by local authorities in meeting targets for payment of supplier invoices within 10 days. [251131]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for their own payment arrangements and in the present economic downturn many are taking steps to ensure invoices are settled promptly. In putting in place the first-ever three-year settlement last year, we gave councils an extra £8.9 billion and the certainty and flexibility they need to plan ahead and manage their budgets.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines are used to determine business rates for companies placed into administration. [251106]

John Healey: The determination of rates liability on a property occupied by a business does not alter if the company is in administration. However, if the company owns an empty property it would not be liable for empty rates on that property whilst in administration.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what bookings the QE2 Conference Centre has arranged at commercial rates for Whitehall-based government departments and agencies since February 2008. [250349]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows:

	Booking	*Department/agency*
13 February 2008	Education in London: Rising to the Challenge	Department for Children, Schools and Families
28 February 2008	DCSF—ICES Conference 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families
5 March 2008	Regeneration: People, Places, Prosperity	Department for Communities and Local Government
9 March 2008	Making Good Progress—Pilot Schools Head Teachers Conference	Department for Children, Schools and Families
17 March 2008	Cabinet Office Leadership Conference	Cabinet Office
22 April 2008	Scheme 2009: Identity Cards for Airport Workers	Identity and Passport Service
28 April 2008	OSC Info Sharing Day	Department for Children, Schools and Families
19 May 2008	National Pandemic Influenza Workshop	Cabinet Office
28 May 2008	Making the Difference: Equality, Diversity and the Fire and Rescue Service	Department for Communities and Local Government
11 June 2008	Trust Schools Conference 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families
15 June 2008	Financial Action Taskforce Conference	HM Treasury
26 June 2008	MOJ IT Profession	Ministry of Justice
2 July 2008	Healthcare for London Stakeholder Event	NHS London
16 July 2008	NHS Press Conference	NHS London
23 September 2008	SCS Forum	Department of Health
29 September 2008	D C & L Away Day: Making Connections	Ministry of Justice
8 October 2008	NHS Consultants Contract Conference	NHS Employers
9 October 2008	REACH Role Model Sift Event	Department for Communities and Local Government
9 October 2008	Celebrating Success 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families
22 October 2008	DCLG: Collaborative Procurement Forum	Department for Communities and Local Government
31 October 2008	Skills for Life Conference 2008	Department for Children, Schools and Families
17 November 2008	Above and Beyond	The British Council
7 December 2008	NHS Chief Executives Video Conference	Department of Health
9 December 2008	PREVENT 08	Department for Communities and Local Government

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that the enforcement concordat in respect of the principles of good enforcement is used by enforcement authorities in their application of guidance her Department has issued on the implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005; and if she will make a statement. [250946]

Mr. Khan: It is a matter for individual enforcing authorities to determine their own enforcement policies and procedures, having regard to the established principles of good enforcement set out in the Enforcement Concordat and the Regulators' Compliance Code.

We have issued guidance on enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to all enforcing authorities, under article 26 of the order. This makes clear that all enforcing authorities are expected to enforce the order in accordance with the principles of the 'Enforcement Concordat' issued by the Cabinet Office.

In addition, the National Framework 2008-11 makes it clear that we expect Fire and Rescue Authorities to be mindful of the need to take an open and proportionate approach to their audit and enforcement functions in accordance with the principles of good enforcement set out in the Compliance Code and Enforcement Concordat.

Street Cleaning: Wolverhampton

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money her Department granted to Wolverhampton City Council in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 for street cleaning in Wolverhampton; what conditions were applied; and if she will make a statement. [249632]

John Healey: Street cleaning is one of the services supported through formula grant. Formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant, is an unhypothecated block grant which means that councils have the freedom to spend it on any service provided that they meet their statutory duties. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been allocated for any particular service.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Children: Disadvantaged

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of children lived in workless households in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [249370]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question how many and what percentage of children lived in workless households in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. (249370)

The available information is provided in the table. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

The information requested has been answered using annual estimates derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset, which are only available from 2004. Estimates before 2004 are derived from the Labour Force Survey and are of insufficient quality for answering this question due to the detail requested. It is vital to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

Figures are based on children in working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

Estimates that are deemed unreliable for practical purposes are presented in italics. These estimates are based on small sample sizes and are subject to large variability. Estimates that are reliable are shaded.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agency provides for staff. [249068]

Kevin Brennan: None.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245355]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office appointed a Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) on 3 November 2004. The Managing Director of the Cabinet Office at that time was the appointee. The Current CO SIRO is the Director General and Head of Cabinet Office Management.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office have been (i) investigated, (ii) suspended and (iii) dismissed for losing (A) memory sticks, (B) laptop computers, (C) desktop computers and (D) mobile telephones in each year since 1997. [248259]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, requires its employees to report any loss of Cabinet Office assets (memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers and mobile phones). Information prior to 2006 is not available.

five investigations have been conducted for the loss of such items; to protect the confidentiality of individuals, exact numbers of suspensions or dismissals cannot be given, but fewer than five staff have been suspended or dismissed for loss of official property following such investigations.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people who have made requests to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been waiting for longer than *(a)* four, *(b)* eight and *(c)* 12 months to receive the information they requested. [243522]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Justice publishes statistics on Government Departments' handling of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This includes details of the timeliness of the responses to requests. The statistics are available on the MOJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

and copies are available in the Library of the House. The specific information requested by the hon. Member can however be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in the Cabinet Office and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249862]

Mr. Watson: The number of senior civil servants in the Cabinet Office awarded bonuses and the total cost of these bonuses, since 2007, are as follows:

	Number of bonuses	*Total cost (£)*
2008	105	972,500
2007	123	895,000

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [248045]

Mr. Watson: The central communications unit of the Cabinet Office has not incurred any expenditure on public surveys.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contribution to population change in the UK was made by *(a)* natural growth and *(b)* net migration in each of the last 20 years. [249508]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what contribution to population change in the UK was made by (a) natural growth and (b) net migration in each of the last 20 years. (249508)

The attached table shows the contribution of net migration and natural change to population change for the UK for the last 20 years since 1988.

Net migration and natural change for the UK for mid-year 1988 to mid-year 2007

Thousand

	Net migration and other changes[1, 2]	*Natural change*
1988	-24	136
1989	21	139
1990	43	118
1991	48	153
1992	-11	157
1993	1	129
1994	36	112
1995	56	107
1996	62	77
1997	47	103
1998	60	100
1999	133	77
2000	139	62
2001	153	74

	Net migration	*Other changes*[2]	*Natural change*
2002	146	2	62
2003	152	5	77
2004	184	[3]—	104
2005	263	3	127
2006	189	2	159
2007	199	2	187

[1] It is not possible to separately identify and split net-migration and other changes in the years up to 2001. From 2002-07 net migration and other changes are shown separately.

[2] Other changes primarily include changes in the number of home and US armed forces and dependants resident in the UK.

[3] Less than 1,000

Sources:

Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Immigration: Poland

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of *(a)* the number of Polish persons living in the UK in 2007 and 2008, *(b)* the number of Polish persons who returned to Poland from the UK in 2008 and *(c)* how many Polish persons are currently living in the UK. [249587]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your questions concerning what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of (a) the number of Polish persons living in the UK in 2007 and 2008, (b) the number of Polish persons who returned to Poland from the UK in 2008 and (c) how many Polish persons are currently living in the UK (249587).

The Office for National Statistics collects data on country of birth on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers residents of the UK. Estimates from the APS show that in 2007, 405,000 people living in the UK were born in Poland. This estimate has a margin of error of +/-26,000. No data are not yet available for 2008 or 2009.

The number of Polish persons who returned to Poland from the UK in 2008 is not yet available. The latest data for 2007 show that 18,000 UK residents who were born in Poland, migrated back to Poland. This estimate is based on the International Passenger Survey and excludes people who have been living in the UK for less than a year or who intend to return to Poland for less than a year.

Ministers: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Ministers from each Department have received severance payments on leaving their Ministerial role in each year since 1997. [249389]

Mr. Byrne: Information on Ministers leaving office is a matter of public record. Under the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991, only those who leave office over the age of 65; and the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor and the Commons Speaker (because they have alternative pension arrangements which include an element to cover the issue of severance) do not receive severance payments. Severance is also not paid to a Minister who leaves an unpaid office in Government, nor to a Minister who leaves a paid office and moves to an unpaid one.

Non-departmental Public Bodies: Pay

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff employed by non-departmental public bodies earned over *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £200,000, *(c)* £300,000, *(d)* £400,000, *(e)* £500,000, *(f)* £600,000, *(g)* £700,000 and *(h)* £800,000 in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [250485]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally. Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) publish details of salaries and allowances paid to senior staff in their annual reports and accounts.

Parliamentary Questions: Commercial Secrets

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance his Department has issued about the rules on commercial confidentiality and disclosure of information in response to Parliamentary Questions. [245473]

Mr. Watson: Parliamentary questions are answered in accordance with Cabinet Office "Guidance on Answers to Parliamentary Questions" and the "Ministerial Code", copies of which are available in the Library and from the departmental website.

Population

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his estimate is of *(a)* the population of the United Kingdom and *(b)* the percentage of the population who will be senior citizens in (i) 2014, (ii) 2019 and (iii) 2024. [250201]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding what the estimate is of (a) the population of the United Kingdom and (b) the percentage of the population who will be senior citizens in (i) 2014, (ii) 2019 and (iii) 2024. I am replying in her absence. (250201)

Table 1 below shows the projected population of the United Kingdom for 2014, 2019 and 2024 together with the percentage of the population that will have reached state pension age in each of these years. These are based on the state pension age applicable in each year so they take into account the forthcoming increases in state pension age.

Table 1: Projected population of the United Kingdom, 2014, 2019 and 2024

	Total population (million)	*Percentage at state pensionable age*[1]
2014	64	19
2019	66	19
2024	68	20

[1] These percentages allow for forthcoming increases to the state pension age for women, from 60 to 65, which is a graduated change between 2010 and 2020. They also allow for further changes between 2024 and 2026, when the state pension age will increase from 65 to 66 for both men and women.

Source:

2006-based national population projections.

Public Bodies: Telephone Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps are being taken by the Contact Council in relation to public sector bodies that do not charge fees for the use of their services and which use revenue sharing 084x and 087x telephone numbers. [240799]

Mr. Watson: The use of non-geographic phone numbers is currently a matter for individual Departments. It is their responsibility to balance the costs and the needs of their users and customers.

Some central Government Departments operating 084x and 087x telephone numbers apply additional charges on top of the costs of the call. However the extent of these practices has not been systematically assessed. Therefore the cross-government Contact Council has commissioned research requesting that central Government Departments provide details of how many 084x and 087x telephone numbers they operate, and whether these numbers partake in revenue sharing activities, as part of a comprehensive survey of number usage in the public sector. Once this research has been carried out the Contact Council will issue guidelines on numbering in general, including the use of 084x and 087x numbers. This guidance will be published later in the year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK personnel are working for the UN assistance mission in Afghanistan. [246709]

Bill Rammell: The UK strongly supports the work of the UN assistance mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and we work closely with them there, including through our embassy in Kabul. UNAMA employs 16 British citizens directly. While no Government personnel are currently employed with UNAMA, we are holding discussions with them on providing further UK staff to the mission.

Brazil: Overseas Students

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships have been awarded to Brazilian nationals in the last 10 years. [250119]

Caroline Flint: There have been *569* Brazilian Chevening scholars in the last 10 years. This includes a provisional figure of 24 scholars for this academic year (2008-09), because the British Council does not yet have nationality information for all of those scholars in receipt of partnership awards.

Burma

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has held discussions with the government of Thailand regarding the treatment of Burmese boat people near the Andaman Islands. [250202]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: We are deeply concerned by allegations that refugees from Burma were abandoned at sea by the Thai navy. We have raised the issue with the Thai authorities and welcome Prime Minister Abhisit's assurances of an investigation into the matter. Working with EU partners, and in close consultation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, we will continue to press the Thai authorities to establish the facts and take appropriate action.

Czech Republic: EU Presidency

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Czech Republic's agenda for its presidency of the EU. [245466]

Caroline Flint: The Czech presidency of the EU began on 1 January and ends on 30 June 2009. The Czech Government have said that over the next six months the presidency will focus on energy, external and economic issues. The priorities of the Czech presidency are very much in line with Government objectives and we look forward to working with the Czech Government and our other EU partners on these issues. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office produces a Command Paper on each EU presidency every six months and this will be laid before the House before the end of January. It will also be placed in the Library of the House and on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk.

Czech Republic: Foreign Relations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will invite the President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, to make an address to hon. Members on achieving better co-operation in Europe during his term of office as President of the European Council; and if he will seek to arrange for that address to be delivered in the precincts of the House. [250923]

Caroline Flint: There are currently no plans to invite President Klaus to make an address to the House. President Klaus, as the Czech Head of State, has an important role to play in the presidency. But Prime Minister Topolanek, as Head of the Czech Executive, is the President of the Council. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Prime Minister Topolanek in London on 18 December 2008. We have every confidence in the Czech presidency's ability to promote better European cooperation through their presidency objectives of a "Europe without Barriers".

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice of 19 December 2005 on Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [243886]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 14 January 2009]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no recent reports on the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice of 19 December 2005 on Uganda.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 7 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report, what the risks are which remain to deploying and realising the full benefits of his Department's new IT system. [246267]

David Miliband: Since the publication of the report the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has successfully deployed the new IT system to our UK offices and two overseas pilot posts. This has mitigated the risk in some areas. However, as the programme progresses, the risks continually change, with new risks arising and others being mitigated. The main areas of risk on which we are focusing are:

the testing of the system/performance of the telecommunications network

the deployment schedule

getting the right resources where and when needed

co-ordination with wider IT/building changes

preparation of staff to take advantage of the benefits of the system.

The FCO deployment team continually monitor the risks to the programme and seek external assurance through the Office of Government Commerce gateway process.

Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 7 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report, what the meaning is of *(a)* laptop diplomats and *(b)* virtual embassies; and if he will make a statement. [246266]

David Miliband: "Laptop diplomat" is a phrase we have coined to describe a member of staff equipped, with mobile communications and a laptop computer, to work away from the embassy. He or she could be based in London or at a Post overseas, working in a single country or on a regional basis, but will have the capability to travel outside the capital city to often remote locations (for example Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, or Juba in southern Sudan) in response to a specific need.

We are already doing a lot of "laptop diplomacy". We have laptop diplomats operating in a range of roles and environments across the network, including as conflict advisors and analysts in Africa, in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, or as roving envoys in the Pacific and Central Asia. Each scenario is different. But in each case, laptop diplomats give the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) a better understanding of events and a greater ability to influence those events by working more closely with the people who matter, whether they are UN agencies, non governmental organisations or local political figures. We are developing IT solutions that will enable us to do more of it and do it better.

Those solutions include the "Virtual Embassy"—an interactive website which will build on many of the features of our current embassy websites. They will consist of an external, public-facing web page that provides basic information for visitors (UK or local); some of the services a real embassy provides (for example a click through to real (call centre) or virtual (self help) consular and visa services); and allows some engagement on political issues, through the creative use of tailored, local content and interactive features (such as blogs; videoconferences; discussion forums, and personalisation). In addition, they will include a set of internet-based tools that enable a laptop diplomat to carry out all the functions they could do at their desk in the embassy, anywhere where they have an internet connection. So virtual embassies will provide us with a means to engage with stakeholders and advance policy campaigns in countries where we have no physical presence.

Laptop diplomats and virtual embassies are examples of the way the FCO is modernising, helping us to build a flexible, agile overseas network that adapts quickly to new challenges and delivers for the whole of Government.

Diplomatic Service: Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of those who were made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in each of the last 10 years attended *(a)* independent and *(b)* state schools; and how many attended (i) Oxford and Cambridge and (ii) other universities. [244269]

Gillian Merron: Educational backgrounds are not factors which are considered in awarding honours. We do not have complete information on the schools and universities attended by the 74 recipients of a D/KCMG since 1998. We have the following information on the 45 recipients from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

1998: *(a)* 4; (i) 4; (ii) 1

1999: *(a)* 4; *(b)* 1; (i) 3; (ii) 2

2000: *(a)* 4; (i) 4

2001: *(a)* 3; *(b)* 1; (i) 4

2002: *(a)* 1; *(b)* 1; (i) 2

2003: *(a)* 6; (i) 3

2004: *(a)* 3; (i) 3

2005: *(a)* 3; (i) 3

2006: *(a)* 4; (i) 4

2007: *(a)* 3; (i) 3; (ii) 1

2008: *(a)* 3; *(b)* 1; (i) 2; (ii) 1.

European Structural Funds

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the European Commission on the European Court of Auditors' disclosure of a 12 per cent. error rate in the execution of the Structural Fund; and if he will make a statement. [249745]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply

The UK is taking the lead in ECOFIN Council discussions on the European Court of Auditor's (ECA) Report on the 2007 EC Budget. Examination of the report includes analysis of Structural Funds for which the ECA's estimated error rate was 11 per cent. February's ECOFIN meeting will agree measures which the Commission must implement to improve the financial management of EU funds.

European Union

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which officer in the UK Permanent Representation to the EU (UKRep) determines which *(a)* reports and *(b)* e-grams (i) originating in and (ii) received by UKRep are circulated to the EU offices of the devolved Administrations; and if he will publish the protocols which apply to decisions on such matters. [242056]

Caroline Flint: The duties of the UK Permanent Representation to the EU (UKRep) (and Whitehall departments) to share information with the devolved Administrations are detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), (available on the Ministry of Justice website), specifically Annex B, the Concordat on coordination of European Union Policy Issues.

UKRep and the devolved Administration EU Offices are in regular and open communication on all EU business which touches upon matters which fall within the responsibility of the devolved Administrations. All members of staff within UKRep concerned with these matters share information with the EU Offices of the devolved Administrations under the terms of the MOU.

Iran: EU External Relations

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts in advance of the forthcoming Council of Ministers meeting on the delisting of the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran from the EU terror list following the judgement of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities on 4 December 2008. [249291]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* We have discussed the CFI judgment and the current review of the EU list of terrorist organisations with EU partners.

We have made clear that we believe the Council should respect the judgment of the Court of First Instance annulling the listing of the PMOI when conducting its review

We expect a decision on a new list by the end of January.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs following the recent decision of the Court of First Instance, if he will make it his policy to vote against the continued inclusion of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran on the EU blacklist. [243666]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* We have made clear our view that EU member states must respect the Court of First Instance's judgment annulling the listing of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran in the current review of the EU list of terrorist organisations. The review continues and a decision on the new list will be taken before the end of the month.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision by Ethiopia to withdraw its troops from Somalia on *(a)* the security situation in Somalia and *(b)* the continued operations of African Union forces in Somalia. [243875]

David Miliband: The Djibouti Agreement envisaged the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia as part of a process leading to a more broadly accepted government within the country. Ethiopian troops have now left Mogadishu and are beginning their withdrawal from Baidoa, the current seat of the Somali parliament.

Somali security forces supportive of the Djibouti process have taken over security posts vacated by Ethiopian troops. Together with African Union troops (AMISOM), they have ensured that the security situation has not deteriorated following Ethiopian withdrawal. Somali leaders in Mogadishu have called for a cessation of fighting and many displaced people have returned to the city.

The African Union has agreed to continue AMISOM's deployment in Somalia until 19 March 2009, and has requested additional financial and logistical support to continue its mission beyond this date. UN Security Council Resolution 1863 of 16 January 2009 addresses ways to provide this support.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in deploying a police component to the African Union force in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [243877]

David Miliband: No African Union member state has so far contributed a police component to the African Union Mission in Somalia. The African Union force in Somalia currently consists of approximately 3,500 troops from Uganda and Burundi. This number may be reinforced by additional troops from African countries, up to the mandated number of 8,000 troops.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Inter-Government Authority on Development on co-ordinating international efforts to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and wider peace in Sudan and the region. [249546]

Gillian Merron: The Inter Government Authority on Development (IGAD) is represented on the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), which monitors implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), through the two seats held by member states of the IGAD Sub-Committee on Sudan. The UK also has a seat on the AEC and has regular contact and discussion with the IGAD member states' representatives.

Tibet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made against its policy objectives regarding Tibet since 1 January 2008; what specific outcomes have resulted from steps taken by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [243955]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Working to improve human rights in Tibet has been a consistent Government policy priority during the course of 2008. We raised Tibet at our UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January, where a broad discussion took place on minority rights and the role of the police, and also visited Tibet as part of that dialogue. There have also been several ministerial interventions on this issue, including statements by my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown and myself.

We have consistently pressed the Chinese Government to engage in open and substantive dialogue with the representatives of the Dalai Lama. We believe that the clear expression of support for dialogue from the international community, including the UK, was helpful in encouraging the dialogue to continue. Equally, we are disappointed that the process has so far failed to achieve results, and appears to have reached an impasse. I issued a statement on 24 November calling on both sides to resume discussions without delay, focused initially on identifying points of agreement within the proposals already put forward by the Tibetan side.

We have also continued to express our concern, to the Chinese and publicly, over those who remain in detention, the increased constraints on religious activity, and the restrictions on access to Tibetan areas for foreigners. We have also continued to raise individual cases in conjunction with our EU partners.

We will continue to work in support of human rights in Tibet, in accordance with the written ministerial statement that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS.

Ukraine: Politics and Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of governance structures in place in Ukraine; and if he will make a statement. [245146]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* An assessment of the effectiveness of Ukraine's governance structures can be found in the European Commission's review of Ukraine's progress against its European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan:

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/progress2008/sec08_402_en.pdf

Ukraine has made some encouraging recent progress on democratisation, with three consecutive elections recognised as largely free and fair. But Ukraine must address a number of key issues if it is to consolidate these recent democratic gains, strengthen its democratic institutions and achieve greater domestic political stability. Key areas of concern are high levels of corruption, weak rule of law and ambiguities in the constitution. We are working closely with Ukraine on all of these issues, in particular through the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the political situation in Zimbabwe. [244986]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* We are following the situation in Zimbabwe very closely, including through our embassy in Harare, as well as our other missions in the region, which continue to monitor the situation. Ministers maintain a keen interest in developments and are regularly briefed on the political and humanitarian situation. We are continuing to work with states in the region and the wider international community to encourage a durable solution.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average it took the Child Benefit Centre to process a *(a)* change of circumstances notification, *(b)* new application for benefit and *(c)* new application where the reason for the claim was other than a new birth in each of the last 12 months. [249025]

Mr. Timms: For information requested in *(a)*, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) aimed to process 95 per cent. of changes in circumstance within 10 working days in 2007-08. Performance results for January 2008 to March 2008 are as follows:

98.0 per cent. in January 2008

98.5 per cent. in February 2008

95.2 per cent. in March 2008

Performance information for 2008-09 will be available in due course. For information requested in *(b)* and *(c)*, HM Revenue and Customs aimed to decide 69 per cent. of child benefit claims within five working days and 95 per cent. within 36 working days in 2007-08. Performance results for January 2008 to March 2008 are as follows:

> 71.9 per cent. within five working days and 93.9 per cent. within 36 working days in January 2008.
>
> 62.6 per cent. within five working days and 93.4 per cent. within 36 working days in February 2008.
>
> 60.4 per cent. within five working days and 90.7 per cent. within 36 working days in March 2008.

For the period from April 2008, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 356W. Separate information is not available in the format requested.

Consolidated Fund: Fines

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 689W, on the Consolidated Fund: fines, which part of Government holds the information on the revenue received from fines. [250558]

Yvette Cooper: The Consolidated Fund does not separately identify revenue surrendered to the Exchequer relating to fines. Public bodies involved in the collection of fines will hold the information on their revenue and will publish accounts of their activities.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008 to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East, (James Duddridge) *Official Report*, column 371W, on departmental databases, which aspects of financial exclusion MOSAIC and ACORN data were used to inform. [250425]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury used ACORN data to map the areas of financial exclusion reported in the Government's first financial inclusion strategy. MOSAIC data was used to map the demand for third sector affordable credit and to map and identify areas of high financial exclusion.

Economic and Monetary Union

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received in support of not taking the UK into the euro zone without a referendum. [248859]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what applications for approval of state aid made to the European Commission by his Department are awaiting determination; and on what date each such application was made. [250658]

Ian Pearson: There are currently five state aid applications made by HM Treasury, which are awaiting approval from the European Commission. They are as follows:

1. Venture Capital Trusts, notified on 15 May 2007.
2. Enterprise Investment Scheme, notified on 15 May 2007.
3. Corporate Venturing Scheme, notified on 15 May 2007.
4. Enterprise Management Incentives, notified on 31 June 2008.
5. Northern Rock—restructuring aid package, notified on 17 March 2008.

Fraud

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government organisations and departments are responsible for investigating fraud; what the procedures are for *(a)* co-ordination of their activities and *(b)* taking decisions on which agency takes the lead in investigating particular cases; if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the system; and if he will make a statement. [250592]

Yvette Cooper: Each individual Government body is responsible for investigating fraud against that organisation.

The National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA), launched on 1 October 2008, was set up to help organisations (both public and private) to co-ordinate their activities and work better together to build a more hostile environment for fraudsters. HM Treasury provides leadership by: outlining the responsibilities of Government sector organisations in 'Managing Public Money' and publishing data about internal fraud against Departments and executive agencies in the Government Annual Fraud Report.

Fraud is usually discovered through the normal operation of control procedures in individual Government agencies or as a result of individuals reporting their suspicions of fraud (e.g. to hotlines operated by those agencies.) Individual agencies investigate the cases that they discover or are made aware of.

This arrangement allocates responsibility to those most immediately placed to deal with it. All Government organisations use their internal audit functions to alert them to fraud and to advise about the effectiveness of their internal control processes. Those bodies where fraud risk is highest (e.g. DWP, HMRC, MOD, NHS) employ dedicated experienced fraud experts.

Following the recommendations of the Fraud Review, the National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC) and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) will track all fraud against UK organisations including government bodies. The City of London police force plans for this new resource to start towards the end of 2010.

Government Procurement Card

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum value of transactions is that can be made using the Government Procurement Card. [250478]

Angela Eagle: The maximum single transaction value that can be made using the Government Procurement Card is equivalent to $500,000.

There is no minimum transaction value.

Such high value transactions would be subjected to an extremely high level approval process from the card issuing bank, before payments were made to suppliers.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, on the Government Procurement Card, which are the card-issuing banks. [250479]

Angela Eagle: The Government Procurement Card service is headed up by Visa Europe together with six card issuing banks. These banks are:

Barclaycard Commercial

Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)

NatWest Bank

Ulster Bank

The Cooperative Bank

Lloyds TSB

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, on the Government Procurement Card, what bodies other than the card issuing banks hold data on card transactions. [250480]

Angela Eagle: The card issuing banks are the main bodies that store data for transactions made through the Government Procurement Card (GPC) service.

Some customer organisations will hold their own GPC transactional data, this being provided by the card issuing banks. Additionally some customer organisations may hand off GPC transactional data to third party service providers, to help streamline the purchase to pay process.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional revenue he expects to raise from the proposed 45 per cent. income tax band over the next three financial years. [250341]

Mr. Timms: The Exchequer effect for the next three tax years is shown in Table 1.2 of pre-Budget report, November 2008.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK citizens he estimates have lost their savings as a result of the collapse of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man bank. [247847]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government and the Financial Services Authority do not hold such information.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Knowledge Network Project

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answers of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2134W, and 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 124W, on the Knowledge Network Project, if he will place in the Library a copy of the user manuals or guidance given to civil servants on using the Knowledge Network. [250543]

Angela Eagle: The user manuals or guidance on the Knowledge Network Project are produced by the owners, and not by OGCbuying.solutions, therefore copies are not held centrally.

Local Government: Waste Management

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects on local authorities' expenditure on landfill waste of reductions in recycling levels in the current economic situation. [247617]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The effects of the current downturn in recycling markets on local authority expenditure depend on a number of factors and we have not yet made such an estimate. But according to the best available information, there has been no significant increase to date in the use of landfill, and I would like to congratulate local authorities and householders for the efforts they are making to keep recycling going in present circumstances. The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely in liaison with the Local Government Association, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, the Environment Agency, the waste management industry and others.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 16 October and 15 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Billericay on a constituent, Mr. Tony Lowe. [250722]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member on 20 January 2009.

National Insurance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many national insurance cards were reported lost or stolen in the last 12 months; and how many valid national insurance cards there were in that period. [250501]

Mr. Timms: A breakdown of the number of national insurance (NI) cards reported lost or stolen in the last 12 months is not held. It is also not possible to state how many valid NI cards are in circulation; controls are in place but as NI cards are purely for notification they are not treated as secure items.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people ineligible to purchase voluntary national insurance contributions in respect of tax years *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2001-02 were sent information on the schemes for those years. [251158]

Mr. Timms: HMRC sends this information to people it considers eligible. While some ineligible people will receive it inadvertently, no data are available on how many.

Stamp Duty

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of stamp duty; and if he will make a statement. [250662]

Ian Pearson: Stamp duty, like all other taxes, is kept under review.

UK Financial Investments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the functions of UK Financial Investments are. [249911]

Ian Pearson: The overarching objectives for UKFI will be to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition. More details can be found in the letter dated 3 November from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Chair of the Treasury Committee which is available in the House of Commons' Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the budget of UK Financial Investments is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [249913]

(2) how many staff UK Financial Investments employs at each pay grade; and how many staff it plans to recruit in the next 12 months; [249914]

(3) which third party advisers have been contracted to advise UK Financial Investments on the management of its holdings in UK banks; [249915]

(4) what *(a)* business plan and *(b)* share management strategy has been put in place for UK Financial Investments; and if he will make a statement. [249969]

Ian Pearson: UKFI's annual accounts as well as HM Treasury's annual accounts will be laid before Parliament. In addition, the Chairman and Chief Executive of UKFI will make themselves available for scrutiny by the relevant parliamentary Committees.

UK Financial Investments Ltd.: Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether UK Financial Investments Ltd. will be subject to the provisions of *(a)* the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* the Environmental Information Regulations provisions; and whether it is a non-departmental public body. [250517]

Ian Pearson: As it is a publicly owned company, UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) is a 'public authority' as defined by s. 6(1) of the Freedom of Information Act and also as defined by regulation 2(2) (b) of the Environmental Information Regulations when read together with s. 3(1) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act.

UK Financial Investments Ltd.: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants have been assigned to work for UK Financial Investments Ltd. [250516]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Ltd. is not part of the civil service, but a small number of civil servants (around five) are expected to be seconded into it.

VAT

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of value added tax due to the Exchequer between the date of the reduction of the rate to 15 per cent. and the latest date for which figures are available. [250061]

Mr. Timms: Monthly VAT receipts are available from the VAT National Statistics Bulletin published at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullvat.

VAT: Local Government

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy of the European Court of Justice ruling on value added tax liability and local authority services. [250520]

Mr. Timms: The Government are aware of only one European Court of Justice ruling on VAT liability and local authority services. This concerns off-sheet car park charges. The Government are considering the implications of the European Court of Justice ruling in this case. However, the matter has now been referred back to the High Court for judgment, and it would not be appropriate for the Government to comment while litigation is continuing.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Informal Testing

10. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on levels of informal pupil testing in schools. [250617]

Ed Balls: The use of informal tests is a matter for schools and, while advice and support is available, my Department does not issue formal guidance.

Testing and Assessment

11. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the testing and assessment regime for schoolchildren; and if he will make a statement. [250618]

18. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the educational testing and assessment regime. [250625]

Jim Knight: Ofqual monitors standards of qualifications and assessments. They reported in July that standards are being maintained.

Our recent decisions on assessment took full account of the Select Committee's recommendations. The Making Good Progress pilot is trialling new approaches to assessment. The Expert Group is taking views from a range of stakeholders before advising on improvements to assessment arrangements. We expect to respond shortly to Lord Sutherland's report, published on 16 December, and to implement the recommendations in full.

National Challenge

12. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of transience on strategies for National Challenge schools. [250619]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I am aware that transience—or in-year pupil mobility—causes particular difficulties in some schools especially, but not exclusively, in seaside communities. The National Challenge is designed to tackle all the barriers to learning associated with deprivation, and therefore reduce low educational attainment. Individual schools are being supported with fresh resources under the National Challenge—each according to specific local need, including any problems of pupil transience.

19. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made on agreeing proposals for improvement plans in connection with the National Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [250626]

Jim Knight: We have worked closely with local authorities to develop their plans to support schools in the National Challenge. We have agreed plans for 91 local authorities amounting to £52 million of the £400 million National Challenge funding and we expect to agree plans for the remaining four local authorities shortly. In addition, City Challenge authorities in London, Manchester and the black country continue to work with their advisers to develop school improvement plans under existing arrangements.

Building Schools for the Future

13. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [250620]

Jim Knight: Next month, I aim to publish the revised national programme for Building Schools for the Future, which prioritises the expressions of interest submitted in November by authorities, in line with our published criteria. This will include priority projects for 70 authorities not yet started in the programme, including Brighton and Hove. Partnerships for Schools will approach the most highly prioritised projects for evidence that they are ready to deliver and to join the programme.

15. **Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to announce the results of the latest round of bids for funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [250622]

Jim Knight: Next month, I aim to publish the revised national programme for Building Schools for the Future, which prioritises the expressions of interest submitted in November by authorities, in line with our published criteria. This will include priority projects for 70 authorities not yet started in the programme, including Stockport. Partnerships for Schools will approach the most highly prioritised projects for evidence that they are ready to deliver and to join the programme.

20. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for spending on the Building Schools for the Future programme in the next three years. [250627]

Jim Knight: Next month, I aim to publish the revised national programme for Building Schools for the Future, which prioritises the expressions of interest submitted in November by authorities, in line with our published criteria. This will include priority projects for 70 authorities not yet started in the programme, including Plymouth. Partnerships for Schools will approach the most highly prioritised projects for evidence that they are ready to deliver and to join the programme.

23. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proposals he has to bring forward spending under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [250630]

Jim Knight: The Government are aiming to bring forward some of schools capital expenditure due in 2010-11 into financial year 2009-10, to stimulate the economy during the current economic downturn. However, because of the strategic planning that underpins Building Schools for the Future, it would be unsuitable for bringing forward in this way. BSF typically involves the design and build of entire new schools which are simply less suitable for bringing forward quickly for construction in a 12 month period.

Children's Services: Transparency

16. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to promote transparency in provision of children's services. [250623]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are required to publish—following consultation—a Children and Young People's Plan for all services affecting children, young people and families in a local area. They must also publish a Local Area Agreement setting out targets related to all the local priorities for the area, including for children, young people and families. The performance of the local area's services for children, young people and families is assessed by the relevant inspectorates, which report publicly.

Entrepreneurs and Schools

17. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage links between entrepreneurs and schools. [250624]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are investing £210 million in enterprise education from 2008-11, providing all secondary schools with the resource to help young people be creative and innovative, to take and manage risks. This investment also funds a network to support schools and Young Chambers which bring together chambers of commerce, businesses, teachers and young people to develop enterprise initiatives within schools. A National Skills Academy for Enterprise is being set up with the Peter Jones Foundation.

Children's Centres: Hastings and Rye

21. **Michael Jabez Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding children's centres in Hastings and Rye constituency will receive in 2009-10. [250628]

Beverley Hughes: The funding allocated for children's centres for East Sussex local authority in 2009-10 is: £8,416,000 revenue and £1,456,000 capital.

East Sussex local authority is responsible for managing Sure Start children's centres performance across their area and will decide how much to allocate to centres in Hastings and Rye.

Secondary School Admissions

22. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on Government policy on admissions to secondary schools. [250629]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We undertook an extensive consultation last year on the revised School Admissions Code to strengthen the admissions system for primary and secondary schools and place children and parents at the centre of the process. We engaged with local authorities, faith groups and other key stakeholders prior to, and during the consultation, to seek their views on our proposals. The national consultation was well received with the majority of responses coming from parents. The full consultation report is available on the departmental website.

Child Poverty

24. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on future legislation on child poverty. [250631]

Beverley Hughes: I have had regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and other colleagues about the forthcoming legislation on child poverty. We will shortly be launching a consultation on our plans to enshrine in legislation our commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020. We look forward to working with colleagues and stakeholders to ensure that tackling child poverty is a priority at every level of Government and that all parts of society play their part in achieving our historic goal to end child poverty.

Free School Meals

25. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of levels of educational achievement of pupils eligible to receive free school meals. [250632]

Jim Knight: The attainment of children eligible to receive free school meals has improved substantially in each of the last five years. That improvement is faster than for the cohort as a whole, so the gap is narrowing between the proportion of such children who achieve nationally expected levels including both English and mathematics, and the proportion for the rest of the cohort. In the Children's Plan and the recent New Opportunities White Paper the Government have committed themselves to further actions to improve attainment for such children.

Child Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the serious case review system in contributing to the protection of children. [250621]

Ed Balls: Lord Laming is preparing an independent report of progress nationally in safeguarding children, including on the effectiveness of serious case reviews. He will submit his report by the end of February and I will respond fully to it.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each region had not been allocated a health visitor in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241933]

(2) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each London borough had not been allocated a health visitor in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241934]

(3) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each London borough had not been allocated a health visitor between 9 September 2008 and the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [241935]

(4) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each region had not been allocated a health visitor between 9 September 2008 and the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [241936]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on co-operation between children's services and housing authorities in relation to accommodation for vulnerable families with children; and if he will make a statement. [249583]

Beverley Hughes: In May 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for

Communities and Local Government published guidance specifically relating to joint working between housing and children's services preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people, this can be found at:

> www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/goodpracticeguide

This was to help the managers of children's services and housing authorities in both single tier and two tier authorities to plan and deliver changes for children, young people and families. The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families will not be making a statement.

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2008 to Question 244554, what the definition is of emotional abuse. [248677]

Beverley Hughes: Emotional abuse is defined in Chapter 1, paragraph 1.31 of "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2006 as:

> The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmental inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority area provide wraparound school care. [249393]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information centrally on the number of schools providing wraparound care. We do, however, have information on the number of schools providing access to the full core offer of extended services in England. This includes access to a varied menu of activities, combined with child care in primary schools, from 8 am to 6 pm and during school holidays where there is demand. The following table provides details of the number of schools in each local authority that are providing access to the core offer of extended services. This shows that at 6 January 2009 there were 15,199 extended schools which represents around 67 per cent. of all maintained schools.

There are many other schools which are already providing parts of the core offer, including child care and a varied menu of activities, and developing access to other services which are not yet included in these figures.

We want all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010.

Summary of schools providing access to full core offer (FCO) of extended services, by local authority

	All schools			*Primary schools only*			*Secondary schools only*		
Local authority	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*
Barking and Dagenham	58	37	63.79	48	28	58.33	9	8	88.89
Barnet	116	87	75.00	87	61	70.11	21	19	90.48
Barnsley	97	87	89.69	81	73	90.12	14	13	92.86
Bath and North East Somerset	78	49	62.82	62	35	56.45	13	12	92.31
Bedfordshire	217	121	55.76	146	75	51.37	55	33	60.00
Bexley	79	64	81.01	58	45	77.59	16	15	93.75
Birmingham	428	425	99.30	299	296	99.00	75	75	100.00
Blackburn with Darwen	79	47	59.49	56	32	57.14	10	4	40.00
Blackpool	40	40	100.00	29	29	100.00	8	8	100.00
Bolton	122	85	69.67	95	63	66.32	17	13	76.47
Bournemouth	38	28	73.68	26	20	76.92	10	7	70.00
Bracknell Forest	37	21	56.76	30	17	56.67	6	4	66.67
Bradford	193	133	68.91	157	108	68.79	29	23	79.31
Brent	83	58	69.88	59	37	62.71	15	13	86.67
Brighton and Hove	71	54	76.06	55	49	89.09	9	4	44.44
Bristol City of	152	107	70.39	110	76	69.09	20	16	80.00
Bromley	97	69	71.13	76	56	73.68	17	13	76.47
Buckinghamshire	229	135	58.95	181	96	53.04	34	31	91.18
Bury	81	51	62.96	63	35	55.56	14	12	85.71
Calderdale	103	74	71.84	85	64	75.29	15	9	60.00
Cambridgeshire	239	193	80.75	201	163	81.09	30	30	100.00
Camden	57	44	77.19	41	32	78.05	9	6	66.67

Summary of schools providing access to full core offer (FCO) of extended services, by local authority

	All schools			Primary schools only			Secondary schools only		
Local authority	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*
Cheshire	317	188	59.31	259	150	57.92	42	33	78.57
Cornwall	274	195	71.17	237	166	70.04	31	26	83.87
Corporation of London	1	1	100.00	1	1	100.00		0	100.00
Coventry	113	111	98.23	85	85	100.00	19	18	94.74
Croydon	122	76	62.30	88	53	60.23	22	15	68.18
Cumbria	325	248	76.31	275	209	76.00	39	30	76.92
Darlington	40	28	70.00	30	20	66.67	7	5	71.43
Derby City	103	103	100.00	76	76	100.00	14	14	100.00
Derbyshire	417	257	61.63	352	214	60.80	47	35	74.47
Devon	365	213	58.36	316	176	55.70	37	26	70.27
Doncaster	125	100	80.00	103	87	84.47	17	13	76.47
Dorset	173	93	53.76	134	70	52.24	34	23	67.65
Dudley	107	90	84.11	78	67	85.90	21	20	95.24
Durham	287	184	64.11	229	141	61.57	36	26	72.22
Ealing	86	58	67.44	64	42	65.63	13	9	69.23
East Riding of Yorkshire	152	94	61.84	127	77	60.63	18	16	88.89
East Sussex	192	143	74.48	155	106	68.39	27	27	100.00
Enfield	89	57	64.04	65	45	69.23	18	11	61.11
Essex	569	313	55.01	469	249	53.09	79	56	70.89
Gateshead	87	86	98.85	69	69	100.00	11	10	90.91
Gloucestershire	299	195	65.22	246	159	64.63	41	31	75.61
Greenwich	86	63	73.26	65	44	67.69	13	12	92.31
Hackney	68	41	60.29	53	34	64.15	11	7	63.64
Halton	67	48	71.64	52	36	69.23	7	6	85.71
Hammersmith and Fulham	52	37	71.15	34	26	76.47	9	7	77.78
Hampshire	528	301	57.01	429	243	56.64	71	56	78.87
Haringey	82	47	57.32	63	35	55.56	12	6	50.00
Harrow	69	55	79.71	54	41	75.93	10	10	100.00
Hartlepool	39	35	89.74	30	29	96.67	6	5	83.33
Havering	83	57	68.67	62	45	72.58	18	10	55.56
Herefordshire	100	82	82.00	81	64	79.01	15	14	93.33
Hertfordshire	519	282	54.34	398	216	54.27	81	49	60.49
Hillingdon	89	57	64.04	65	42	64.62	18	12	66.67
Hounslow	76	62	81.58	58	46	79.31	14	14	100.00
Isle of Wight	67	62	92.54	46	45	97.83	19	16	84.21
Isles Of Scilly	1	1	100.00	1	1	100.00		0	100.00
Islington	60	37	61.67	44	32	72.73	10	2	20.00
Kensington and Chelsea	36	30	83.33	26	20	76.92	4	4	100.00
Kent	577	393	68.11	449	315	70.16	103	66	64.08
Kingston upon Hull City Council	94	80	85.11	71	59	83.10	14	13	92.86
Kingston upon Thames	48	48	100.00	34	34	100.00	10	10	100.00
Kirklees	191	146	76.44	151	120	79.47	31	22	70.97
Knowsley	71	54	76.06	55	41	74.55	9	9	100.00
Lambeth	84	58	69.05	61	44	72.13	13	6	46.15
Lancashire	623	410	65.81	484	320	66.12	84	53	63.10
Leeds	264	191	72.35	219	159	72.60	39	30	76.92
Leicester	107	96	89.72	81	72	88.89	18	16	88.89
Leicestershire	286	190	66.43	225	150	66.67	54	36	66.67
Lewisham	89	59	66.29	67	51	76.12	14	6	42.86
Lincolnshire	367	240	65.40	279	171	61.29	62	54	87.10
Liverpool	179	114	63.69	131	83	63.36	31	18	58.06
Luton	73	63	86.30	52	46	88.46	12	10	83.33
Manchester	171	97	56.73	131	64	48.85	24	23	95.83
Medway	108	62	57.41	85	49	57.65	19	12	63.16
Merton	54	38	70.37	43	32	74.42	8	5	62.50

Summary of schools providing access to full core offer (FCO) of extended services, by local authority

	All schools			Primary schools only			Secondary schools only		
Local authority	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*
Middlesbrough	55	48	87.27	42	38	90.48	9	8	88.89
Milton Keynes	110	109	99.09	90	89	98.89	12	12	100.00
Newcastle upon Tyne	96	71	73.96	71	54	76.06	14	9	64.29
Newham	90	68	75.56	66	49	74.24	15	13	86.67
Norfolk	430	262	60.93	364	204	56.04	52	44	84.62
North East Lincolnshire	65	49	75.38	50	38	76.00	11	7	63.64
North Lincolnshire	81	71	87.65	66	58	87.88	13	12	92.31
North Somerset	78	58	74.36	65	47	72.31	10	10	100.00
North Tyneside	77	52	67.53	56	35	62.50	15	15	100.00
North Yorkshire	385	281	72.99	324	227	70.06	47	42	89.36
Northamptonshire	325	193	59.38	264	146	55.30	41	37	90.24
Northumberland	197	161	81.73	134	105	78.36	54	48	88.89
Nottingham	106	66	62.26	81	49	60.49	18	11	61.11
Nottinghamshire	346	188	54.34	287	153	53.31	46	25	54.35
Oldham	108	77	71.30	90	62	68.89	15	13	86.67
Oxfordshire	291	164	56.36	232	122	52.59	34	26	76.47
Peterborough	73	60	82.19	57	49	85.96	11	9	81.82
Plymouth	97	69	71.13	71	51	71.83	16	11	68.75
Poole	39	27	69.23	27	17	62.96	9	8	88.89
Portsmouth	69	69	100.00	53	53	100.00	10	10	100.00
Reading	62	30	57.69	37	20	54.05	7	7	100.00
Redbridge	73	46	63.01	52	28	53.85	17	14	82.35
Redcar and Cleveland	59	56	94.92	45	44	97.78	11	9	81.82
Richmond upon Thames	52	38	73.08	41	30	73.17	8	5	62.50
Rochdale	91	53	58.24	69	39	56.52	14	7	50.00
Rotherham	124	91	73.39	99	70	70.71	16	14	87.50
Rutland	21	21	100.00	17	17	100.00	3	3	100.00
Salford	100	80	80.00	80	66	82.50	15	12	80.00
Sandwell	116	108	93.10	94	89	94.68	18	16	88.89
Sefton	106	78	73.58	76	53	69.74	21	17	80.95
Sheffield	174	103	59.20	133	79	59.40	27	18	66.67
Shropshire	164	109	66.46	140	91	65.00	22	18	81.82
Slough	45	28	62.22	27	15	55.56	11	6	54.55
Solihull	84	54	64.29	65	41	63.08	14	13	92.86
Somerset	270	216	80.00	223	173	77.58	39	37	94.87
South Gloucestershire	113	63	55.75	94	53	56.38	16	10	62.50
South Tyneside	69	65	94.20	50	48	96.00	9	8	88.89
Southampton	79	50	63.29	61	43	70.49	12	6	50.00
Southend-on-Sea	54	26	48.15	37	21	56.76	12	4	33.33
Southwark	99	74	74.75	70	55	78.57	15	9	60.00
St. Helens	67	44	65.67	54	36	66.67	9	7	77.78
Staffordshire	393	275	69.97	298	208	69.80	67	45	67.16
Stockport	120	86	71.67	91	67	73.63	14	9	64.29
Stockton-on-Tees	77	56	72.73	60	40	66.67	14	14	100.00
Stoke-on-Trent	100	87	87.00	71	59	83.10	17	17	100.00
Suffolk	343	226	65.89	255	161	63.14	78	55	70.51
Sunderland	115	115	100.00	82	82	100.00	17	17	100.00
Surrey	389	278	71.47	309	216	69.90	53	49	92.45
Sutton	60	45	75.00	41	29	70.73	14	14	100.00
Swindon	78	56	71.79	61	48	78.69	11	8	72.73
Tameside	96	60	62.50	74	51	68.92	17	8	47.06
Telford and Wrekin	76	57	75.00	56	40	71.43	14	13	92.86
Thurrock	55	48	87.27	43	39	90.70	10	9	90.00
Torbay	42	26	61.90	31	20	64.52	8	6	75.00

Summary of schools providing access to full core offer (FCO) of extended services, by local authority

	All schools			Primary schools only			Secondary schools only		
Local authority	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Number of schools: Total*	*Number of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*	*Percentage of schools providing access to FCO of extended services*
Tower Hamlets	96	84	87.50	69	60	86.96	15	14	93.33
Trafford	93	59	63.44	69	41	59.42	18	18	100.00
Wakefield	150	120	80.00	123	104	84.55	18	14	77.78
Walsall	120	82	68.33	86	61	70.93	19	11	57.89
Waltham Forest	79	62	78.48	54	43	79.63	16	13	81.25
Wandsworth	78	58	74.36	56	44	78.57	11	8	72.73
Warrington	86	52	60.47	70	40	57.14	12	9	75.00
Warwickshire	248	247	99.60	195	195	100.00	36	36	100.00
West Berkshire	80	56	70.00	66	43	65.15	10	10	100.00
West Sussex	288	210	72.92	232	172	74.14	40	30	75.00
Westminster	56	34	60.71	40	24	60.00	10	5	50.00
Wigan	133	87	65.41	104	67	64.42	20	14	70.00
Wiltshire	238	135	56.72	203	107	52.71	29	25	86.21
Windsor and Maidenhead	63	39	61.90	45	24	53.33	13	11	84.62
Wirral	130	81	62.31	93	61	65.59	22	13	59.09
Wokingham	61	34	55.74	49	26	53.06	9	7	77.78
Wolverhampton	109	69	63.30	77	45	58.44	18	11	61.11
Worcestershire	239	154	64.44	183	124	67.76	45	26	57.78
York	67	67	100.00	54	54	100.00	10	10	100.00
Total	21,833	15,199	69.61	17,076	11,713	68.59	3,355	2,590	77.20

Note:
All schools includes nursery, primary, secondary and special schools.
Source:
TDA Extended Schools database, 6th January 2009

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the level of English spoken by staff in childcare settings. [249730]

Beverley Hughes: No recent assessment has been made. The framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) introduced in September 2008 requires staff to have the right language skills to support children from birth to five to develop communication skills in English and to help ensure that their welfare needs are protected. The requirements for providers working with older children set proportions for the number of staff required to hold level 2 and 3 qualifications in an area of work relevant to child care (and the Common Core Skills for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). As part of the requirements candidates need to demonstrate competence in English. Ofsted inspects providers against these requirements. The requirements on settings are designed to help ensure effective standards of communication in settings and to enable parents to choose providers who also speak their home language.

Children: Human Trafficking

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on child trafficking. [247672]

Beverley Hughes: The UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking published in March 2007 and revised in July 2008 sets out the responsibilities of Departments, including the Department, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the actions they are taking. Implementation of the action plan is coordinated through the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, which last met in November 2008. The Group ensures that all relevant Departments are fully engaged in tackling child trafficking.

Children: Mental Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the final report on the review of child and adolescent mental health services to be published. [246998]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The final report of the independent review of child and adolescent mental health services, "Children and Young People in Mind", was published on 18 November 2008. The report of the review's findings and recommendations to Government is available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/CAMHSreview/.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, welcomed the report in the written ministerial statement on 18 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, and set out their initial response to each of the review's 20 recommendations in a summary document that is available on the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families websites and the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Children: Obesity

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress the Obesity Observatory has made towards meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [246994]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The main functions of the Observatory are to: provide an authoritative source of data and evidence on obesity, overweight and their determinants; co-ordinate surveillance on obesity and overweight, including working towards the commitment to monitoring made in the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Charter on Counteracting Obesity; analyse surveillance and indicator data, and report on progress against the new ambition to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels by 2020 in the context of tackling obesity across the population; provide guidance on assessing and evaluating pilots and demonstration sites in England; gather information on international best practice and developing links to the International Obesity Task Force, WHO, and other supranational bodies; and provide technical support to the Government's expert panel on obesity.

In its first nine months of operation the Observatory has reviewed options for calculating child obesity prevalence in England; produced detailed analysis, commentary, guidance and data tools relating to the National Child Measurement Programme; and is developing a framework with supporting guidance and tools for use by primary care trusts and others in evaluating weight management interventions to enhance the evidence base. Reports published by the Observatory can be found on their website at:

www.noo.org.uk

Future plans include: making reports on obesity data sources and the availability of evidence; recommendations for improving data and evidence; wider evaluation support to practitioners; and further development of approaches to mapping obesity and its determinants building on work already undertaken.

The Observatory works with a range of organisations to support policy makers and practitioners involved in tackling obesity and related issues and will continue to consult and communicate with key audiences to shape objectives, deliverables and future work areas.

Departmental Responsibilities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its Objective 1 to safeguard children and young people, to improve their outcomes and general well-being, and break cycles of deprivation in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247466]

Beverley Hughes: Keeping children and young people safe and promoting their health and wellbeing are top priorities for this Government and my Department. We have a range of policies set out across the Children's Plan which contribute to these areas and have introduced a series of national indicators and success measures to monitor our performance.

The latest assessment of our performance, against Objective 1 is detailed in the Department's Autumn Performance Report 2008 (page 78 to 87), presented to the House in December 2008.

In addition, our progress against indicators and success measures in the Department's Public Service Agreements (which include PSA 10 to raise the educational achievement of all children and young people; PSA 11 to narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers respectively; PSA 12 to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people; and PSA 13 to improve children and young people's safety) is monitored quarterly. The assessment of our performance against our PSAs is also given in the Department's Autumn Performance Report 2008.

Our approach to tackling child poverty, namely to break the cycle of deprivation, is set out in the Children's Plan and in the Child Poverty PSA (9). A key objective is to raise educational achievement for children and young people. The Child Poverty Unit (a joint unit sponsored by DCSF/DWP and the Treasury) was established to drive forward the delivery of the Treasury PSA: PSA 9 - to eradicate child poverty by 2020. Progress against PSA 9 is reported in the HM Treasury Autumn Performance Report.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for the education maintenance allowance are awaiting processing; and if he will make a statement. [249929]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the amount of funds from the education maintenance allowance owed to students but not paid out as at 31 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [249930]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of young people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have received a weekly (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme began; [249038]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire who were entitled to education maintenance allowance (EMA) did not receive any EMA payments in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [249039]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Foreign Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals attained a GCSE in *(a)* German, *(b)* French and *(c)* Spanish in the latest year for which figures are available. [243100]

Jim Knight: The information available is given in the following table:

	Pupils in England eligible to receive free school meals who attained a GCSE in 2007 in the relevant language	
	Number	*Percentage*
German	3,532	4.6
French	11,533	15.0
Spanish	3,114	4.1

Source:
National Pupil Database

GCE A Level

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* South West Bedfordshire constituency achieved A level passes in 2008. [249628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: In 2008, maintained schools and colleges in South West in Bedfordshire, of those 16 to 18-year-old candidates entered for a qualification at least equivalent in size to one GCE/VCE A level in the maintained sector, 86.2 per cent. achieved at least one A level pass—that is GCE/VCE/Applied A Levels or Double Awards only, not all A level equivalents.

For England as a whole, the corresponding figure (maintained sector only) was 75.3 per cent.

In all schools and colleges in England (including the independent sector) in 2008, of those 16 to 18-year-old candidates entered for a qualification at least equivalent in size to one GCE/VCE A level in the maintained sector, 77.6 per cent. achieved at least one A level pass—that is GCE/VCE/Applied A Levels or Double Awards only, not all A level equivalents.

GCSE

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils achieved GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997; [249468]

(2) how many pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [249469]

Jim Knight: The requested information for pupils achieving at least five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C and at least five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C including English and mathematics are provided in the following tables. Information about GCSE or equivalent attainment including English and mathematics for years prior to 2005 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils[1] at maintained schools achieving five or more A to C grades including English and maths at GCSE and equivalent*

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency[2]		*South Tyneside local authority district[2]*		*North-east region[2]*		*England*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2008[1, 3]	453	45.4	833	42.6	14,421	44.9	287,985	48.3
2007	470	43.5	878	41.9	13,646	41.9	274,811	45.9
2006	398	40.4	791	39.5	12,807	40.4	261,332	44.5
2005	334	35.2	663	34.3	11,805	38.1	248,169	42.6

[1] Data are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[2] Pupils attending schools located in the area.
[3] Data are revised.

Pupils[1] at maintained schools achieving five or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent[2]*

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency[2]		*South Tyneside local authority district[2]*		*North-east region[2]*		*England*		*UK[3]*	
	Number	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
2008[4]	648	65.0	1,255	64.2	21,322	66.4	364,400	64.5	n/a	n/a
2007	653	60.4	1,242	59.3	19,728	60.6	359,753	60.1	476,835	61.3
2006	552	56.0	1,112	55.5	18,199	57.4	340,481	57.5	456,680	59.0
2005	497	52.4	1,080	51.7	16,616	53.6	320,591	55.0	432,994	57.0
2004	466	45.3	912	45.2	15,793	48.8	306,939	52.1	418,158	54.2
2003	430	40.6	894	43.5	14,985	46.8	296,497	51.3	409,420	53.5
2002	451	42.7	903	42.2	14,061	44.3	276,245	49.5	394,894	52.5
2001	447	42.3	789	39.1	13,525	42.5	265,507	47.9	375,135	51.0
2000	378	39.9	723	39.3	12,694	41.7	250,937	47.1	354,300	50.4

Pupils[1] at maintained schools achieving five or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent[2]*

	Jarrow parliamentary constituency[3]		South Tyneside local authority district[3]		North-east region[3]		England		UK[4]	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1999	395	41.5	720	39.6	12,056	39.3	243,871	45.6	341,003	49.1
1998	357	38.1	672	36.9	11,279	37.1	231,223	43.8	320,816	47.5
1997	373	38.6	668	35.7	11,492	36.8	220,655	42.5	291,686	46.2

n/a = not available

[1] From 2005 onwards, data are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Pre 2005, data are based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

[2] From 1997 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2004 other equivalencies approved for use pre-16.

[3] Pupils attending schools located in the area.

[4] UK figures include all schools.

[5] Data are revised.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* South West Bedfordshire constituency achieved five A* to C GCSE passes including English and mathematics in 2008. [249626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The information requested is shown in the following table:

Percentage of pupils[1] achieving five or more A to C GCSE passes including English and Mathematics at GCSE and equivalent, 2007/08*

	South West Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency[2]	Bedfordshire local authority	England[3]
2007/08[4]	40.2	49.3	47.6

[1] Figures are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

[2] Pupils attending maintained schools located in South West Bedfordshire Constituency.

[3] Figures include all schools.

[4] Figures are based on revised data.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 16 year olds achieved at least one GCSE at grade *(a)* A*, *(b)* A, *(c)* C and *(d)* D in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) science (dual award), (iv) geography, (v) history and (vi) science (single award) in each of the last 10 years. [249931]

Jim Knight: Information on the attainment of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in years 2005 to 2008, and information on the GCSE attainment of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year who sat examinations in 1999 to 2004, can be found on the Department for Children, Schools and Families website. Links to the appropriate pages are provided as follows.

Examination year	Web link	Table number
2008	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml	13
2007	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml	13
2006	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml	13
2005	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000644/index.shtml	13
2004	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000585/index.shtml	12
2003	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000474/index.shtml	9
2002	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000377/index.shtml	9
2001	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000134/index.shtml	6
2000	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000266/index.shtml	7
1999	http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000165/index.shtml	7

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [250559]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Pupils[1] at maintained schools achieving five or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent[2]*

	Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[3]		Hertfordshire local authority		England	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2007/08[4]	865	69.6	9,438	71.0	384,400	64.5
2006/07	740	60.2	8,848	67.0	359,753	60.1
2005/06	717	57.2	8,481	64.7	340,481	57.5
2004/05	656	53.6	7,826	61.4	319,481	55.0
2003/04	595	48.3	7,556	58.5	306,939	52.1
2002/03	515	45.4	7,293	58.1	296,497	51.3
2001/02	528	45.9	6,984	56.7	276,245	49.5
2000/01	470	43.2	6,744	56.3	265,507	47.9
1999/2000	534	47.3	6,497	55.4	250,937	47.1
1998/99	545	47.2	6,349	54.9	243,871	45.6
1997/98	509	43.5	6,249	54.0	231,223	43.8
1996/97	474	39.2	5,884	50.7	228,655	42.5

[1] Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year.

[2] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[3] Pupils attending maintained schools located in Hemel Hempstead constituency.

[4] Figures for 2007/08 are based on revised data.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils achieved five GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [250811]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table. Information about GCSE or equivalent attainment including English and mathematics for years prior to 2004/05 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils[1] at maintained schools achieving 5 or more A to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE and equivalent*

	Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[2]		Hertfordshire local authority		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2007/08[3]	667	53.7	7,711	58.0	287,985	48.3
2006/07	606	49.3	7,378	55.9	274,811	45.9
2005/06	587	46.8	7,047	53.7	261,332	44.1
2004/05	489	40.0	6,487	50.9	247,360	42.4

[1] Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Figures for 2004/05 are based on pupils aged 15-years-old at the start of the academic year.

[2] Pupils attending maintained schools located in Hemel Hempstead constituency.

[3] Figures for 2007/08 are based on revised data.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* South West Bedfordshire constituency who entered for one or more GCSE examinations entered for GCSE science at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2008. [249627]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: In 2008, in South West Bedfordshire, of those pupils in maintained schools who were at the end of their Key Stage 4 studies and who had been entered for one or more GCSE examinations, 97 per cent. had been entered for one or more science subjects at GCSE.

For England as a whole, the corresponding figure (maintained schools only) was 95 per cent.

In all schools in England (including independent schools) in 2008, of those pupils who were at the end of their Key Stage 4 studies and who had been entered for one or more GCSE examinations, 93 per cent. had been entered for one or more science subjects at GCSE.

Head Teachers: Qualifications

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the likely level of take-up of the National Professional Qualification for Headship. [247284]

Jim Knight: The current national professional qualification for headship (NPQH) is being phased out this year following the introduction of the redesigned NPQH in September 2008. Recruitment to the redesigned NPQH to the end of March 2009 is estimated to be 1,500, while 4,008 have already graduated from the current NPQH since April 2008.

The National College of School Leadership will estimate the level of annual recruitment required based on the level of headship vacancies and include an additional percentage to allow for unavoidable deferrals and withdrawals. This number will be between 2,000 and 2,500 each year.

Headteachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances Ofsted may be required to inspect a school in the event of a suspension of a headteacher or other senior staff. [248165]

Jim Knight: Ofsted is required to inspect all maintained schools on a three year cycle. Within the cycle, the timing of inspections is determined by Ofsted. Decisions on scheduling take account of a range of factors which may include the stability of school leadership. If parents have concerns about the leadership and management of their child's school, they may complain to Ofsted, which has powers to investigate. Such an investigation could lead to a school being inspected. The Chief Inspector has powers to inspect a school at any time and the Secretary of State has powers to require Ofsted to inspect a school.

Home Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 511W, on home education, and the subsequent establishment of the Elective Home Education Review, if he will collect information centrally on the number of children home educated in each local authority area. [250888]

Jim Knight: There are no current plans to collect information centrally about the number of home educated children. We will consider this and other aspects of our approach to home education after receiving the report of the recently commissioned review of home education.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage positive home learning environments. [250441]

Jim Knight: The Department has announced an independent review of home education. The review will assess the effectiveness of the current arrangements to ensure that any concerns about the safety, welfare or education of home educated children are addressed quickly and effectively. It will also investigate whether local authorities are providing the right type, level and balance of support to home educating families to ensure that they are undertaking their duties to provide a suitable full-time education to their children. Where necessary, the review will also make recommendations for improvements. The review will conclude with a published report in May 2009.

The Department provides a range of guidance for all parents on helping their children learn outside the classroom. This can be found on the Department's website.

Improving Information Sharing and Management Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Improving Information Sharing and Management Programme; and if he will make a statement; [247267]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of ContactPoint; and if he will make a statement; [247268]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of *(a)* the Integrated Children's and *(b)* the Client Caseload Information system; and if he will make a statement. [247269]

Beverley Hughes: The first IISaM survey which will establish the baseline is planned to take place later this year. It will include a section on ContactPoint, eCAF and ICS to be completed as appropriate by practitioners. Views will be sought from practitioners that use the system, based on their experiences of working with children, young people and families. The survey will be carried out annually and used with management information from the system to identify trends and track progress towards realising the benefits of each of the systems. The results of the survey will be collated at both national and local authority level.

ContactPoint has not yet been deployed. In August 2008, we announced that ContactPoint deployment would begin in January 2009. That remains the position and we are on track to deploy the first phase of ContactPoint before the end of January.

The full implementation of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) is not yet complete. 12 local authorities have not yet implemented phase 1B of ICS, and no authority has yet implemented the final component, which deals primarily with looked-after children and family court processes. This work is due to take place during 2009-10. We will also take account of any recommendations relevant to the operation of ICS that may arise from Lord Laming's report.

The effectiveness of the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) was assessed by the National Audit Office in its study of the Connexions Service in 2004. The tracking capability of the CCIS system and its capability to generate robust management information was explored and subsequently commended as a key lever in the national strategy to tackle the issue of 16 to 18-year-olds in England not in education, employment or training.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to reply to the letter of 17 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs. R. Campion. [247866]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has received a great deal of correspondence since November when the Baby P case was widely publicised and there has inevitably been a delay in responding to some letters. The correspondence referred to was answered on 15 January 2009.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what risks the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has identified in Key Stage 2 test delivery in 2009; and if he will make a statement; [248150]

(2) what risks have been identified in Key Stage 2 test administration in 2009; and if he will make a statement [248015]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the administration of the key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests. The QCA has assessed the overall risks for the delivery in

2009. The QCA has engaged additional support to identify, categorise and mitigate as much as possible, operational risks as they arise. In line with Lord Sutherland's recommendations on risk management, the QCA has reviewed and strengthened its risk management and escalation processes to provide greater visibility not only of the cause and effect of risks, but active monitoring of the planning, implementation and effect of mitigations and contingencies.

The Department has also further strengthened its existing governance arrangements and will closely monitor delivery arrangements for the 2009 test cycle, ensuring that the Department is able to both challenge and support the QCA to secure successful delivery of the 2009 test cycle. The new supplier, Edexcel, has a strong track record in delivery of tests and exams. The Department will be publishing a full response to Lord Sutherland's report later this month.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools will be taking the Key Stage 3 tests in 2009; and on what date a communication was sent to schools asking them about their participation in the tests; and if he will make a statement. [249439]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 673, that Key Stage 3 (KS3) national curriculum tests would no longer be a statutory obligation. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the administration of the Key Stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests and for fulfilling orders for optional KS3 national curriculum tests.

At 19 January 2009, a total of 3,346 schools had ordered one or more KS3 national curriculum tests for 2009. A total of 4,158 schools ordered KS3 tests in 2008. The QCA has communicated the new arrangements to schools on five separate occasions from 17 October 2008 to 9 December 2008 via its test updates.

Performing Right Society

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has had with the Performing Right Society (PRS) on (i) the way in which they contact organisations who may need a PRS licence and (ii) the effect on very small businesses of having to pay for PRS licences; and if he will bring forward proposals to establish an independent complaints procedure to govern the PRS's activities. [249658]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

As the Minister for Intellectual Property I have met the PRS, and my officials have frequent exchanges with the PRS, in which these matters have been covered. The PRS have confirmed that by the end of January they will publish a draft Code of Practice governing customer relations, and establishing an independent complaints procedure. I will continue to follow this closely, and will want to see how stakeholders respond to that draft. As regards small businesses, as explained on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 917, it was suggested to the PRS that they reflect on the range and type of business which they licence.

Personal Income

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of low educational attainment on employability and life time income. [250444]

Jim Knight: There is strong evidence to show significant wage and employment benefits for young people achieving well at school, compared to young people who do not attain. These benefits persist throughout people's lifetimes. There are also clear benefits of higher skill levels to the economy and to society. There are a number of studies looking at wage and employment benefits of qualifications. For example, research by the Centre for the Economics of Education found that people with five or more GCSEs at A*-C earn on average around 9-11 per cent. more than those without and are around 3 percentage points more likely to be employed. People achieving one to four GCSEs at A*-C earn a positive wage return of around 5 per cent. and are around 1-2 percentage points more likely to be employed than those without.

The Department is committed to enabling as many young people as possible to achieve their potential. Raising the participation age (RPA) from 2013 will be a key lever to improve the attainment of young people as they enter the labour market. Independently verified research estimates the economic benefits of raising the participation age to be around £2.4 billion per year group over the course of their lifetime. This research was published alongside the introduction of the Education and Skills Bill to the House in November 2007.

For further details of the methodology and data sources used to estimate the economic benefits of RPA (and the magnitude of the benefits under alternative scenarios), the full report is accessible at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RW026.pdf

The research has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how frequently early years settings must apply for exemption from the early years foundation stage to sustain exempted status; [251044]

(2) how many early years settings have applied for an exemption from the early years foundation stage in the last 12 months. [251042]

Beverley Hughes: Providers can only apply for exemptions from the learning and development requirements of the EYFS (not the welfare requirements). Exemptions are time limited and vary between one and two years depending on the type of exemption granted. Further guidance on the exemption process and types of exemptions that can be applied are available on the QCA website. Since the introduction of the process in September 2008, one application for exemption has recently been received by the QCA.

Primary Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has evaluated into factors which contribute to disparities in achievement and attainment between primary school children. [250442]

Jim Knight: The Department has commissioned and reviewed a wide range of evidence on the factors contributing to disparities in achievement and attainment at primary school. The main factors identified by research can be summarised as follows:

Family circumstances: Low family income has been shown to have an impact on children's outcomes at school, even when controlling for the effect of other factors associated with deprivation[1]. Similarly, family socioeconomic status is known to have a significant impact on cognitive outcomes[2]. The level of education achieved by parents is also strongly associated with their children's outcomes[3], as is parental involvement in education: in particular, the quality of the "home learning environment" varies between families[4] and has persistent effects during primary school[5].

The school effect: There is strong and robust evidence to suggest that regardless of the influence of family circumstances outlined above, schools are independently important for children's outcomes. However, some schools are more effective than others, or effective in different ways[6]. Analysis suggests that 17 per cent. of the unexplained variation in pupil value added scores between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 can be explained by differences between schools[7]. The school effect is multifaceted and complex, but we know that both teaching quality and leadership are two key components[8].

Long-term impact of early learning experiences: children who attend higher quality pre-school settings perform better at primary school than similar pupils who attend a lower quality pre-school or no pre-school[9].

Health: low birth weight and early health or developmental problems can be a significant influence on cognitive outcomes[10].

English as an additional language: performance at primary school has been shown to vary according to whether children are eligible for support with English as an additional language[11].

Special educational needs: children identified as having special educational needs (SEN) or who are registered as School Action Plus during Key Stage 2 demonstrate lower Key Stage 2 performance compared to similar pupils with no identified SEN, even when prior attainment and other characteristics are taken into account[12]. Raw figures show that they are 52 percentage points behind children with no identified SEN on the national indicator of achieving Level 4 in both English and maths at Key Stage 2[13].

Mobility: on average, children who change school during Year 6 demonstrate lower Key Stage 2 performance compared to similar pupils who remain at the same school[14], even when accounting for prior attainment.

[1] Hobbs (2003); Feinstein et al (2004)

[2] Sammons et al (2007)

[3] Hobbs (2003)

[4] Sylva et al (2004)

[5] Sammons et al (2007)

[6] Feinstein et al (2004); Sammons et al (1995)

[7] DfES (2004)

[8] Sammons et al. (2008); Leithwood et al (2006)

[9] Sammons et al (2007)

[10] Sammons et al (2007)

[11] Sammons et al (2007)

[12] From DCSF contextualised value-added modelling for 2007

[13] SFR38/2007 National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07

[14] From DCSF contextualised value-added modelling for 2007

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Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils receiving free school meals received (i) one or more, (ii) five or more and (iii) 10 or more fixed period exclusions in each of the last 10 years. [240628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on the numbers of pupils with fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04. However data linked to free school meal eligibility is only available for the school years 2005/06 and 2006/07.

The available data for the years 2005/06 and 2006/07 is shown in the tables.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]—Pupils eligible to receive free school meals with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion by gender[4], 2006/07—England

	Pupils eligible for free schools meals					
	Boys			*Girls*		
	who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*	*who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*
Primary schools[5]	8,150	660	110	1,170	70	[5]—
State funded secondary schools[1, 2]	34,310	2,970	200	16,110	1,070	70

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3]*—Pupils eligible to receive free school meals with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion by gender*[4]*, 2006/07—England*

	Pupils eligible for free schools meals					
	Boys			*Girls*		
	who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*	*who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*
Special schools[3]	2,110	340	70	240	20	[5]—
Total	44,570	3,970	440	17,520	1,150	80

	Percentage of the school population[6]					
	Boys			*Girls*		
	who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*	*who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*
Primary schools[1]	2.45	0.20	0.03	0.36	0.02	0.00
State funded secondary schools[1,2]	15.41	1.34	0.12	7.27	0.48	0.03
Special schools[3]	10.32	1.66	0.32	2.91	0.23	0.04
Total	7.74	0.69	0.08	3.18	0.21	0.01

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[4] The number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions in 2006/07.
[5] Less than 5.
[6] The number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions for each category expressed as percentage of the school population in January 2007 of that gender and eligible for free school meals.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3]*—Pupils eligible to receive free school meals with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion by gender*[4]*, 2005/06*[5]*—England*

	Pupils eligible for free schools meals					
	Boys			*Girls*		
	who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*	*who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*
Primary schools	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
State funded secondary schools[1,2]	34,160	2,630	200	15,840	940	60
Special schools[3]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Total	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—

	Percentage of the school population[5]					
	Boys			*Girls*		
	who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*	*who received 1 to 4 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 5 to 9 fixed period exclusions*	*who received 10 or more fixed period exclusions*
Primary schools[1]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
State funded secondary schools[1,2]	14.87	1.14	0.09	6.94	0.41	0.03
Special schools[3]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Total	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[4] The number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions in 2006/07.
[5] The number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions for each category expressed as percentage of the school population in January 2006 of that gender and eligible for free school meals.
[6] Not available.
[7] Not applicable.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which primary schools in England have 70 per cent. or more of their pupils for whom English is not their first language; and how many and what proportion of pupils at each such school do not have English as their first language. [250823]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per pupil he expects his Department to have provided for education in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in 2008-09. [250730]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil for Northamptonshire and the England average for 2008-09 are provided in the following table. This covers all funded pupils aged three to 19. Figures are in cash terms.

2008-09 dedicated schools grant + grants per pupil

	£
England	4,690
Northamptonshire	4,360

Note:

Price Base: Cash. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

School Meals: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the updated regulations on food-based standards for school lunches have been implemented. [246995]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All schools have to meet the food-based standards for school lunches which were introduced in September 2006 and, since September 2007, they have had to meet the food-based standards for other school food such as tuck shops, vending and breakfast clubs.

The School Food Trust has launched a web-based tool that helps schools assess whether the food and drink they provide at lunchtime and at other times of the school day meets the food-based standards. All schools in England are being encouraged to use the checklist to assess their own compliance with the food-based standards.

Nutrient-based standards were introduced for primary school lunches in September 2008 and will be introduced in secondary and special schools in September 2009.

Schools

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school buildings in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Hertfordshire and (iii) England in 2007-08. [250561]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates school capital funding on a local authority basis, which is then prioritised locally in accordance with asset management plans. Accordingly, records are held centrally on a local authority basis, and do not distinguish between primary and secondary schools. Allocations to Hertfordshire in 2007-08 amounted to £50.2 million. Budgeted expenditure for England in 2007-08, including PFI credits, amounted to £6.435 million.

Schools: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will agree to include a no detriment clause within the agreement on assimilation in the National Pay and Conditions Framework for School Support Staff; and if he will make a statement. [250552]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, intends to establish the new School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB) for school support staff pay and conditions through the forthcoming Children, Skills and Learning Bill which we intend to introduce to Parliament in the week commencing 2 February 2009. The detail of the proposed clauses will be published at that time.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the schools budget of each local authority was for each of the last five years; and what proportion of that budget was delegated to schools in each case. [248863]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in both Libraries.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools built under the Building Schools for the Future programme *(a)* have and *(b)* have not included sprinkler systems as part of the build. [248163]

Jim Knight: The decision to install sprinkler systems in new schools is one for local authorities to make, in accordance with government guidelines contained in Building Bulletin 100. I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 200-01W, which gave information on the first seven schools built under Building Schools for the Future. Currently 50 schools have been opened and although we do not hold information on which of these schools have incorporated sprinkler systems, Partnerships for Schools plan to centrally record which schools have sprinkler systems in the next financial year. I will write to my hon. Friend when this is available.

Schools: Inspections

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the evaluation of reduced-tariff inspections of schools; and if he will make a statement. [247456]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 21 January 2009:

Parliamentary question number 247456: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the evaluation of reduced-tariff inspections of schools; and if he will make a statement.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Reduced tariff inspections (RTIs) of maintained schools were introduced in April 2006. As a result of the evaluation of these initial reduced-tariff inspections, changes were made to our risk assessment and to the level of pre-inspection engagement with the school from September 2007.

All RTIs continue to be pilot inspections. The ongoing evaluation of these inspections is feeding into the current development of the new school inspection arrangements that will be introduced in September 2009. Further details of these can be found on Ofsted's website at http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/A-focus-on-improvement- consultation-report.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: North East

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school buildings in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) the North East in 2007-08. [249661]

Jim Knight: Capital allocations are made on a local authority rather than on a constituency basis, and no data are kept centrally relating specifically to Jarrow. Expenditure is prioritised at local authority level, and records on the split of expenditure between primary and secondary school buildings are kept at local authority rather than departmental level. In 2007-08, capital allocations made by the Department to South Tyneside amounted to £4.6 million, and to the north east region £99.6 million.

In addition, Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough local authorities have commenced or will shortly commence Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects with an estimated capital value of £425 million. Redcar and Cleveland is also currently planning its wave six BSF project, which has an estimated capital value of £100 million.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons Paul Gray has been appointed as Interim Director of Children's Services in Doncaster; what Mr Gray's job specification is; and if he will make a statement. [248695]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: Dr. Paul Gray was recruited by Doncaster Metropolitan borough council in April 2008 to take up the position of Director of Children's Services on an interim basis to take lead responsibility for the Children's Services Authority's functions as set out in section 18 of the Children Act 2004 and section 4 of "Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services 2005".

Social Services: Haringey

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1123W, on social services: Haringey, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the inspections of Haringey undertaken by Ofsted. [248573]

Beverley Hughes: Ofsted is an independent non-ministerial Government Department and HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has responsibility for matters concerning the quality of Ofsted's inspections. It is not the proper role of the Department to assess inspections. The December 2008 report of the joint area review of Haringey services, led by Ofsted, clearly identified a number of serious concerns and made recommendations to address them. In light of the report, the Secretary of State has taken urgent action to secure improvements in Haringey's safeguarding services.

Special Educational Needs: Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs is in each local authority for 2008-09. [247861][1]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information for planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in each local authority for 2008-09 is contained within the following table.

	£
England	5,135,650,000
Barking and Dagenham	20,925,000
Barnet	35,989,000
Barnsley	19,542,000
Bath & North East Somerset	12,926,000
Bedfordshire	34,774,000
Bexley	26,538,000
Birmingham	144,766,000
Blackburn and Darwen	17,111,000
Blackpool	14,557,000
Bolton	24,266,000
Bournemouth	16,665,000
Bracknell Forest	11,501,000
Bradford	54,695,000
Brent	32,436,000
Brighton and Hove	29,617,000
Bromley	35,488,000
Buckinghamshire	66,268,000
Bury	20,341,000
Calderdale	24,612,000
Cambridgeshire	54,165,000
Camden	26,897,000
Cheshire	82,232,000
City of Bristol	39,475,000
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	31,505,000
City of London	230,000
Cornwall	44,491,000
Coventry	40,157,000
Croydon	40,033,000
Cumbria	36,925,000
Darlington	9,072,000
Derby	31,568,000
Derbyshire	78,002,000
Devon	66,838,000
Doncaster	21,377,000
Dorset	38,018,000
Dudley	26,488,000
Durham	42,733,000
Ealing	34,902,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	24,692,000
East Sussex	53,290,000
Enfield	32,930,000
Essex	125,010,000
Gateshead	19,555,000
Gloucestershire	47,811,000
Greenwich	35,261,000

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[1] *[Official Report, 4 March 2009, Vol. 488, c. 7MC.]*

	£
Hackney	28,865,000
Halton	11,884,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	16,469,000
Hampshire	95,480,000
Haringey	30,294,000
Harrow	30,438,000
Hartlepool	11,062,000
Havering	16,754,000
Herefordshire	18,590,000
Hertfordshire	93,993,000
Hillingdon	30,047,000
Hounslow	27,854,000
Isle of Wight	11,064,000
Isles of Scilly	75,000
Islington	20,196,000
Kensington and Chelsea	11,275,000
Kent	137,108,000
Kingston upon Thames	17,071,000
Kirklees	28,500,000
Knowsley	18,694,000
Lambeth	34,745,000
Lancashire	127,470,000
Leeds	61,928,000
Leicester	39,587,000
Leicestershire	54,449,000
Lewisham	38,734,000
Lincolnshire	64,950,000
Liverpool	37,418,000
Luton	21,605,000
Manchester	60,985,000
Medway	32,298,000
Merton	21,913,000
Middlesbrough	20,416,000
Milton Keynes	36,413,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	24,497,000
Newham	28,063,000
Norfolk	69,847,000
North East Lincolnshire	18,666,000
North Lincolnshire	13,721,000
North Somerset	16,711,000
North Tyneside	19,717,000
North Yorkshire	58,142,000
Northamptonshire	45,417,000
Northumberland	28,727,000
Nottingham City	23,766,000
Nottinghamshire	38,314,000
Oldham	23,957,000
Oxfordshire	54,331,000
Peterborough	26,054,000
Plymouth	30,153,000
Poole	13,005,000
Portsmouth	16,539,000
Reading	10,927,000
Redbridge	35,437,000
Redcar and Cleveland	14,335,000
Richmond upon Thames	16,554,000
Rochdale	20,410,000
Rotherham	25,964,000
Rutland	3,195,000
Salford	25,310,000
Sandwell	36,371,000
Sefton	21,523,000
Sheffield	43,945,000
Shropshire	18,852,000
Slough	17,415,000
Solihull	18,566,000
Somerset	42,191,000
South Gloucestershire	22,035,000
South Tyneside	19,925,000
Southampton	18,549,000
Southend	21,697,000
Southwark	34,069,000
St. Helens	14,379,000
Staffordshire	64,233,000
Stockport	22,884,000
Stockton-on-Tees	21,520,000
Stoke on Trent	24,766,000
Suffolk	58,255,000
Sunderland	28,018,000
Surrey	123,174,000
Sutton	26,909,000
Swindon	20,090,000
Tameside	16,421,000
Telford and Wrekin	16,624,000
Thurrock	17,875,000
Torbay	9,877,000
Tower Hamlets	30,037,000
Trafford	21,562,000
Wakefield	27,464,000
Walsall	33,335,000
Waltham Forest	35,550,000
Wandsworth	44,656,000
Warrington	19,182,000
Warwickshire	54,973,000
West Berkshire	18,159,000
West Sussex	89,168,000
Westminster	21,155,000
Wigan	27,206,000
Wiltshire	34,018,000
Windsor & Maidenhead	15,597,000
Wirral	37,274,000
Wokingham	15,400,000
Wolverhampton	27,163,000
Worcestershire	50,619,000
York	15,917,000

Notes:

1. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

2. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. During 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted a further £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure which is not included in the above table.

3. The data are drawn from Children, Schools & Families Financial Data Collection (Budget).

4. Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England 2008-09.

5. Figures are in cash terms.

6. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.

Special Educational Needs: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by type of school. [249910]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 21 January 2009]:* The requested information is only available from 2003 onwards. Changes to data collections and definitions over time mean that for 2003 to 2004 the figures cover pupils aged 15. For 2005 onwards, the figures cover pupils at the end of their key stage 4 studies. As the figures require details of pupil characteristics (i.e. SEN), they are only available for maintained schools.

Table 1: Number and percentage of pupils with Statements of SEN achieving five or more grades A-C by type of school*

	2008		*2007*		*2006*		*2005*	
	Number of end KS4 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A-C GCSE*	*Percentage of pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of end KS4 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of end KS4 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of end KS4 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*
Academies	67	21.7	11	6.4	10	9.8	—	—
Community School	1,352	16.7	1,266	13.9	1,224	12.8	970	9.8
Voluntary Aided	403	24.2	357	22.1	340	20.6	266	16.3
Voluntary controlled	81	18.4	65	14.6	80	15.3	74	14.7
Foundation Schools	597	22.6	429	19.8	372	16.7	304	14.9
City Technology College	12	100.0	14	70.0	8	61.5	13	54.2
Community Special School	51	0.5	47	0.5	39	0.4	26	0.3
Total	2,564	11.2	2,189	9.4	2,073	8.7	1,653	7.2

	2004		*2003*	
	Number of aged 15 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A-C GCSE*	*Percentage of 15 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of aged 15 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of 15 pupils with Statement of SEN achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*
Academies	—	—	—	—
Community School	921	8.8	876	8.5
Voluntary Aided	225	13.8	202	13.3
Voluntary controlled	39	7.7	46	9.4
Foundation Schools	280	13.2	239	11.5
City Technology College	12	38.7	13	44.8
Community Special School	25	0.3	25	0.0
Total	1,502	6.2	1,401	5.8

Table 2: Number and percentage of SEN pupils without Statements achieving five or more grades A-C by type of school*

	2008		*2007*		*2006*		*2005*	
	Number of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A-C GCSE*	*Percentage of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of end KS4 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*
Academies	1,141	34.6	358	21.6	262	26.5	—	—
Community School	18,880	28.3	13,380	21.6	10,336	17.6	8,017	15.0
Voluntary Aided	4,577	36.8	3,299	29.7	2,610	26.3	2,084	22.4
Voluntary controlled	726	27.6	588	24.2	513	22.3	435	20.2
Foundation Schools	6,800	33.3	4,276	27.6	2,878	23.6	2,233	20.7
City Technology College	81	81.8	129	72.5	135	64.6	175	64.1
Community Special School	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	15	36.6
Total	32,205	30.5	22,030	23.7	16,736	19.8	12,959	17.1

	2004		*2003*	
	Number of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A-C GCSE*	*Percentage of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*
Academies	—	—	—	—

	2004		2003	
	Number of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A-C GCSE*	*Percentage of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Number of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*	*Percentage of age 15 SEN pupils without Statement achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE*
Community School	6,119	12.2	5,296	11.1
Voluntary Aided	1,824	20.4	1,540	18.8
Voluntary controlled	345	16.3	323	16.8
Foundation Schools	1,867	17.2	1,517	15.7
City Technology College	106	51.7	128	57.7
Community Special School	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Total	10,266	14.2	8,806	13

[1] Figures suppressed due to small numbers.

Note:

The figures in these two tables relate to pupils in maintained schools only.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [247410]

Jim Knight: The Department funds the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust through a range of grants and contracts to support the Specialist Schools and Academies programmes and a range of other activities designed to raise pupil achievement. We estimate that total funding for SSAT through grants and contracts in 2008-09 will be £28,436,169. DCSF negotiates funding levels each year for individual grants and contracts. We are not in a position to estimate what the level of funding will be in future years—this will depend on our priorities at the time.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers took a primary *(a)* Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Arts and *(b)* post-graduate certificate in education with a (i) language and (ii) mathematics specialism in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [249102]

(2) how many teachers took *(a)* a post-graduate certificate of education, *(b)* a Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Arts, *(c)* a school-centre initial teacher training course and *(d)* another teacher training route at primary level with a specialism in (i) Mandarin, (ii) Japanese, (iii) Urdu, (iv) Italian, (v) French, (vi) Spanish and (vii) German in each of the last five years. [249232]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table and shows recruitment to undergraduate and postgraduate primary modern foreign language initial teacher training (ITT) courses for the last five years for which data are available. Figures relating to 2008/09 are expected to be available by the end of January 2009. There are currently no primary ITT courses which specialise in mathematics; Mandarin; Japanese or Urdu.

Over the last five years nearly 4,000 trainees in total graduated through ITT courses in primary modern languages. More trainees will be funded for these courses, including a projected 900 in 2008/09.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools is also piloting this year, in partnership with 10 ITT providers, additional routes to boost the primary workforce teaching languages. A projected 3,000 trainees will go through these courses in 2008/09. Of these trainees, about one third are postgraduate trainees and two thirds are undergraduate trainees.

Number of new entrants on primary modern foreign language ITT courses between 2003/04 and 2007/08

	Total number of new entrants					
	Primary—French	*Primary—German*	*Primary—Italian*	*Primary—Spanish*	*Primary—Portuguese*	*Primary—total modern foreign languages*
2003/04						
Undergraduate	60	10	0	10	0	80
Postgraduate	280	30	0	50	0	360
of which						
School centred (SCITT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	330	40	0	60	0	430
2004/05						
Undergraduate	60	30	0	30	0	130
Postgraduate	290	60	20	60	0	440
of which						

Number of new entrants on primary modern foreign language ITT courses between 2003/04 and 2007/08

	Total number of new entrants					
	Primary—French	*Primary—German*	*Primary—Italian*	*Primary—Spanish*	*Primary—Portuguese*	*Primary—total modern foreign languages*
School centred (SCITT)	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Total	360	90	20	100	0	570
2005/06						
Undergraduate	60	10	0	20	0	90
Postgraduate	320	70	30	140	10	570
of which						
School centred (SCITT)	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Total	380	80	30	160	10	650
2006/07						
Undergraduate	70	20	0	20	0	110
Postgraduate	320	80	40	160	10	600
of which						
School centred (SCITT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	390	100	40	180	10	710
2007/08						
Undergraduate	90	10	0	30	0	120
Postgraduate	340	80	40	150	0	590
of which						
School centred (SCITT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	420	90	40	170	0	720

[1] Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Coverage includes universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Figures include trainees who are re-sitting all or part of their ITT programme.
3. Figures include trainees on courses of one to five year durations.
4. Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum to total.

Source:

TDA ITT Trainee Number Census

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what is the cost to the public purse of training for teaching staff at schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249818]

Jim Knight: The requested data are not collected centrally with the required breakdown. However, the total expenditure by local authority maintained schools on development and training for all staff employed at schools and the central local authority expenditure on teacher development for 2007-08 is contained within the following table.

		£
	Expenditure by local authority maintained schools on development and training (E09) for all staff employed at school	*Central local authority expenditure on teacher development*
England (excluding Cumbria LA)	174,611,000	28,542,000
North East Government office region	8,180,000	2,003,000
Tees Valley sub-region	2,346,000	368,000
Of which:		
Darlington LA	320,000	0
Hartlepool LA	320,000	80,000
Middlesbrough LA	410,000	150,000
Redcar and Cleveland LA	450,000	0
Stockton-on-Tees LA	840,000	140,000

Teaching Methods: ICT

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department provided for the Next Generation Learning campaign in the last 12 months; and what funding it has allocated to the campaign for the next three years. [247199]

Jim Knight: The Next Generation Learning campaign sponsored by Becta is designed to raise the awareness of parents or carers, employers and learners of the benefits of the use of technology in education and to drive greater demand for it. It demonstrates how greater engagement with parents or carers can increase a learner's potential, how effective use of technology can improve schools and colleges, and how to ensure children are safe online.

Becta funding for the campaign for the 12 months April 2008 to March 2009 was £3.1 million. Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-2011 has yet to be confirmed but Becta expect this to be in the region of £2.5 million per year. There is no commitment to fund the campaign beyond this period at this time.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils have had *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* more than five unauthorised absences in the latest year for which data are available. [240614]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml.

UK Council for Child Internet Safety

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date the UK Council for Child Internet Safety came into operation; and what funding his Department has allocated to the Council for each of the next three years. [247009]

Beverley Hughes: The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) was launched by the Prime Minister on 29 September and the first meeting of the Council's Executive Board took place on 9 December. The UKCCIS secretariat is currently establishing working groups to take forward the programme of activity agreed by the Executive Board.

DCSF allocated up to £300,000 for the establishment of UKCCIS, although the implementation of the Byron Review relies on building digital safety into planned activities and services that are already funded. Longer term, UKCCIS goals will be achieved through working in partnership with Council members, such as the upcoming 'Know IT All' guide for primary teachers that is funded jointly by the DCSF, Becta and Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA).

Budget allocations for UKCCIS are still to be finalised for the forthcoming year.

Young People: Drugs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* males and *(b)* females under the age of 25 years who used Class A drugs in 2006-07. [247482]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

There are two primary sources of statistics on the use of illicit drugs by young people: the British Crime Survey (which covers England and Wales) and the drug use, smoking and drinking survey among young people in England.

According to the 2006-07 British Crime Survey 10.6 per cent of males and 5.5 per cent. of females aged 16-24 reported using a Class A drug in the last year.

Figures from the most recent smoking, drinking and drug use survey, which was carried out in the autumn school term of 2007, show that 3.8 per cent. of male pupils and 4.2 per cent. of female pupils aged 11-15 years reported using Class A drugs in the previous 12 months.

Youth Services: South East

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budgeted net expenditure on youth services was in the south east *(a)* by each local authority and *(b)* per young person aged between 13 and 19 years in each of the last eight years. [248839]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities receive funding from Government through the revenue support grant for youth services, but it is up to them to decide how much funding should be spent based on Government priorities and local needs. Tables set out the net expenditure for each local authority in the South East per year since 2001.

Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England on Youth Services[1]: 2001-02 to 2008-09[2, 3]. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 14 January 2009

		Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England Government Office Region on Youth Services[1]					
		2001-02[2]		2002-03[3]		2003-04	
LEA number	Local authority name	£[4]	£ per pupil aged 13-19[5]	£[4]	£ per pupil aged 13-19[5]	£[4]	£ per pupil aged 13-19[5]
	England	306,762,000	136	316,288,000	137	343,365,000	147
South East Government Office Region		40,157,000	109	41,990,000	112	47,003,000	122
	Bracknell Forest	758,000	144	651,000	122	923,000	174

Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England on Youth Services[1]: 2001-02 to 2008-09[2, 3]. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 14 January 2009

		Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England Government Office Region on Youth Services[1]					
		2001-02[4]		*2002-03[4]*		*2003-04*	
LEA number	*Local authority name*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*
	Brighton and Hove	771,000	80	770,000	77	902,000	84
	Buckinghamshire	3,163,000	130	2,788,000	113	3,012,000	119
	East Sussex	2,012,000	99	2,071,000	101	2,453,000	117
	Hampshire	4,635,000	97	4,903,000	102	5,243,000	106
	Isle of Wight	1,008,000	159	1,306,000	202	1,287,000	199
	Kent	4,600,000	68	4,980,000	71	6,180,000	86
	Medway	909,000	68	1,130,000	83	1,236,000	88
	Milton Keynes	1,775,000	180	1,935,000	194	1,877,000	183
	Oxfordshire	2,948,000	100	3,104,000	102	3,275,000	105
	Portsmouth	877,000	117	903,000	118	984,000	129
	Reading	1,657,000	293	1,898,000	329	2,064,000	353
	Slough	1,065,000	204	595,000	111	1,043,000	191
	Southampton	956,000	112	973,000	114	1,110,000	129
	Surrey	5,891,000	120	6,723,000	135	7,747,000	151
	West Berkshire	945,000	160	997,000	163	1,129,000	116
	West Sussex	4,171,000	130	4,450,000	135	4,605,000	136
	Windsor and Maidenhead	970,000	112	1,033,000	120	1,088,000	123
	Wokingham	938,000	120	778,000	95	867,000	103

		Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England Government Office Region on Youth Services[1]					
		2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
LEA number	*Local authority name*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*
	England	364,016,000	153	382,466,000	159	403,364,000	166
South East Government Office Region		49,632,000	127	53,760,000	137	56,254,000	142
	Bracknell Forest	920,000	170	1,088,000	196	1,001,000	184
	Brighton and Hove	901,000	96	1,073,000	105	1,029,000	102
	Buckinghamshire	2,935,000	114	2,994,000	115	3,167,000	120
	East Sussex	2,564,000	120	2,332,000	117	2,470,000	113
	Hampshire	5,295,000	106	5,832,000	116	6,524,000	129
	Isle of Wight	1,286,000	197	1,339,000	201	1,231,000	186
	Kent	6,833,000	94	8,568,000	115	9,560,000	128
	Medway	1,442,000	101	1,427,000	99	1,363,000	95
	Milton Keynes	2,062,000	195	2,145,000	198	2,375,000	215
	Oxfordshire	3,503,000	110	3,613,000	112	4,037,000	123
	Portsmouth	1,207,000	159	1,413,000	189	1,383,000	183
	Reading	2,152,000	373	2,070,000	370	1,673,000	300
	Slough	1,108,000	198	1,210,000	211	1,067,000	177
	Southampton	1,251,000	143	1,368,000	162	1,511,000	181
	Surrey	8,252,000	159	8,763,000	168	9,361,000	177
	West Berkshire	1,205,000	121	1,263,000	128	1,351,000	132
	West Sussex	4,701,000	136	4,938,000	143	4,912,000	141
	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,138,000	126	1,203,000	131	1,188,000	130
	Wokingham	877,000	103	988,000	112	1,031,000	123

		Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England Government Office Region on Youth Services[1]			
		2007-08		*2008-09[2]*	
LEA number	*Local authority name*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*	*£[5]*	*£ per pupil aged 13-19[6]*
	England	410,373,000	170	451,393,000	188

Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in the South East of England Government Office Region on Youth Services[1]

LEA number	*Local authority name*	*2007-08* £[4]	*2007-08* £ per pupil aged 13-19[5]	*2008-09[3]* £[4]	*2008-09[3]* £ per pupil aged 13-19[5]
South East Government Office Region		56,144,000	141	55,940,000	143
	Bracknell Forest	968,000	176	1,022,000	170
	Brighton and Hove	1,135,000	111	1,137,000	111
	Buckinghamshire	3,304,000	125	3,857,000	144
	East Sussex	1,941,000	90	2,185,000	101
	Hampshire	6,282,000	126	5,873,000	117
	Isle of Wight	1,336,000	204	1,375,000	212
	Kent	8,843,000	117	8,678,000	103
	Medway	1,437,000	101	1,782,000	128
	Milton Keynes	2,466,000	234	2,783,000	267
	Oxfordshire	4,000,000	120	3,809,000	119
	Portsmouth	1,297,000	171	1,431,000	193
	Reading	1,410,000	257	1,231,000	221
	Slough	1,153,000	184	1,608,000	267
	Southampton	1,749,000	212	1,764,000	221
	Surrey	9,970,000	107	10,024,000	109
	West Berkshire	1,323,000	127	1,374,000	132
	West Sussex	5,250,000	151	5,183,000	149
	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,246,000	136	1,343,000	149
	Wokingham	1,032,000	125	1,020,000	126

[1] Youth service includes the following items of planned expenditure on the Youth Service and youth work:
Employees
Staff Training
Premises related expenditure
Transport related expenditure
Supplies and services
Third-party payments
Support services
Youth work costs at residential and non-residential youth centres
Youth work costs at activity at outdoor and urban studies centres
Grant funding to the voluntary sector for youth work.
Financial data are drawn from local authorities' 2008-09 Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection (Budget) Statements and 2001-02 to 2007-08 Section 52 Budget Statements (Table 1) submitted to the DCSF.
[2] The 2001-02 and 2002-03 figures also include any Local Authority Youth Service provision that contributed to the delivery of the Connexions Service plus any Connexions Service specific funding.
[3] 2008-09 budget data remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.
[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.
[5] The figures for £ per pupil aged 13-19 are derived by dividing the total budgeted net expenditure on youth services by the total number of pupils aged 13-19 in all nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, pupil referral units, independent schools, city technology colleges and academies derived from the January School Census returns made by schools to the Department.

Youth Sport Trust

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated to the Youth Sport Trust over the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [247411]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department is paying grant of £13,460,576 to the Youth Sport Trust for work in connection with the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People in 2008/09. Work in this area for 2009/10 and 2010/11 will be procured through a competitive tendering exercise, for which the Youth Sport Trust will be entitled to bid. Funding for this work will come from total Government funding of £782 million set aside to deliver the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People from 2008 to 2011.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum fine may be imposed by a penalty notice for disorder for (i) possession of cannabis, (ii) being drunk or disorderly in a public place and (iii) using fireworks after curfew. [249534]

Maria Eagle: The penalty which may be imposed by a penalty notice for disorder for the offences of (ii) being drunk and disorderly in a public place and (iii) using fireworks after curfew, is fixed at £80. The penalty for possession of cannabis will also be £80 once the offence comes into force, subject to parliamentary approval.

If no payment is received or court hearing requested within the suspended enforcement period, a fine of £120, one and half times the penalty amount, is registered by the courts.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of penalty notices for disorder which remained unpaid *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months after issue in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [249537]

Maria Eagle: The total number and percentage of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) which were not paid from 2004 to 2007 in England and Wales can be viewed in the table. It is not possible to break down the data further into those which remain unpaid at *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months as this information is not held centrally.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by outcome, England and Wales 2004-07[1, 2]

		Outcome			
	Number issued	*Total paid in full*	*Percentage paid*	*Total unpaid*	*Percentage unpaid*
2004	63,639	33,078	52	30,561	48
2005	146,481	77,247	53	69,234	47
2006	201,197	104,546	52	96,651	48
2007	207,544	106,925	52	100,619	48

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Penalty Notices for Disorder came into force in November 2004.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Cannabis: Penalty Notices

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum quantity of cannabis of which an individual may be found in possession is before it would be considered appropriate to issue a penalty notice for disorder according to his Department's guidelines. [249535]

Maria Eagle: Penalty notices for disorder are not currently available in respect of possession of cannabis. When, subject to parliamentary approval, penalty notices for disorder become available for this offence, the Secretary of State will issue guidance under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 about their appropriate use.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department's consultation on the use of penalty notices for disorder for cannabis possession offences was launched; and to whom the relevant consultation document was sent. [250890]

Maria Eagle: The proposal that cannabis possession should be added to the penalty notice for disorder scheme was made public in October 2008. There was no formal consultation document.

Corporate Manslaughter

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to bring into force immediately the remaining provisions of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007; and if he will make a statement. [249893]

Maria Eagle: With two exceptions, all provisions in the Act were commenced on 6 April 2008. The exceptions are:

Section 2(1) (d) which extends the offence to duties of care relating to those detained at a custodial institution or in a custody area at a court or police station; detained at a removal centre or short-term holding facility; being transported in a vehicle, or being held in any premises, in pursuance of prison escort arrangements or immigration escort arrangements; living in secure accommodation in which they have been placed; and detained patients. The Government are firmly committed to implementing this provision within three to five years from the time that the new offence was commenced. Where implementation can occur sooner with respect to certain organisations, we will put the necessary arrangements in place to achieve this and will keep Parliament updated of any developments in this regard. As stated in our first report to Parliament in July last year, all the custody providers in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland are working towards the provisions being commenced by April 2011.

Section 10 which provides for the court to require a publicity order. We will implement this section following the issue of a guideline from the Sentencing Guidelines Council since this is a new disposal where we felt it important for guidance to be in place from the outset.

Corporate Manslaughter: Prosecutions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* charges and *(b)* convictions there have been in (i) Essex and (ii) England under the provisions of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 since implementation of the Act. [249892]

Maria Eagle: The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force on 6 April 2008 and only applies to offences committed after that date.

Charging data are not held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Prosecution data are normally provided in lieu. Court proceedings data for 2008 will not be available until the autumn of 2009.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff. [249079]

Mr. Malik: HM Court Service has directly operated services for staff at two locations, Barnsley and Nottingham magistrates courts. There are no franchised catering outlets; all other catering provision is through primary catering service providers.

The Ministry of Justice has no franchised catering outlets, but has a number of contracted operations providing a variety of coffee bar, restaurant, hospitality and vending services at six of its headquarter buildings in London.

Similarly, National Offender Management Services (NOMS) has no franchised catering outlets. Contracted catering services are provided at 28 prisons and two headquarter buildings. Central records of directly operated catering outlets are not held. To obtain this information would be at a disproportionate cost as records at each establishment would need to be checked.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245327]

Mr. Wills: The recommendations about data handling within Government that relate to contractors and suppliers are being taken forward in a number of areas across the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

Cabinet Office were updated on 19 September about progress taking forward these recommendations and continuing work to review data security provisions within contracts and to seek the necessary assurances from contractors and suppliers.

The following action has been taken which updates the position reported to Cabinet Office:

> The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) carried out an analysis of their current non IT contracts following receipt of the data security directive. 519 contracts required inclusion of the additional clauses and letters were sent to all suppliers concerned requesting the integration of these new terms and conditions. To date, 66 contractors (13 per cent.) have responded and confirmed that the additional clauses have been integrated into their contracts. The work stream is being monitored on a monthly basis at senior management team level.
>
> The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has asked their suppliers to adopt an approach consistent with Ministry of Justice data handling and security requirements and has amended its Security Aspects Letters (SAL), which sets out these security requirements. To date, three of their four key suppliers have formally adopted the new protocols.
>
> Research unit has 10 contracts in place where suppliers have confirmed compliance with the new data security arrangements and two contracts have been awarded since June 2008 that already include the new security requirements.
>
> Democracy, Constitution and Law have one contract in place that complies with departmental data handling and information security requirements.

Work is continuing with suppliers responsible for non IT contracts awarded by ex DCA Procurement, which includes contracts negotiated for Access to Justice, to put in place a standard contract amendment based on OGC terms. IT suppliers to MOJ (excluding NOMS) have been written to, reminding them of their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and specifically drawing their attention to the two issues that arose in the data handling review: one, the encryption of laptops, and two, restrictions on the use of removable media for transporting personal data. 31 suppliers were contacted and 59 per cent. of those suppliers have confirmed that they are compliant. This includes the two major IT providers.

NOMS ICT supplier contracts have been reviewed, and appropriate standard wording identified to address data security issues. Work is in hand to negotiate these changes with suppliers.

MOJ standard terms and conditions of contract are currently being reviewed and amended to address the data security issues raised by the Hannigan Report. The revised terms will be introduced shortly across the MOJ. In the meantime, standard wording addressing the data security provisions has been issued for inclusion in new contracts awarded prior to the adoption of the new standard terms.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248077]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice does not provide coaching in foreign languages centrally, and does not hold any records on this matter. To obtain the information requested would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations and would thus incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's internal guidance for officials on the drafting of answers to parliamentary questions. [250297]

Mr. Wills: Cabinet Office guidance for civil servants on drafting answers to parliamentary questions was updated on 25 November 2008. A copy of the guidance is in the Library of the House. It can also be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

> www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/pq_guidance.aspx

The Ministry of Justice's internal guidance for answering parliamentary questions was updated and issued on the Department's intranet on 10 December 2008. I will send the hon. Member a copy and also arrange for it to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many forms are required to be completed by a practitioner supervising an individual on a drug rehabilitation requirement. [247564]

Mr. Hanson: Offender managers (OMs) are responsible for supervising offenders subject to a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) of a community order. While there are no nationally prescribed forms which they are required to complete, where orders include a DRR, OMs are required:

in accordance with national guidance and locally agreed protocols, to provide the contracted treatment provider, the prison Counselling, Advice, Referral, Assessment and Throughcare (CARATs) team, the local Criminal Justice Integrated Team (CJIT) and any other relevant authority, e.g. police with such information as is necessary to support the administration of justice, manage risk and ensure that the offender's needs are met; and

where the DRR is subject to periodic review by the court responsible for the order, to complete and submit to the court prior to each review a written report on the offender's progress under the requirement, as specified in legislation, Probation National Standards and related guidance.

More generally, for the effective management of offenders under their supervision and in accordance with the requirements of Probation National Standards, OMs must:

keep an accurate and up to date record of the case, including a contact log, in their local case management system e.g. CRAMS, ICMS;

undertake an Offender Assessment System (OASys) assessment and conduct periodic OASys reviews to assess and manage risk of re-offending and harm and inform sentence planning and risk management;

complete, review and update a sentence plan, which specifies planned interventions and the order in which these will be undertaken, and risk management plan;

provide written information to the court, where an offender is deemed to be in breach of the order or the OM believes that, in view of circumstances which have arisen since it was made, the order should be revoked; and

where appropriate and in accordance with the case transfer instructions (Probation Circular 25/2007), provide specific information, including a full transfer review of OASys, to the receiving probation area to facilitate transfer of the case and apply to the court for amendment of the order.

Medical practitioners providing treatment to or directing the treatment of an individual on a DRR are not required to complete any nationally prescribed forms. However, legislation requires that they provide the supervising officer with their views as to the treatment and testing of the offender and the results of all drug tests for inclusion in the supervising officer's written report on the offender's progress submitted to the court prior to each review of the requirement. Information which probation areas require from treatment providers, including on the offender's attendance, participation and motivation, should be specified in locally agreed protocols.

Drugs: Sentencing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* custodial sentences, *(b)* fines, *(c)* community sentences and *(d)* cautions there were in respect of (i) drug use and (ii) drug dealing in Essex in each of the last five years. [249648]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Number of persons fined, given custodial sentences and community sentences for drug offences[1] in Essex police force area, 2003-07[2]

		Community sentence	*Fine*	*Immediate custody*	*Suspended sentence*	*Cautioned[3]*
2003	Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes	6	3	3	—	5
	Possession of a controlled substance	165	398	42	1	676
	Possession with intent to supply	19	—	55	1	3
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled substance	11	2	20	3	9
2004	Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes	4	1	1	—	1
	Possession of a controlled substance	165	252	28	2	322
	Possession with intent to supply	18	1	42	2	3
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled substance	8		32	2	8
2005	Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes	1	—	—	1	3
	Possession of a controlled substance	180	246	30	3	493
	Possession with intent to supply	26	2	63	7	6
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled substance	8	2	33	4	3
2006	Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes	1	—	1	—	3
	Possession of a controlled substance	117	221	31	11	802
	Possession with intent to supply	16	1	41	20	5
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled substance	12	—	106	28	4
2007	Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes	2	—	—	—	3

Number of persons fined, given custodial sentences and community sentences for drug offences[1] in Essex police force area, 2003-07

	Community sentence	Fine	Immediate custody	Suspended sentence	Cautioned[2]
Possession of a controlled substance	118	133	16	16	1,006
Possession with intent to supply	13	—	59	23	22
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled substance	16	—	55	21	9

[1] Includes all classes of drugs

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings These figures have been included in the totals These data are based on the principle offence basis

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

Source:

OMS Analytical Services. Ministry of Justice

Firearms: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of firearms offences in each year since 1997. [247709]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for firearm offences in England and Wales 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in the table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for firearm offences in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Found guilty
1997	2,691
1998	2,750
1999	2,278
2000	2,080
2001	2,136
2002	2,169
2003	2,275
2004	2,453
2005	2,405
2006	2,613
2007	2,106

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis, Ministry of Justice

Fraud: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for fraud were brought in each of the last five years, broken down by investigating agency; and how many such prosecutions brought by each investigating agency resulted in a conviction in each year. [249926]

Maria Eagle: Data from the Ministry of Justice Courts Proceedings Database showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of offences relating to fraud, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are given, in the following table. Details relating to the investigating agency are not held centrally.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to Fraud[1] England and Wales, 2003-07[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2003	20,787	15,223
2004	19,391	14,960
2005	18,500	14,750
2006	18,312	14,759
2007	19,406	15,619

[1] Includes offences under the following Acts: Theft Act 1968, Companies Act 1985, Common Law and Criminal Justice Act 1987, Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951, Stamp Duties Management Act 1891, Public Stores Act 1875, Agricultural Credits Act 1928, Gaming Act 1845, Law of Property Act 1925, Land Registration Act 1925, Criminal Justice Act 1993, Social Security Administration Act 1992, Computer Misuse Act 1990, Enterprise Act 2002, Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Fraud Act 2006, Land Registration Act 2002, Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914, Insolvency Act 1986, Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Freedom of Information

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 511W, on freedom of information, for what reasons the time taken by Freedom of Information Operation Team 5 to allocate to a complaints officer following receipt between April and September 2008 was 130 days compared to 64 for all Information Commissioner's Office cases. [249511]

Mr. Wills: 64 days is the average time taken for the allocation of any case received by the ICO to a complaints officer, and includes the cases handled by an initial case reception team. Less straightforward cases are passed on to more specialist operational teams.

Once the specialist teams receive a case, the team leader conducts an initial appraisal before it is placed in a queue to be handled by the next available caseworker. The 130 days referred to above is the average time taken between receipt in FOI Operational Team 5 to allocation to a complaints officer in that team.

This information has been provided by the ICO.

I will write to the hon. Member to arrange for more detail to be provided on the ICO's case allocation process.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has attended with Mr. Speaker on the arrest of my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green) and the search of his office; what was discussed; if he will place in the Library a copy of records held by his Department of such meetings; and whether he has received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from the hon. Member for North Essex for this information. [250887]

Mr. Straw: I have not attended any meetings with Mr Speaker on the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green). On 16 January 2009 my Department received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) for this information which will be dealt with in the statutory deadline of 20 working days.

Human Trafficking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what public services are available to people deemed to have been trafficked. [247523]

Maria Eagle: The Government fund the Poppy project to provide specialist support to adult victims of human trafficking. Victims are provided with unconditional intensive support for an initial four-week period, with longer-term term services provided in return for co-operation with a criminal investigation. Victims are offered support with resettlement and have access to compensation through the courts and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. It is also open to victims to apply for protection through existing humanitarian and immigration routes. Eligibility for non-third sector public services is in line with existing immigration policy.

The Government have ratified the Council of Europe Convention Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This will enhance our existing measures by extending the reflection-period to a minimum of 45 days and introducing new renewable one-year residence permits for those co-operating with the authorities. The temporary residence permits will allow recourse to public funds. It will also remain open to victims to apply to stay using the existing human rights and immigration protection routes.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* former Probation Service and *(b)* former Prison Service staff by grade are working in the (i) Reducing Re-offending Operational Policy and Third Sector Partnership Group and (ii) Stakeholder Relations Group under the auspices of the Director of Commissioning and Operational Policy at the National Offender Management Service; [248619]

(2) how many *(a)* former Probation Service and *(b)* former Prison Service staff by grade are working in the (i) Mental Health Unit and (ii) Public Health Group under the auspices of the Director of Offender Health at the National Offender Management Service; [248620]

(3) how many *(a)* former Probation Service and *(b)* former Prison Service staff by grade are working in the (i) Offender Assessment and Management Group, (ii) Interventions and Substance Misuse Group, (iii) Commissioning Women's and Young People's Group, (iv) Offender Employment, Skills and Services Group and (v) Operational Policy Unit under the auspices of the Director of Commissioning and Operational Policy at the National Offender Management Service; [248772]

(4) how many *(a)* former Probation Service staff and *(b)* former Prison Service staff by grade are working in the (i) Public Protection Unit, (ii) Race Equality Advice and Action Group, (iii) Briefing and Casework Unit, (iv) NOMS Management Board, (v) Parliamentary and Correspondents Briefing Unit and (vi) Internal Communications Unit at the National Offender Management Service; [248773]

(5) how many *(a)* former Probation Service staff and *(b)* former Prison Service staff by grade are working in the (i) Children and Young Persons Group, (ii) Women's Health Programme Unit, (iii) Social Care Unit and (iv) Parliamentary Business and Communication Group at the National Offender Management Service; [248775]

(6) how many former *(a)* Probation Service staff and *(b)* Prison Service staff of each grade are working in the Budget Support Unit at the National Offender Management Service. [248776]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of former probation and prison staff that are now employed by each directorate, headquarters group and the National Offender Management Service headquarters broken down by grade, is contained in the following tables.

The information includes a number of staff (792) who are employed in the units specified who were neither former Prison Service or Probation Service staff. These staff were previously employed in the former NOMS HQ.

The new NOMS HQ was formed from all staff from the National Probation Directorate and Prison Service headquarters, as well as staff from the former NOMS HQ. Inevitably the majority were former Prison Service staff. This is because the Probation Service headquarters was significantly smaller as many staff are employed in probation boards and trusts. What matters is that all employees in NOMS HQ recognise that they are now working for a new agency and whatever their past employment history they are focused on public protection and reducing re-offending through integrated offender management.

National Offender Management Service headquarters staffing: As at 31 December 2008

			Prison Service						
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior civil service*	*Senior manager*	*Manager*	*EO and equiv.*	*AO/AA and equiv.*	*OSG and officer grades*	*Others and industrials*	*Total*
Capacity Programme	Estates Planning and Development	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Other Groups/ Units	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Capacity Programme total		1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Offender Assessment and Management Group	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Other Groups/ Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Director General	Briefing and Casework Unit	—	1	16	15	5	—	—	37
	Internal Communications	—	—	4	6	1	—	—	11
	Race Equality Action Group	1	5	17	1	2	1	—	27
	Other Groups/ Units	1	5	7	5	3	—	—	21
Director General total		2	11	44	27	11	1	—	96
Finance and Performance	Audit and Corporate Assurance	1	6	18	7	10	10	—	52
	Commercial and Competitions Unit	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	Financial Control and Accountancy	1	5	21	9	1	—	—	37
	Information and Communication Technology	1	16	28	13	—	—	—	58
	Phoenix Shared Service Centre	1	30	252	287	340	112	12	1,034
	Procurement	1	7	17	8	—	—	4	37
	Programmes and Project Management Group	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
	Strategy and Effectiveness Group	1	7	20	3	2	6	—	39
	Other Groups/ Units	2	20	80	61	59	1	42	265
Finance and Performance total		8	91	436	390	413	129	58	1,525
High Security Directorate total		2	23	46	18	25	32	—	146
HR total		7	77	105	28	20	14	—	251

National Offender Management Service headquarters staffing: As at 31 December 2008

		Prison Service							
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior civil service*	*Senior manager*	*Manager*	*EO and equiv*	*AO/AA and equiv*	*OSG and officer grades*	*Others and industrials*	*Total*
Chief Operating Officer	Area Offices, ROMs, DOMs and Area Teams	11	91	214	42	137	79	377	951
	Financial Management Unit	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	5
	Office of National Commissioning	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
	Performance Delivery	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Public Protection Unit	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	4
	Other Groups/ Units	2	24	53	13	9	16	1	118
Chief Operating Officer total		13	118	273	58	146	96	378	1,082
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Commissioning, Women and Young Peoples Group	2	21	38	12	3	10	—	86
	Interventions Group and Substance Misuse	—	20	59	8	14	2	—	103
	Offender Employment Skills and Services Group	1	11	53	8	11	—	1	85
	Operational Policy Unit	—	2	3	2	—	—		7
	Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group	1	5	7	4	5	—	—	22
	Other Groups/ Units	2	9	13	3	8	1	1	37
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		6	68	173	37	41	13	2	340
Offender Health		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total		39	391	1,078	558	656	285	438	3,445

		Probation								
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior civil service*	*Senior manager*	*Manager*	*EO and equiv*	*AO/AA and equiv*	*OSG and officer grades*	*Total*	*Former NOMS HQ*	*NOMS HQ total*
Capacity Programme	Estates Planning and Development	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	31
	Other Groups/ Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	87	89
Capacity Programme total		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	117	120
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Offender Assessment and Management Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	23
	Other Groups/ Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	26

		Probation								
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior civil service*	*Senior manager*	*Manager*	*EO and equiv.*	*AO/AA and equiv.*	*OSG and officer grades*	*Total*	*Former NOMS HQ*	*NOMS HQ total*
Director General	Briefing and Casework Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	38
	Internal Communications	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
	Race Equality Action Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	29
	Other Groups/ Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	28
Director General total		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	106
Finance and Performance	Audit and Corporate Assurance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	76
	Commercial and Competitions Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	47
	Financial Control and Accountancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	49
	Information and Communication Technology	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	102
	Phoenix Shared Service Centre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,035
	Procurement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	42
	Programmes and Project Management Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Strategy and Effectiveness Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40
	Other Groups/ Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	322
Finance and Performance total		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	190	1,715
High Security Directorate total		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	148
HR total		1	6	7	3	1	—	18	14	283
Chief Operating Officer	Area Offices, ROMs, DOMs and Area Teams	6	25	18	18	11	5	83	1	1,035
	Financial Management Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Office of National Commissioning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70	72
	Performance Delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Public Protection Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	177	181
	Other Groups/ Units	1	6	2	3	—	—	12	132	262
Chief Operating Officer total		7	31	20	21	11	5	95	380	1,557
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Commissioning Women and Young Peoples Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	93

		Probation								
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior civil service*	*Senior manager*	*Manager*	*EO and equiv.*	*AO/AA and equiv.*	*OSG and officer grades*	*Total*	*Former NOMS HQ*	*NOMS HQ total*
	Interventions Group and Substance Misuse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	134
	Offender Employment Skills and Services Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	91
	Operational Policy Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10
	Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	25
	Other Groups/ Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	42
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	395
Offender Health		[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Grand total		8	37	27	24	112	5	113	792	4,350

[1] These staff are employed by the Department of Health and are therefore not included in NOMS HQ figures. They are not former Prison Service or Probation Service staff.

Notes:

1. Reducing Re-offending Operational Policy and Third Sector Partnership Group, Stakeholder Relations Group; NOMS Management Board and Parliamentary and Correspondents Briefing Unit are not recorded separately on the database. These staff are included within the Other Groups totals in the table.
2. Staff have been allocated as either Prison Service, Probation Service or former NOMS HQ based on their unit immediately prior to the creation of the new NOMS HQ No account is taken of experience before that, either in the Prison Service or Probation Service.

Prisoners Release

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the pilot on the use of FP10 prescriptions for those leaving prison will be assessed; and when the Prison Service plans to introduce the use of FP10 prescriptions for those leaving prison on a prescription. [247565]

Mr. Hanson: The initial pathfinder sites for the use of FP10 prescriptions for prisoners leaving custody have been under continual review. Regional offender health teams have earlier this month been asked to nominate a further 12 sites to build experience in each region prior to national roll-out.

Prisoners: Women

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prisoners gave birth whilst in prison and subsequently *(a)* requested and *(b)* requested and were refused a place in a mother and baby unit in each of the last five years. [249509]

Mr. Hanson: The numbers of prisoners who have given birth while serving their custodial sentence since April 2005, when the Prison Service began collecting figures centrally, are as follows:

	Number
April 2008-December 2008	75
April 2007-March 2008	102
April 2006-March 2007	99
April 2005-March 2006	106

From June 2007 (the earliest date for which information is currently available) until March 2008, 221 applications were made for places in a mother and baby unit, and 10 of these applications were refused; and from April 2008 until December 2008, 178 such applications were made and 14 were refused. There is no available breakdown of these figures to show whether the baby in each case was born before or after the mother was received into prison. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prisoners *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were refused a place in a mother and baby unit for a baby born before they were received into prison in each of the last five years. [249510]

Mr. Hanson: While the National Offender Management Service keeps figures for the number of female prisoners who *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were refused a place in a mother and baby unit, there is no available breakdown of those figures to show whether the baby in each case was born before or after the mother was received into prison. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Drugs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms the Prison Service has in place to ensure continuity of care for people on a methadone or other opiate substitution prescription leaving prison. [247566]

Mr. Hanson: Continuity of methadone or other opioid substitute treatments is initiated by prison-based healthcare professionals either directly with community colleagues or via the Drug Interventions Programme team. The Drug Interventions Programme includes access to rapid prescribing to avoid breaks in treatment.

Prisons: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many adult *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners there are detained in prisons in Wales. [250800]

Mr. Hanson: At 30 November 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 2,259 adult male prisoners who were detained in prison establishments in Wales (Cardiff, Parc, Swansea and Usk/Prescoed). The figure provided excludes young adults aged 18 to 20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult prison population.

There are currently no female prison establishments in Wales.

These figures are a reworking to allow for the request for adults only of those published in Table 4 of the publication 'Population in custody monthly tables November 2008 England and Wales', and can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

This is updated monthly.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places for adult *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners there are in prisons in Wales. [250802]

Mr. Hanson: There are 2,392 places for adult male prisoners in Wales and there are currently no places for adult female prisoners in Wales.

The Ministry of Justice has been actively seeking potential sites for new prisons in Wales and a shortlist of four possible sites has been drawn up. An announcement regarding the final decision on the location of the new prison is expected shortly

Probation Service: Voluntary Work

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has made an assessment for benchmarking purposes of the Japanese system of recruitment of volunteer probation officers; and if he will make a statement. [250588]

Mr. Hanson: No formal assessment of the Japanese system of recruitment of volunteer probation officers has been conducted. It is not the intention of the Government to adopt it.

Probation officers in England and Wales are required by law to be fully qualified to undertake the role of a probation officer. Currently this means that they undertake a two year training programme and work towards a Degree in Probation Studies.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to increase awareness of the public and the judiciary of offender programmes in the community and prison which have the effect of reducing reoffending. [248667]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service will continue to provide information and advice to stakeholders including the police and judiciary about offender programmes. There is regular liaison between senior members of the judiciary and of the Ministry of Justice, including through the "National Sentencer Probation Forum", which promotes communication between sentencers and offender managers and at which there is an open exchange of knowledge, views and experience of what is effective and practical in helping to reduce crime. Work is also undertaken at a local level where liaison can prove particularly effective.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of reductions in reoffending that have been achieved by offender behaviour programmes among those in *(a)* the community and *(b)* custody. [247517]

Mr. Hanson: Reoffending is measured as a rate rather than in terms of numbers of offences or offenders. Frequency of reoffending per 100 offenders is now the main measure of reoffending.

(a) There are positive indications that offender behaviour programmes may be effective in reducing reoffending for offenders in the community. For example, Offender Management and Sentencing Analytical Services (OMSAS) conducted an analysis on accredited programmes in the community (Hollis, 2007). It compared actual reoffending rates in 2006 with rates predicted on the basis of 2004 data. The reoffending rate for all offenders who had undertaken interventions was 55 per cent., based on a two-year reconviction rate. Programme completers did statistically significantly better than those who did not start or who dropped-out of programmes. The rates were 38 per cent., 61 per cent. and 64 per cent. respectively. This analysis of management information, however, cannot determine whether these differences result from programme impact.

(b) There is considerable international evidence (Wilson et al. 2005; Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2006) to support the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural programmes in reducing reoffending. However, UK research examining the effectiveness of programmes in prisons has produced mixed results (Friendship et al. 2002; Falshaw et al. 2003; Cann et al. 2003).

A recent prison-based study showed that the one-year reconviction rate for both adult men and young offenders who had completed enhanced thinking skills (ETS) and reasoning and rehabilitation (R+R) interventions in prison represented a positive 2.5 percentage points difference in reconviction for adult male completers (17.0 per cent. vs. 19.5 per cent.) and a 4.1 percentage point difference for young offender completers (31.4 per cent. vs. 35.5 per cent.) compared to matched comparison groups. There was no difference in reconviction rates between programme starters and comparison groups. See tables 3 and 4:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/r226.pdf

A study of female participants of ETS and R&R (Cann, 2006) found no statistically significant differences in one and two-year rates between offenders and a matched comparison group. See:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/r276.pdf.

The most robust evaluation of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) in England and Wales (Friendship et al, 2003) examined the impact of the prison-based programme. This compared two-year reconviction rates for prisoners who participated in the programme with those who did not. Findings indicated that the SOTP had an impact on reconvictions for sexual and/or violent offences (as a combined measure).

OMS Analytical Services and NOMS are working closely with the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) to develop further outcome evaluation study proposals.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of reductions in reoffending that have been achieved by the drug programme among those in *(a)* the community and *(b)* custody. [247518]

Mr. Hanson: Recent international reviews analysing large numbers of evaluations of drug treatment programmes have concluded that, on average, drug treatment programmes reduce reoffending[1].

(a) For offences committed on or after 4 April 2005, the Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced the community order which replaced all previous community sentences, including community rehabilitation orders (CROs) and drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs), for adult offenders. Under the Act, the court may impose a community order with a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR). No robust assessment has been made to date of DRRs' effect on reducing reoffending, however research[2] concluded that DTTOs can reduce spending on drugs and reoffending, although it was not possible to determine to what extent these changes were due to the DTTO or whether other factors also contributed.

(b) The evaluations to date of drug treatment programmes in prisons in the UK is limited, but suggest that these programmes can reduce reoffending[3].

Prisoners who completed the 12-step RAPt programme had statistically significantly lower rates of reconviction after two years than a comparison group (40 per cent. versus 50 per cent.)—although there may be selection bias[4] here.

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[1] Washington State Institute for Public Policy (2006). Evidence-Based Adult Corrections Programs: What Works and What Does Not.—Washington State Institute for Public Policy. (Available online at: www.wsipp.wa.gov)

Holloway, K., Bennett, T. and Farrington, D. (2005). The effectiveness of criminal justice and treatment programmes in reducing drug-related crime: a systematic review. Home Office Online Report 26/05. London: Home Office.

[2] Hough, M., Clancy, A., McSweeney, T. and Turnbull, P. (2003). The impact of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders on Offending: two year reconviction results. Home Office Research Findings 184. London: Home Office.

Turnbull, P., McSweeney, T., Webster, R., Edmunds, M. and Hough, M. (2000) Drug treatment and testing orders—Final Evaluation Report. Home Office Research Study 212. London: Home Office

[3] Ramsay, M. (ed) (2003). Prisoners' Drug Use and Treatment: Seven Research Studies. Home Office Research Study 267. London: Home Office.

Martin, C. and Player, E. (2000). Drug Treatment in Prison: An Evaluation of the RAPt Treatment Programme. Winchester: Waterside Press.

[4] Selection bias is a distortion of evidence or data that arise from the way that the data are collected.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of the *(a)* sentence handed down to and *(b)* period served in custody prior to being released on home detention curfew was by each prisoner sentenced for (i) murder, (ii) manslaughter, (iii) violence, broken down by specific offence, (iv) sexual offences, (v) robbery, (vi) burglary, (vii) theft and handling, (viii) fraud and forgery and (vix) drugs offences was in each year since 1999. [250391]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables show the average determinate sentence length for custodial sentences given in each year from 1999 to 2007 by offence group. These figures exclude those serving indeterminate sentences (which includes all those sentenced for murder). Prisoners serving indeterminate sentences are not eligible for HDC.

Details on the period served in custody prior to release on home detention curfew (HDC) could be provided only by examining individual prisoner records at disproportionate cost. However information is available on the number of prisoners released on HDC in each year from 1999 to 2007 by offence group, as shown in the following tables. These figures can be found in Prison Statistics England and Wales, 1999 to 2002 and Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003 to 2007, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and also on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The most serious violent offenders and all sexual offenders are either statutorily excluded or are presumed unsuitable for release on HDC.

85 per cent. of those released have completed their period of HDC successfully. Only 4 per cent. of the total number of offenders released onto HDC over the entirety of the scheme has re-offended while on HDC.

Home Detention Curfew release by offence group[1], 1999 to 2007, England and Wales

	1999			2000			2001		
	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)
Total	49,596	14,939	30	55,344	15,533	28	54,064	13,677	25

Home Detention Curfew release by offence group[1], 1999 to 2007, England and Wales

	1999			2000			2001		
	Population in sentence length band	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*
Violence	6,788	2,577	38	7,875	2,990	38	8,121	2,854	35
Sexual offences	1,120	24	2	1,326	29	2	1,197	17	1
Robbery	1,740	598	34	2,057	689	33	2,146	631	29
Burglary	7,940	1,444	18	9,114	1,387	15	8,415	1,072	13
Theft and handling	9,335	2,004	21	11,623	2,009	17	11,293	1,771	16
Fraud and forgery	2,109	1,291	61	2,055	1,264	62	2,136	1,149	54
Drug offences	4,271	2,409	56	4,403	2,440	55	4,249	2,219	52
Motoring offences	7,851	1,919	24	9,070	1,748	19	9,512	1,500	16
Other[2]	8,442	2,673	32	7,741	2,969	38	6,995	2,464	35

	2002			2003			2004		
	Population in sentence length band	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*
Total	55,370	20,525	37	57,551	21,223	37	55,810	19,294	35
Violence	8,235	3,693	45	8,740	3,564	41	9,079	3,160	35
Sexual offences	1,193	20	2	1,238	8	1	1,160	6	1
Robbery	2,376	916	39	2,877	1,257	44	2,517	959	38
Burglary	8,577	2,022	24	8,310	2,066	25	7,044	1,672	24
Theft and handling	11,524	2,797	24	11,067	2,817	25	9,804	2,628	27
Fraud and forgery	2,159	1,262	59	2,210	1,133	51	2,468	1,225	50
Drug offences	4,323	2,683	62	4,397	2,782	63	3,989	2,422	61
Motoring offences	9,817	3,801	39	7,680	4,158	54	9,814	3,874	39
Other[2]	7,166	3,331	47	11,032	3,438	31	9,936	3,348	34

	2005			2006			2007		
	Population in sentence length band	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*
Total	54,616	17,296	32	52,987	13,666	26	53,835	11,428	21
Violence	10,064	3,204	32	9,840	2,490	25	10,397	2,118	20
Sexual offences	1,236	2	0	1,203	0	0	1,180	0	0
Robbery	2,451	901	37	2,284	709	31	2,520	694	28
Burglary	6,334	1,298	20	6,168	1,069	17	6,347	945	15
Theft and handling	8,846	2,107	24	8,679	1,705	20	8,227	1,380	17
Fraud and forgery	2,833	1,287	45	3,243	1,169	36	3,196	917	29
Drug offences	4,338	2,509	58	4,296	2,347	55	4,381	2,106	48
Motoring offences	8,517	3,046	36	6,984	1,923	28	5,569	1,290	23
Other[2]	9,997	2,942	29	10,290	2,254	22	12,018	1,978	16

[1] Offence recorded on prison IT system. Investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded on this system do not relate to the offence they were released on HDC for but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.

[2] Includes the offence of bigamy.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] at all courts by offence group, 1997 to 2007

Months

		Violence against the person[2]	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft and handling stolen goods*	*Fraud and forgery*	*Criminal damage*	*Drug offences*	*Manslaughter*
All ages	1999	15.0	37.5	15.7	35.7	4.5	8.5	15.5	28.7	59.0
	2000	15.0	38.7	15.9	36.1	4.2	8.7	14.9	30.1	59.0
	2001	15.9	37.7	16.6	35.4	4.2	8.6	15.9	32.5	58.4
	2002	16.6	39.6	17.5	38.9	4.1	8.4	16.4	34.5	66.2
	2003	18.0	40.0	17.1	39.3	4.2	8.7	16.5	35.2	62.8
	2004	17.9	39.9	17.5	38.4	4.3	9.2	16.7	37.3	65.0
	2005	17.1	41.5	17.4	35.0	4.3	10.3	15.1	35.8	55.8
	2006	16.1	41.0	17.1	32.3	4.3	10.9	12.9	33.8	66.4
	2007	16.2	42.9	16.7	31.3	4.1	10.0	12.6	31.9	61.6

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[2] Excluding manslaughter.

Young Offender Institutions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the consequences of the absence of lock-out times in the juvenile estate, with particular reference to its effect on the number of late arrivals at young offender institutions. [247747]

Mr. Hanson: "Latest Reception" and "Reception Closing" times are locally agreed by all Prison Governors and Area Managers—including those in the juvenile estate—and communicated to escort contractors. Contractors incur performance measures for failing to deliver prisoners before receptions close. These performance measures can translate into financial payments if contractors are unable to demonstrate that the reasons for the failure are outside their control. Generally, the minority of young people who arrive later than the agreed time are nonetheless admitted to the establishment because of the emphasis placed on the primary need to safeguard vulnerable young people.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Brazil: Overseas Investment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of direct foreign investment by UK companies in Brazil has been for each year since 2001. [250122]

Mr. Thomas: The Office for National Statistics estimates of net UK foreign direct investment flows to Brazil are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2001	352
2002	17
2003	786
2004	386
2005	48
2006	354
2007	721

The ONS estimated that the book value of net UK direct investment in Brazil was worth about £3,789 million at the end of 2007.

Sources:

ONS foreign direct investment First Release and MA4.

Brazil: Overseas Trade

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of goods *(a)* exported to and *(b)* imported from Brazil has been in each year since 2001. [250123]

Mr. Thomas: The data requested are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Brazil	*UK imports of goods from Brazil*
2001	808	1,279
2002	880	1,365
2003	825	1,477
2004	789	1,545
2005	836	1,740
2006	918	1,905
2007	1,100	2,059

Source:

UK Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2008 edition

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of EU institutions on the introduction of targets relating to the provisions of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and if he will make a statement. [248843]

Ian Pearson: BERR officials have had informal discussions with European Commission officials regarding the proposed amendments to the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive. It is anticipated that the Commission's Working Group negotiations will begin during the Swedish presidency in the second half of 2009. We will be consulting with UK stakeholders in the near future on the range of proposals being presented.

Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the Government's manufacturing strategy to increase support to manufacturing industry in light of the current financial situation; and if he will make a statement. [248844]

Ian Pearson: The Government launched their new Manufacturing Strategy in September last year. It focuses on what the sector needs for success in the long-term—including seizing the opportunities of the low carbon economy, supporting skills, realising overseas opportunities, and improving the perception and understanding of manufacturing.

It builds on existing areas of support such as R and D tax credits, the Technology Programme, and the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). MAS is monitoring the situation for small manufacturing companies and responding flexibly with suitable advice to help companies. We are also piloting increased support for MAS in the west midlands.

The Government are also taking steps to help businesses through the current economic downturn to boost capital and liquidity in the market. Key measures include the reduction in VAT, the introduction of a new Enterprise Finance Guarantee to support up to £1.3 billion of bank lending, a separate £10 billion guarantee facility to support further working capital bank lending, a £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund to convert businesses' debt into equity, and £25 million of regional funds.

In the longer term, we are ensuring that the policies within the Manufacturing Strategy work to bolster UK manufacturing and deliver the foundations of 21st Century success such as world-leading R and D and a highly skilled work force.

New Businesses

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many newly incorporated *(a)* hotels, *(b)* restaurants, *(c)* bars and *(d)* bed and breakfast establishments were registered with Companies House in each of the last five years. [240652]

Ian Pearson: The number of hotels, restaurants and bars incorporated each year since 2003 is shown in the following table. The figures are based on the Standard Industrial Classification code shown on the annual return. No figures are available for companies incorporated in 2008, as they have not yet filed their first annual return. There is no SIC code for bed and breakfast establishments.

	Hotels	*Restaurants*	*Bars*
2003	1,067	4,331	2,514
2004	775	3,471	1,823
2005	696	3,644	1,804
2006	1,042	3,670	1,938
2007	821	2,922	1,415

Overseas Trade

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between the UK and *(a)* India, *(b)* China, *(c)* Russia, *(d)* Brazil, *(e)* EU member states and *(f)* the USA was in each of the last 10 years. [250817]

Mr. Thomas: The data requested are shown in the following tables.

£ million

	UK exports of goods and services to:					
	India	*China*	*Russia*	*Brazil*	*EU27*	*USA*
1998	1,730	1,163	1,373	1,326	•	36,789
1999	1,971	1,667	829	1,117	132,320	41,929
2000	2,611	1,917	1,083	1,125	146,177	48,550
2001	2,447	2,300	1,363	1,200	151,256	48,455
2002	2,390	2,217	1,562	1,201	153,043	50,887
2003	3,006	2,813	2,153	1,160	153,157	52,649
2004	3,234	3,645	2,368	1,101	157,687	54,379
2005	3,959	4,203	2,992	1,208	171,227	55,445
2006	4,314	4,675	3,718	1,402	206,185	60,899
2007	4,647	5,224	4,960	1,538	187,114	64,195

£ million

	UK imports of goods and services from:					
	India	*China*	*Russia*	*Brazil*	*EU27*	*USA*
1998	1,936	3,035	1,588	1,023	[1]—	36,372
1999	2,099	3,650	1,461	1,066	142,132	37,113
2000	2,315	5,118	1,684	1,288	153,000	41,621
2001	2,633	6,116	2,265	1,510	164,659	42,848
2002	2,620	7,222	2,246	1,616	176,646	38,552
2003	2,911	8,805	2,757	1,653	180,418	37,719
2004	3,387	10,946	4,006	1,762	188,040	37,430
2005	4,100	13,658	5,558	2,002	208,586	38,515
2006	4,730	16,048	6,466	2,168	236,327	42,313
2007	5,604	19,682	6,107	2,341	223,976	44,243

[1] For technical reasons associated with European Union enlargement, consistent figures for UK trade with the EU27 are not published for 1998. Some of the data were affected by transactions associated with missing trader VAT fraud, notably with the EU in the first half of 2006.

Source:

UK Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2008 edition, Table 9.2

Wines

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures his Department is taking to promote the production and commercial sale of English wines. [249516]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The area of vines planted in England is increasing in response to market demand. However, this increase is not yet being reflected in a substantial increase in English wine production due to the time lag for newly planted vines to become productive, and also because the wet weather of the past two summers has resulted in a lower production from existing vines.

In the recent reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) regime for wine, the UK successfully negotiated a derogation that will allow the English wine sector to continue to expand without the threat of our plantings being capped by the controls that exist in the main EU wine production countries. This outcome was warmly welcomed by the English wine industry. The reform also provides for the UK to establish a national programme to assist the development of our domestic wine industry. After consulting with the industry, further funding is being provided through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to establish training programmes to help upskill this rapidly developing sector. The English wine industry is also able to access funds from the RDPE for a range of other activities and a number of applications have already been approved.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Lighting

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely effect on UK carbon dioxide emissions of replacing all UK household lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lamps. [242481]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme estimates that by using only compact florescent lamps (CFLs) UK homes could yield annual savings in the order of just under 3 $MtCO_2$, some 2 per cent. of the total CO_2 emissions from UK households in 2006.

European member states agreed on 8 December 2008 a draft measure under the Eco-design of the Energy-using Products Directive to set mandatory efficiency requirements on light bulbs that will result in a phase out of incandescent lamps by September 2012 and removal of the least-efficient halogen lamps by 2016. After this date, only the most efficient halogen lamps, CFLs and lamps based on emerging light emitting diode technologies will remain.

The European Commission is developing a further measure to set efficiency requirements on directional spot lamps commonly used in UK homes.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied his Department since its inception; and how much was paid to each of those suppliers. [248796]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC staff in 3-8 Whitehall Place, Atholl House and temporary accommodation in 1 Victoria street and Ergon House at present make use of the BERR and DEFRA catering services in these premises, the arrangements for which will be covered in BERR's and DEFRA's answers to this question.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department provides for staff. [249073]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. Catering arrangements for DECC premises have not yet been determined. DECC staff in 3-8 Whitehall Place, Atholl House and temporary accommodation in 1 Victoria street and Ergon House at present make use of the BERR and DEFRA catering services in those premises.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers has been since its inception. [243575]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 870W.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes since its inception. [248719]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not made any expenditure on staff reward and recognition schemes since its inception on 3 October 2008.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many bonuses have been awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department in each year since its inception; and what was spent on such bonuses. [249854]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No bonuses have been awarded to senior civil servants working at the Department of Energy and Climate change since the Department's inception on 3 October 2008.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department's central media and communication unit has spent on public surveys since its inception. [247915]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Energy

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of a joint initiative undertaken by Kettering Borough Council and E.ON to reduce domestic energy consumption and the potential for a national scheme. [250490]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* I welcome the initiative by Kettering borough council and E.ON, which involves trialling smart meters with the aim of reducing energy consumption.

The Government have made clear that they support the provision of smart meters as a means not only of reducing energy consumption but also of providing benefits to consumers and energy markets. We therefore announced on 28 October 2008 an intention to mandate the provision of smart meters to all households.

Energy Supply: EU Action

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on the liberalisation of the energy market in the European Union. [250699]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend attended the Energy Council in Brussels on 10 October which agreed a Common Position on the texts of the legislation proposed in the Commission's third liberalisation package. The package is currently undergoing a Second Reading, with discussions taking place within the Council at official level. The third package is expected to be adopted by the middle of the year.

Heating: Housing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will estimate the percentage of fuel above that required to heat a house in Bristol which is required to heat identical houses in *(a)* Edinburgh, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Aberdeen, *(d)* Dundee, *(e)* Lerwick, *(f)* Braemar and *(g)* Stornoway; and if he will make a statement; [247875]

(2) how much fuel above that required to heat a typical semi-detached house in Bristol with *(a)* gas central heating and *(b)* non-white meter electronic heating it takes to heat a similar house in (i) Braemar, (ii) Lerwick, (iii) Aberdeen, (iv) Edinburgh, (v) Dundee, (vi) Glasgow and (vii) Stornoway, using the data contained in the climatic severity index. [247876]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* No data are available at the required level of detail but the BREDEM model (which estimates domestic energy consumption and is produced by the Building Research Establishment) provides a more general comparison.

According to this model, it requires around 25 per cent. more fuel to heat a house to equivalent internal temperature in Eastern Scotland, compared with an identical home in the Severn region.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding is available to people between the ages of 60 and 70 years to help them insulate their homes; for what reasons 70 is the age at which people can claim the maximum level of such funding; and if he will make a statement. [248484]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Warm Front is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty in the private sector in England for vulnerable householders. It is administered and managed by Eaga plc. on behalf of the Government. The scheme provides grants for specified heating and insulation measures up to £2,700 in value (£4,000 where the work includes installation of an oil fired central heating system). Pensioners in receipt of qualifying benefits (such as pension credit) are eligible to full assistance under the scheme.

Under the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT), energy suppliers are required to offer substantial discounts for key insulation measures, such as loft insulation and cavity wall insulation. Subject to survey of a property, suppliers are currently offering all households without insulation at least 50 per cent. discount from the Energy Saving Trust guide price for insulation measures.

For reasons of equity, we oblige suppliers to meet 40 per cent. of their CERT in a priority group of vulnerable and low-income households. This means anyone over 70 years, or those in receipt of qualifying benefits (e.g. income, pension benefit) including those over 60 years. To meet their targets, suppliers currently offer priority groups such measures at little or no cost, subject to survey. People over 70 years are statistically shown to be increasingly at risk of falling into fuel poverty, and are therefore included in the priority group definition.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government has spent on legal fees relating to claims made by miners with osteoarthritis of the knee caused by their work in mines in each of the last five years. [248518]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's legal fees in respect of claims made by miners for osteoarthritis of the knee are shown in the following table.

	Cost (£)
2004	157,866
2005	388,735
2006	1,111,367
2007	1,009,225
2008[1]	1,407,676
Total	4,074,871

[1] Figures are up to November 2008.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letters of 14 October 2008 and 28 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare on behalf of his constituent, Mrs. Marion Woore. [248006]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to the hon. Member on 20 January 2009 and apologised for the delay.

Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average number of days of gas supply in storage in December of each year since 2005. [249094]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The amount of gas supply in storage at a given point in time cannot meaningfully be assessed in terms of days as stored gas is not used on its own to meet GB demand.

The following table summarises the average stock level of gas in GB storage sites in December of each year since 2005.

	Average December stock level (Billion cubic metres)
2005	3.3
2006	3.9
2007	3.5
2008	3.5

Source:
National Grid.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many days of gas supply were added to gas stocks by gas storage projects which became operational in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007; and how many days of gas supply he expects to be added to gas stocks by gas storage projects planned for 2009. [249309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The amount of gas supply in storage at a given point in time cannot meaningfully be assessed in terms of days as stored gas is not used on its own to meet UK demand.

13 mcm (million cubic metres) of capacity were added as part of an expansion to the Hole House Farm facility in 2007. No new storage facilities became operational in 2007 and 2008.

In 2009, the first stages of the Aldbrough facility are expected to become operational. The total new capacity at the site is expected to be 370 mcm.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity has been generated from renewable sources in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [248437]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Electricity generation from renewable sources in each of the last 10 years is given in the following table:

	Electricity generation (GWh)
1998	8,648
1999	9,616
2000	9,914
2001	9,549
2002	11,127
2003	10,600
2004	14,147
2005	16,940
2006	18,116
2007	19,664

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Table 7.4

In the first four years of this period, before the Renewables Obligation was introduced in 2002, growth was at an average annual rate of 6.5 per cent. Over the next five years the average annual rate of growth was almost double this at 12.1 per cent.

Renewable Energy: Domestic Waste

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the potential contribution of energy generation from domestic waste towards meeting the UK's renewable energy targets. [247903]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In its consultation on a renewable energy strategy, published in June 2008, the Government reported that an estimated 9 million tonnes of waste food, and 6 million tonnes of waste wood, were landfilled each year, with a combined energy value of 42 TWh. Very approximately half of the food waste and one fifth of the wood are thought to come from household sources.

Renewables Obligation: Plastics

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the full inclusion of plastics in the Renewable Obligations Certificate system. [247902]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no record of any such representations.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the rebate for contractors participating in the Warm Front Scheme is withheld for administration costs. [248314]

Joan Ruddock: The rebate scheme, which began in 2006, provides pensioners who do not qualify for assistance under the Warm Front Scheme with a £300 voucher which may be used for heating work. All installers must be registered with Eaga plc., who administer the scheme on DECC's behalf.

Each voucher comprises a £50 administrative charge which will be deducted from the payment made to the installer when they submit a voucher for payment.

Wylfa Power Station

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects Wylfa nuclear power station to cease to generate electricity. [249981]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 21 January 2009]*: The current closure date for generation at Wylfa is April 2010. However, I am advised by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority that there are improving prospects of running the nuclear power station beyond its scheduled closure date. The NDA's current planning assumption is that the plant will be able to generate until December 2010 and they expect shortly to seek the appropriate regulatory approval to extend generation to this date. I am further advised that there may be opportunities to extend generation beyond this date and that the options are being studied closely to ensure that this opportunity is maintained.

HEALTH

AIDS: Screening

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce an oral swab for diagnosing acquired immune deficiency syndrome to effect rapid diagnosis. [250128]

Dawn Primarolo: Testing for HIV antibodies using oral swabs is available in England as a point of care test, used in particular outside health care settings. Results are not as reliable as tests using blood, and any individual testing positive using an oral swab test would be referred for confirmatory testing in a genito-urinary medicine clinic.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average recorded ambulance response time for *(a)* the town of Bridlington and *(b)* England was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [250725]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on average ambulance response times is not collected centrally. Data on performance against ambulance response time targets at ambulance trust level are published annually by the Information Centre in the statistical bulletin Ambulance Services England. The latest bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England 2007-08", has already been placed in the Library and is available at the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-andperformance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2007-08

Aphasia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with aphasia in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249846]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of people with aphasia.

Asthma

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the incidence of *(a)* asthma and *(b)* asthma in children; and if he will publish details of the incidence of asthma by parliamentary constituency; [249780]

(2) what information his Department holds on the incidence of asthma at *(a)* council ward level, *(b)* polling district and *(c)* other level of disaggregation; and if he will make a statement. [249781]

Ann Keen: Information on the incidence of asthma is not collected centrally.

Back Pain: Medical Treatments

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that manual therapies recommended in draft guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for the treatment of lower back pain are available on the NHS. [249551]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet published its final clinical guideline on the acute management of patients with chronic (longer than six weeks) non-specific low back pain. In the absence of NICE guidance, we expect local national health service organisations to decide which treatments they will fund based on the available evidence.

Cancer: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national communication campaign to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol in relation to cancer risk factors; and how much longer he expects the campaign to continue. [248456]

Dawn Primarolo: The national communications campaign to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol, launched in May 2008, featured two phases. The campaign messages were delivered across television, press, outdoor, radio and online channels. Phase 1 focused on improving people's knowledge of how many units of alcohol are in the alcoholic drinks they consume, while phase 2 focused on improving people's understanding of the link between their alcohol consumption and their health.

Initial assessment of the campaign shows that there is an increased agreement, from 77 to 82 per cent. that we tend to drink more than is good for us. This has clearly been influenced by the campaign as for those aware of the campaign, this figure rises to 85 per cent., while for those not aware of the campaign, this figure is 72 per cent.

The second wave of campaign tracking will be available shortly and may provide more information on how the campaign has improved the public's understanding of alcohol-related health risks.

We intend that this campaign should be sustained over a number of years. The units campaign will continue in 2009-10, with the key tasks to optimise the units messaging and to communicate the health harms associated with drinking to higher risk groups.

Care Quality Commission: Public Consultation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of the consultation document have been downloaded from the website of the Care Quality Commission since its consultation on proposals for reviews in 2009-10 was launched. [248563]

Mr. Bradshaw: The chair of the Care Quality Commission has informed us that the software supporting the operation of the commission's interim website does not support the monitoring of the number of downloads. It is therefore not possible to provide this information at present. The commission is exploring a wide range of mechanisms including the website to provide these data for 2009-10.

Dementia

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and dementia in each year from 2000 to 2008. [249419]

Phil Hope: The National Audit Office report "Improving services and support for people with dementia" estimated that approximately two thirds of people with dementia do not receive a formal diagnosis or have contact with specialist services at any time in their illness.

The Department does not have data on the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia in each year from 2000 to 2008. However, for 2006-07 and 2007-08 the General Practitioner Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) has recorded the number of people with a diagnosis of dementia but this does not distinguish between Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

The publication "Revisions to the GMS Contract 2006-07", produced by NHS Employers, states that Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50-75 per cent. of cases of dementia so the count of patients with dementia gives an indication of the number with Alzheimer's disease.

In 2006-07, there were 212,794 and in 2007-08, there were 220,246 people with a diagnosis of dementia, as recorded on practice disease registers in England.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions in the last 12 months each of his Department's Ministers visited *(a)* an NHS dentist, *(b)* a private dentist and *(c)* an optometrist as part of their official duties. [246792]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of their official duties, departmental Ministers visit a wide variety of health centres and practices meeting a number of dental and optical professionals. The following visits occurred during the period January-December 2008.

Visits by each Minister to dental practices or centres in the last 12 months are shown in the following table.

Minister		*Visit*	*Date*
Alan Johnson	NHS	Deeplish NHS LIFT Health Centre	20 September 2008
	NHS	Goyt Valley Medical and Dental Practice (NHS), Whaley Bridge	10 October 2008
Ben Bradshaw	NHS	Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry	7 March 2008
	NHS	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich LIFTco	7 July 2008
	NHS	Old Market Dental Practice Newton, Dorset	19 June 2008
Phil Hope	NHS	Bristol Dental Hospital, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	20 October 2008
Ann Keen	NHS	University of Central Lancashire Dental Education Centre, Morecambe	21 August 2008
	Opticians	Opticians practice (Brentford) as part of event to raise awareness of importance of eye tests	5 July 2008
Dawn Primarolo	—	—	—
Lord Darzi	—	—	—

Note:
NHS contract holders often provide both private and NHS dental care.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have received dental treatment under the NHS in each primary care trust in England in each of the last 12 months. [250175]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Information is available on the number of child patients seen by a national health service dentist in the previous 24 months in England is available in table D7 of annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09 report. Information is provided by primary care trust and strategic health authority. Information is available as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were per head of population in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in each year since 1997. [250176]

Ann Keen: The number of persons per national health service dentist in England as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006" report. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT).

This measure relates to the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Information on population per NHS dentist and NHS dentists per 100,000 population, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 is available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

The count of dentists is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population was treated by a dentist under the NHS in each primary care trust area in each strategic health authority in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [250306]

Ann Keen: Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09" report. Information is provided by primary care trust and strategic health authority.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1.

Dentistry: Education

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students *(a)* started and *(b)* graduated from dentistry courses in England in each year since 1997. [250160]

Ann Keen: Information for 'home fee' students is provided in the following table.

Academic year	*Admissions*	*Dental graduates*
1996-97	685	504
1997-98	631	542
1998-99	603	563
1999-2000	600	554
2000-01	623	591
2001-02	626	566
2002-03	665	524
2003-04	672	548
2004-05	674	565
2005-06	848	560
2006-07	854	593
2007-08	888	656

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248247]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the past two years, no member of the Department's staff has been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing departmental information technology equipment or confidential information.

Prior to April 2006, the human resources records of the Department were not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to establish the information requested. Policy and procedures on security are constantly reviewed. Data held on the Department's laptops and portable media devices, including memory sticks are encrypted to minimise the risk of confidential data being compromised should the devices be lost or stolen.

The Department has strict rules on data protection and security of its assets which the Department is expected to adhere to. Its policy and procedures are constantly reviewed and cases of losses or thefts are investigated. All mobile equipment reported as lost or stolen is registered on the police mobile equipment national database to aid recovery.

Security cables have been purchased and supplied to mobile workers to secure valuable portable assets to furniture where practicable to reduce risks. The Department marks its portable equipment with an invisible forensic dye called Smartwater. The Department's security and assurance unit continues to raise security awareness and physical protection of IT equipment among its staff.

Mobile phones and Blackberrys are deactivated centrally if reported lost or stolen.

Disciplinary action where staff are in breach of the Department's rules for data protection and security of its assets (including negligent loss of equipment) are as follows:

Written reprimand;
Dismissal without notice;
Dismissal with notice;
Disciplinary transfer;
Withdrawal or withholding performance-related pay;
Levying of financial penalty;
Ban on applying for posts; and
Demotion.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248413]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not employ any permanent staff paid at an hourly rate. Since July 2008 temporary clerical and administrative workers are supplied from agencies to the Department under the Home Office Framework. The supplying agencies are selected by fair competition on the basis of value for money. The Department contracts with the supplying agencies and not their temporary employees.

The Department cannot interfere in the commercial relationship between an agency and its employee and so cannot ensure parity in the rates paid by the agency to its employee as compared with the Department's own employees.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248710]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department operates a Long Service Award scheme—a reward of either a monetary nature or special leave, which is given to staff in recognition of having served for more than 20 years. The figures available for the monetary payments are presented as follows. The information about leave taken instead of payment is not held centrally and would incur disproportional cost to establish.

Period covered	*£*	*Number*
2006-07	3,200.00	16
2007-08	3,000.00	15
2008-09 to December	2,200.00	10
Total	8,400.00	41

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249141]

Mr. Bradshaw: Separate records of these occasions are not kept.

Eyesight: Testing

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of privately-funded eye examinations paid for by an individual's employer. [250755]

Ann Keen: The General Ophthalmic Services Activity Statistics for England and Wales for the year ending March 2008, published by the Information Centre, estimated that of the 16 million sight tests undertaken during 2007-08 5 million of these were privately funded sight tests. The Department does not collect statistics on privately funded sight tests and as a consequence has made no estimate of the proportion of those funded by employers.

Food: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public food analyst laboratories his Department operated in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [250822]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not operate public analyst laboratories.

As central competent authority for food safety and standards, the Food Standards Agency has a responsibility to ensure United Kingdom food control bodies have access to analytical services to enable them to carry out statutory functions. Statutory provisions require local authorities to appoint a 'public analyst'. These public analysts operate independently and are not part of central Government. Information on these appointments is not held centrally. However at the end of 2008 there were 21 public analysts laboratories in the UK, 22 at the end of 2007, and 23 at the end of 2006.

General Practitioners

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information *(a)* his Department and *(b)* NHS agencies collect on the number of patients not registered with a GP. [249507]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department collects figures on the numbers of patients registered with general practitioner (GP) practices. Information on the number of patients not registered with a GP is derived from periodic survey of the population as no data are collected routinely on those people who are not registered with a GP.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the GP patient survey has cost in each year since its inception; how much it is costing this year; how many surveys were sent out in each year and how many responses were received; if he will list the new *(a)* questions and *(b)* answer options which were added this year; and who chooses the questions. [249785]

Mr. Bradshaw: Budgets for the GP patient survey project were £11 million in 2006-07, £10 million in 2007-08 and £8 million for 2008-09. It is not appropriate to provide costs paid to the survey provider, Ipsos Mori, as that is commercially sensitive information.

The number of surveys issued to patients in each year and the number of responses received are provided in the following table.

	GP patient survey	*Number sent out*	*Number of responses*
2006-07	Access	5.2 million	2.3 million
	Hospital Choice	2.0 million	267,440
2007-08	Access	4.9 million	2.0 million
	Hospital Choice	2.0 million	283,400
2008-09	New	5.7 million	[1]—

[1] Not yet available.

A sample copy of the 2008-09 questionnaire has been placed in the Library. All questions and answers listed here are new with the exception of key demographic questions 37, 38, 39, 44, 46 and 47.

Questions have been developed and chosen through a systematic review process undertaken by a Joint Review Group comprising independent primary care research experts, independent survey experts and officials from the Department. This process also included engagement with a range of stakeholder representatives.

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who were unable to obtain an appointment at a genito-urinary medicine clinic on the day they presented at the clinic in the last 12 months. [250168]

Dawn Primarolo: No such estimate has been made.

Data on access to genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics are collected on the number of people seen within two normal working days and the number of people offered an appointment within two normal working days. Data for November 2008 shows that 86.6 per cent. of people were seen within two working days and 99.7 per cent. were offered an appointment within two working days. This compares with 80.6 per cent. of people seen within two working days and 92.7 per cent. offered an appointment within two working days in November 2007.

Health Services: Elderly

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many elderly people have received services under the quality care and support system in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [250555]

Phil Hope: Information about the number of elderly people who have received services under the quality care and support system in Hemel Hempstead in each of the last five years is not available.

However, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of people receiving local authority funded social care in a domiciliary or residential setting in England. Information is collected from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs). Data are not collected centrally at constituency level.

The following table shows the number of individuals in Hertfordshire aged 65 and over who received domiciliary or residential care funded wholly or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities as at 31 March of each year.

Number of people aged 65 and over receiving care funded wholly or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities as at 31 March, England

	Hertfordshire (rounded numbers)
2004	
Domiciliary care	[1]—
Residential care[2, 3, 4, 5]	4,035
2005	
Domiciliary care	9,900
Residential care[2, 3, 4, 5]	3,950
2006	
Domiciliary care	8,840
Residential care[2, 3, 4, 5]	3,480
2007	
Domiciliary care	11,535
Residential care[2, 3, 4, 5]	3,505
2008[6]	
Domiciliary care	13,015
Residential care[2, 3, 4, 5]	3,520

[1] Not available. Data for 31 March 2004 are not comparable to future years as guidance was restated for the 2004-05 collection.
[2] Data include clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.
[3] Data include Boyd loophole residents.
[4] Includes nursing care.
[5] Excludes other, unstaffed homes and adult placements.
[6] Data for 2007-08 are provisional.
Source:
RAP from P2s and SR1 form Table S4.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been claimed from the NHS by each other EU member state through the European Health Insurance Card and its predecessors in each of the last 11 years. [249786]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the amounts claimed by other European Economic Area (EEA) member states for each of the last seven calendar claim years. Comparable information prior to 2002 is not available. The amounts are combined claims for temporary visitors (via European Health Insurance Cards), posted workers (via E106 forms) and referrals for treatment in other EEA countries (via E112 forms) as, due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not possible to disaggregate this data. The figures in the table reflect the fact that EEA medical costs are typically submitted by EEA member states (including the United Kingdom) one to three, and sometimes more, years in arrears.

Claims submitted under Article 93 of European Union Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 initial claim values (£ equivalent) by calendar claim year

Country	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Austria	1,172,251	2,339,976	2,145,908	2,547,612	805,131	2,183,936	1,860,261
Belgium	2,108,806	2,421,236	2,634,767	3,234,954	2,613,249	2,549,536	—
Bulgaria	—	—	—	—	—	26,241	—
Cyprus	—	—	216,881	637,948	855,376	430,401	247,083
Czech Republic	—	—	60,298	163,900	201,815	248,298	—
Finland	—	—	—	15,250	2,135	17,850	3,596
France	19,137,205	21,314,986	24,789,881	27,101,124	29,743,752	36,314,550	18,674,600
Germany	829,117	4,816,906	6,689,242	5,916,745	7,715,155	7,810,500	5,633,498
Greece	100,465	219,116	61,623	448,216	180,168	80,628	—
Iceland	11,401	12,166	24,130	20,588	71,607	20,203	48,967
Ireland	9,666,772	11,499,116	12,860,659	13,505,505	14,257,564	16,644,929	17,489,362
Italy	2,375,970	2,434,080	3,094,296	1,422,850	2,972,547	5,969,795	1,103,060

Claims submitted under Article 93 of European Union Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 initial claim values (£ equivalent) by calendar claim year

Country	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Latvia	—	—	—	1,091	2,185	—	—
Liechtenstein	2,744	1,261	4,937	2,819	3,230	2,000	—
Lithuania	—	—	1,881	5,991	6,698	13,458	3,305
Luxembourg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	2,891,042	2,858,199	172,691	1,790	5,893	3,203,987	1,725,064
Norway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poland	—	—	41,387	182,700	403,405	700,080	642,496
Portugal	—	497	—	—	—	—	—
Romania	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,079
Slovakia	—	—	2,512	34,775	108,263	96,561	302,208
Slovenia	—	—	27,428	103,391	131,670	112,358	—
Spain	9,472,037	10,510,499	11,145,121	12,977,105	15,218,396	13,352,421	640,674
Sweden	1,083,178	576,989	1,170,164	1,040,404	1,195,799	1,053,430	565,681
Switzerland	256,189	1,591,425	2,581,536	2,666,880	3,425,678	3,584,290	3,266,491

Notes:

1. Under European Union regulations claims are made on a calendar year basis. Totals for each calendar year are based on claims submitted to date.

2. £ equivalent amounts are based on European Union quarterly exchange rates for conversion of currencies for the application period January, February and March 2009.

3. The total for Ireland for 2008 is an estimate based on a trend projection. Totals for Ireland for 2008 and previous years are currently subject to a joint review with Ireland.

Health Services: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in the provision of a new health facility in the Cam and Dunley area in Stroud constituency; and whether he plans to re-use the Berkeley Hospital site. [247935]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of services is a matter for the national health service locally to resolve by working in partnership with the communities that they serve.

We have been advised by the South West strategic health authority that the Gloucestershire primary care trust is continuing to work with the local community to develop new ways of delivering health and social care services to provide care closer to home. This includes looking at health needs, patient and carer benefits and service developments that are effective and make maximum use of new technology and staff skills.

Heart Diseases

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role the National Service framework has played in helping to reduce the number of deaths from heart disease; and if he will make a statement. [250756]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1193W.

Hip Replacements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts performed between one and 24 revision hip replacements in the latest year for which figures are available, as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database. [249253]

Ann Keen: The following table contains a list of the national health service trusts performing between one and 24 (inclusive) revision hip replacements. The count of revision hip replacements is defined as a count of finished consultant episodes with a mention of a revision hip replacement procedure.

Provider code	*Provider code name*
5M2	Shropshire County Primary Care Trust
NT604	Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre
NT802	Capio Reading Hospital NHS Treatment Centre
NT808	Capio New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre
NTC01	Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre
RA2	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust
RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
RBT	The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust
RCF	Airedale NHS Trust
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Trust
RD8	Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust
RE9	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
REM	Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
RG3TC	Orpington Treatment Centre
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust
RJD-X	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
RJLT1	Goole Treatment Centre
RJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
RM2	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
RM3	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust
RMC	Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust
RMP	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust
RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
RNA	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust

Provider code	*Provider code name*
RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust
RPRTC	Chichester Treatment Centre
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
RRK	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
RVR-X	Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS trust

Notes:
1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end.
2. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

HIV Infection

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome in England. [250727]

Dawn Primarolo: There were 11,529 individuals reported as ever having been diagnosed with AIDS who were resident in England and who had accessed HIV-related care in the United Kingdom in 2007. Most of these will have been diagnosed with AIDS before 2007 and will have received treatment to enable reconstitution of their immune systems so that they are no longer at high risk of developing a further AIDS-defining illness.

HIV Infection: Drugs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the NHS of treating a HIV positive patient with antiretroviral medication. [250726]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated annual treatment costs to the national health service for a patient with HIV vary according to the severity of the disease. The estimated average annual costs to the NHS of treating an HIV positive patient with combination antiretroviral drugs is £14,000.

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received publicly-funded home care during the September sample week during each of the last 11 years; and at what cost in each of those years. [249789]

Phil Hope: I understand from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care that the number of people in receipt of publicly funded home care during the September sample week for each of the last 11 years, and the associated costs, are as shown in the following tables.

The figures for the estimated number of adult service users receiving home help or home care have decreased. This is because councils are prioritising those with the highest levels of need who otherwise may have had to enter residential care and thereby lose their independence. Consequently a more intensive service is being delivered to fewer people. In addition, some home care is now purchased through direct payments and such services are not included in the figures. Direct payments were introduced for adults of working age in April 1997, through the Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996. Direct payments were extended to older people in 2000.

Gross expenditure for home care is increasing year on year, because the proportion of those supported intensively to live at home independently has continued to increase.

Table 1: Estimated number of adult service users aged 18 and over receiving home help or home care, 2000-07[1]: England, survey week during September

	Service Users: Rounded numbers
2000	414,700
2001	395,500
2002	382,000
2003	373,700
2004	368,600
2005	367,800
2006	359,000
2007	346,700

[1] Households receiving home care purchased with a direct payment are excluded.
Source:
HHI Return

Table 2: Gross current expenditure for home care for adults aged 18 and over, in cash and real terms 1997-98 to 2007-08: England

£ million

	Cash	*Real[1]*
1997-98	1,334	1,694
1998-99	1,419	1,764
1999-2000	1,539	1,877
2000-01[2]	1,606	1,933
2001-02	1,691	1,991
2002-03	1,796	2,048
2003-04[3]	1,982	2,198
2004-05	2,220	2,397
2005-06	2,486	2,630
2006-07	2,643	2,721
2007-08[4]	2,718	2,718

[1] Data have been adjusted to 2007-08 prices using the gross domestic product deflator.
[2] In 2000-01 the PSS EX1 Return was introduced, prior to this expenditure was collected on the RO3 return and is not comparable to previous years.
[3] From 2003-04 onwards additional funding was made available via the Supporting People grant.
[4] 2007-08 data are provisional.
Source:
RO3 and PSS EX1 Return

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the most recent HH1 returns. [249790]

Phil Hope: I understand from the NHS Information Centre for health and social care that it collects and publishes information on people receiving Home Care during a sample week in September via the Home Help Return (HHI).

The results from the 2007 HHI returns were published with its corresponding tables, in Community Care Statistics 2007: Home Help/Care Services for adults, England. The publication and tables have been placed in the Library.

The results from the 2008 HHI returns are expected to be published in spring 2009.

Hospitals: Capital Investment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to increase capital expenditure on hospitals as part of the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works; [248744]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be created by increased funding for hospital projects in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 under the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works; and what proportion of these jobs he estimates will go to British workers. [248746]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figure of 100,000 is based on initial estimates provided to the Treasury from all Government Departments about the potential employment impact in 2009-10 of the total public capital resources available to them as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, including the fiscal stimulus. The Department has made initial estimates that continuing work on new, centrally recorded public capital funded hospital and other health care schemes will sustain and create over 7,500 construction jobs in 2009-10. These figures do not include construction jobs which will be sustained and generated under minor works programmes or the Department's public-private partnership building programmes such as the private finance initiative, which are financed by national health service bodies from revenue budgets.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of NHS patients on waiting lists in Gloucestershire was in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2007, broken down by category of patient. [248223]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. The following tables show the total number of patients waiting broken down by speciality for the acute trusts in the Gloucestershire area for the periods 1997, 2002, 2005 and 2007.

In 1997, people could wait longer than 18 months for an operation in hospital. By October 2008, the median wait for in-patient treatment has fallen to 8.2 weeks from 18.8 weeks in 1997. Waits were much longer if you include the 'hidden waits' for diagnostic tests. Since data were first collected in April 2006, the average wait for a diagnostic test has fallen from 6.1 weeks to just 1.6 weeks in November 2008.

Total in-patient waits in Gloucestershire—1997, 2001, 2005 and 2007: broken down by patient speciality

	Total waiting list	
	East Gloucestershire NHS trust	
Spec name	*1997*	*2001*
General surgery	437	328
Urology	116	115
Trauma and Orthopaedics	773	743
ENT	322	0
Ophthalmology	582	1,834
Oral surgery	257	299
Plastic surgery	72	38
Paediatric surgery	6	1
Anaesthetics	39	0
General medicine	85	1
Gastroenterology	0	7
Cardiology	81	100
Rheumatology	0	1
Gynaecology	461	209
Total	3,231	3,676

	Total waiting list	
	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
Spec name	*2005*	*2007*
General surgery	895	891
Urology	347	355
Trauma and Orthopaedics	2,738	2,982
ENT	628	528
Ophthalmology	1,037	1,124
Oral surgery	549	473
Plastic surgery	19	10
Gastroenterology	4	0
Cardiology	173	190
Dermatology	0	3
Neurology	0	9
Gynaecology	400	544
Total	6,790	7,109

	Total waiting list	
	Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust	
Spec name	*1997*	*2001*
General surgery	662	592
Urology	312	224
Trauma and Orthopaedics	1,398	1,448
ENT	325	718
Ophthalmology	769	0
Oral surgery	396	230
General medicine	382	0
Gynaecology	212	137
Total	4,456	3,349

Notes:
1. 2002-03 saw the merger of Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust with the acute services arm of East Gloucestershire NHS Trust. The newly created organisation was Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
2. The figures used show a 'snap-shot' of the in-patient waiting list as at 31 March of each year. They are not cumulative figures.
3. Data relating to General medicine were collected as a patient speciality until September 2007.
4. The figures are a snapshot of the waiting list on the day of the data collection therefore the numbers will naturally fluctuate.

Source:
KH07—Provider based inpatient waiting times statistics.

Influenza: Vaccination

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of eligible patients have received the influenza vaccine in each primary care trust in the last 12 months. [250171]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested for 2007-08 influenza vaccine uptake has already been placed in the Library.

The information on influenza vaccine uptake from 1 September 2008 to 31 December 2008 is shown in the following table. Information on rates of influenza vaccination will continue to be recorded throughout January 2009 and results covering the whole season will be available in February 2009.

	Percentage uptake	
Primary care trust (PCT)	*65 and over*	*under 65 (at risk)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	72.4	50.6
Barking and Dagenham PCT	35.3	29.6
Barnet PCT	74.1	44.9
Barnsley PCT	71.9	50.7
Bassetlaw PCT	75.7	47.6
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	74.4	41.8
Bedfordshire PCT	73.4	43.9
Berkshire East PCT	72.7	40.2
Berkshire West PCT	75.5	47.1
Bexley Care Trust (PCT Based)	61.1	41.9
Birmingham East and North PCT	69.2	45
Blackburn With Darwen PCT	69.1	51
Blackpool PCT	70.8	41.1
Bolton PCT	70.8	48.9
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	72.3	46.2
Bradford and Airedale PCT	75.2	47.1
Brent Teaching PCT	69.2	49.2
Brighton and Hove City PCT	70	43.6
Bristol PCT	75.4	43
Bromley PCT	70.7	40.3
Buckinghamshire PCT	72.7	44.6
Bury PCT	71.7	41.4
Calderdale PCT	70.5	48.7
Cambridgeshire PCT	74.2	46
Camden PCT	71.1	30.5
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	77.6	51.3
Central Lancashire PCT	74.2	52.4
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	72.1	54.1
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	71.1	46.6
County Durham PCT	73	43.7
Coventry Teaching PCT	67.5	45.1
Croydon PCT	67.3	35.5
Cumbria PCT	75.1	50.3
Darlington PCT	75.1	48.3
Derby City PCT	74	29.9
Derbyshire County PCT	75.2	39.2
Devon PCT	71.4	46.5
Doncaster PCT	73.9	50.1
Dorset PCT	69	47
Dudley PCT	70.4	35.9
Ealing PCT	70.4	46.4
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	76.3	41.3
East Lancashire PCT	67.8	48.2
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	73.3	49.2
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	71	44.9
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	70.7	43.2
Enfield PCT	71.1	46.3
Gateshead PCT	74.8	50.8
Gloucestershire PCT	76.2	51.1
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	74.7	49.5
Greenwich Teaching PCT	68.6	40.3
Halton and St. Helens PCT	73.9	46.2
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	70.8	39.3
Hampshire PCT	73.7	47.4
Haringey Teaching PCT	69.7	44.8
Harrow PCT	70.5	47.2
Hartlepool PCT	72.9	47.6
Hastings and Rother PCT	73.5	49.4
Havering PCT	72.7	52.6
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	77.6	53
Herefordshire PCT	73.1	48.9
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	72.7	45.4
Hillingdon PCT	71.5	48.7
Hounslow PCT	70.8	49.9
Hull PCT	75.5	51
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	72.3	45.7
Islington PCT	70.9	44.6
Kensington And Chelsea PCT	70.1	46
Kingston PCT	70.3	43.1
Kirklees PCT	72	45.7
Knowsley PCT	74.8	45.1
Lambeth PCT	64.9	39.7
Leeds PCT	76.9	44
Leicester City PCT	70.3	50.6
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	72.5	45.3
Lewisham PCT	69.1	39.8
Lincolnshire PCT	73.3	47.6
Liverpool PCT	72.1	37.4
Luton PCT	69.2	45.8
Manchester PCT	68.9	45.6
Medway PCT	74.1	46.3
Mid Essex PCT	74.9	43.9
Middlesbrough PCT	74.3	44.4
Milton Keynes PCT	72.1	50.5
Newcastle PCT	76.9	48.6
Newham PCT	72.4	52.3
Norfolk PCT	73.4	45.9
North East Essex PCT	72.6	45.3
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (PCT Based)	72.9	44.2
North Lancashire PCT	74.3	49.3
North Lincolnshire PCT	73.5	47
North Somerset PCT	76.6	45.2
North Staffordshire PCT	72.4	46.9
North Tees PCT	73.6	46.7
North Tyneside PCT	76.4	45
North Yorkshire and York PCT	75.2	49.3
Northamptonshire PCT	73.6	47.1
Northumberland Care Trust (PCT Based)	73.7	48.3

Primary care trust (PCT)	Percentage uptake	
	65 and over	under 65 (at risk)
Nottingham City PCT	72.5	46.8
Nottinghamshire County PCT	75.1	39.9
Oldham PCT	72.5	51.6
Oxfordshire PCT	75.9	47
Peterborough PCT	73.6	48.6
Plymouth Teaching PCT	73.2	49
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	74.3	48.1
Redbridge PCT	73.9	43.5
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	76.3	52.3
Richmond And Twickenham PCT	74.4	47.7
Rotherham PCT	78.1	58.2
Salford PCT	73.3	43.5
Sandwell PCT	68.6	47.3
Sefton PCT	74.8	45.1
Sheffield PCT	74.5	46
Shropshire County PCT	71.2	47.7
Solihull Care Trust (PCT Based)	73.1	40.3
Somerset PCT	74.8	47.6
South Birmingham PCT	70.5	42.5
South East Essex PCT	72.3	43.9
South Gloucestershire PCT	75	48.8
South Staffordshire PCT	72.5	44.6
South Tyneside PCT	76	50.8
South West Essex PCT	76.1	45.7
Southampton City PCT	74.1	50.5
Southwark PCT	65.9	42.8
Stockport PCT	76.3	45.5
Stoke on Trent PCT	73.8	46.6
Suffolk PCT	74.1	39.3
Sunderland Teaching PCT	76.1	49.4
Surrey PCT	69.6	42.5
Sutton and Merton PCT	70.2	38.4
Swindon PCT	71.8	47
Tameside and Glossop PCT	75.3	49.8
Telford and Wrekin PCT	69.3	46.9
Torbay Care Trust (PCT Based)	71.9	49
Tower Hamlets PCT	72.9	50.2
Trafford PCT	79	44
Wakefield District PCT	74.1	46.4
Walsall Teaching PCT	73.6	48.4
Waltham Forest PCT	73.2	47.7
Wandsworth PCT	68.3	26
Warrington PCT	73.9	47.2
Warwickshire PCT	74.4	49
West Cheshire PCT	74.7	46.2
West Essex PCT	72.2	44
West Hertfordshire PCT	76.5	40.6
West Kent PCT	75	42.2
West Sussex PCT	73.1	45.5
Westminster PCT	70.7	46.6
Wiltshire PCT	74	48.4
Wirral PCT	75.2	46.8
Wolverhampton City PCT	72	47.2
Worcestershire PCT	73.3	45.7

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes there were for injuries from assaults by a sharp object, including knives, in each NHS trust where the patient was aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 15, *(c)* 16 to 18, *(d)* 19 to 25, *(e)* 26 to 35, *(f)* 36 to 45 and *(g)* 46 years and older in each of the last 10 years. [246822]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is collected on the number of finished admission episodes to hospital. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Tables which provide information for the clinical code 'X99'—assault by sharp object, have been placed in the Library. The code 'X99' includes cases where someone has been attacked using a sharp object (including but not exclusive to knives). The tables provide data which are broken down by each strategic health authority. It is not possible to provide a response to this question for each national health service trust as the numbers involved are mostly very small and many of them would need to be suppressed in order to preserve confidentiality.

It is important to refer to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

King's College Hospital

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the new designated space at King's College Hospital for the former emergency clinic of Maudsley Hospital will be completed. [250308]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is a matter for King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Michael Parker, Chair of King's College NHS Foundation Trust, informing him of my hon. Friend's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Knee Replacements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts performed between one and 14 revision knee replacements in the latest year for which figures are available, as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database. [249255]

Ann Keen: The following table contains a list of the national health service trusts performing between one and 14 (inclusive) finished consultant episodes with a mention of a revision knee replacement procedure in 2006-07.

Provider code	Provider code name
NT604	Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre
NT826	Horton NHS Treatment Centre
NTC01	Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre
NTD02	The Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre
NTY32	King Edward VII Hospital
RA2	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust
RA4	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust

Provider code	*Provider code name*
RBT	The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust
RCF	Airedale NHS Trust
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Trust
RD8	Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust
RE9	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
REM	Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
RG3TC	Orpington Treatment Centre
RG3-X	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust
RGP	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust
RJDTC	Cannock Chase Treatment Centre
RJLT1	Goole Treatment Centre
RJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust
RJR	Countess Of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
RM2	University Hospital Of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
RM3	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust
RMP	Tameside And Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust
RN1TC	Winchester NHS Treatment Centre
RN7	Dartford And Gravesham NHS Trust
RNA	Dudley Group Of Hospitals NHS Trust
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
RPRTC	Chichester Treatment Centre
RPR-X	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust
RRK	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
RTP	Surrey And Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
RTX	University Hospitals Of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust
RVR-X	Epsom And St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
RVY	Southport And Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde And Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RXW	Shrewsbury And Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Note:

A finished consultant episode is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. They are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Lung Diseases

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the incidence of *(a)* respiratory diseases and *(b)* cardiovascular disease; and at what levels of disaggregation these statistics are available. [249767]

Ann Keen: Information on the incidence of different respiratory diseases and cardiovascular disease is not collected centrally.

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2094W, on maternity services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by his Department to strategic health authority chief executives on 22 August 2008. [249470]

Ann Keen: The letter has been placed in the Library.

Medicine: Education

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students *(a)* started and *(b)* graduated from medical degree courses in England in each year since 1997. [250174]

Ann Keen: The number of students starting and graduating from medical degree courses in England in each year since 1997 is given in the following table.

Academic year	*Actual intake*	*Graduate output*
1997-98	3,749	3,261
1998-99	3,735	3,097
1999-2000	3,972	3,373
2000-01	4,300	3,286
2001-02	4,713	3,280
2002-03	5,277	3,522
2003-04	6,030	3,734
2004-05	6,294	3,935
2005-06	6,298	4,376
2006-07	6,401	4,904
2007-08	6,264	5,569

Mental Health Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to *(a)* promote the use of cognitive stimulation therapy and *(b)* provide assistance to the cognitive help and therapy community-based initiative. [248467]

Phil Hope: The Department has no plans to promote the use of cognitive stimulation therapy. The responsibility for the provision of all national health service services rests with primary care trusts (PCTs), and decisions about whether or not to use specific treatments are made by each PCT.

It is also for each PCT to decide upon spending levels for specific health care treatments and services, and to commission these services.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of supply of mental health services to meet demand for such services over the last 12 months. [250436]

Phil Hope: Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion) putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The national health service spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 alone. This is why we now have over 740 new community mental health teams offering home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital, and now have 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses than in 1997. In addition we are rolling out a programme to give more access to psychological therapies to people with depression and anxiety. The provision of all NHS services, including mental health treatments, ultimately rests with commissioning trusts and it is for primary care trusts, in conjunction with their strategic health authorities, to plan and develop services according to the needs of their local communities.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* emergency and *(b)* elective hospital admissions for musculoskeletal conditions were recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database in each year since 1997-98, broken down by age group. [249245]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are unable to provide the information as requested because the classification system of diseases (ICD-10) that is used to categorise the hospital episode statistics does not allow us to accurately collate admission data for people with diseases of the musculoskeletal system alongside people with other conditions that have musculoskeletal symptoms, or musculoskeletal implications.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many episodes of care entailed *(a)* a shoulder replacement, *(b)* an ankle replacement, *(c)* an elbow replacement and *(d)* a scoliosis correction procedure there were in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by provider organisation. [249259]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide data for 'a scoliosis correction procedure' as we cannot identify which procedures this term includes.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time has been since 1997-98 for an inpatient appointment with a diagnosis of pain associated with musculoskeletal conditions, as recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database, broken down by area of commissioning responsibility; [249260]

(2) how many *(a)* emergency and *(b)* elective hospital admissions for pain associated with musculoskeletal conditions there have been in each year since 1997-98, as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database, broken down by strategic health authority area. [249267]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does collect information related to admissions for musculoskeletal conditions. However, these are not classified by their association with pain.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of treating musculoskeletal conditions. [249347]

Ann Keen: Estimates of national health service expenditure on problems of the musculoskeletal system are available from programme budgeting returns, which can be found in the "Department of Health: Departmental Report 2008", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, and show for the 2006-07 financial year, the latest for which figures are available, estimated NHS expenditure on problems of the musculoskeletal system was £3.5 billion. Musculo skeletal system expenditure which falls under general medical services and personal medical services is not included in this figure.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of changes in demand for NHS musculoskeletal services over the next 10 years; what proportion of NHS bed days he estimates will be occupied by people with musculoskeletal problems in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [249244]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any specific assessment of changes in demand for national health service musculoskeletal services over the next ten years nor the proportion of bed days will be occupied by people with musculoskeletal problems. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts in working with providers of services to plan for future demand using all available sources of information. To support primary care trusts in undertaking this work, the 18 weeks programme has developed a range of orthopaedic commissioning pathways on for example Hip Pain, Knee Pain, Shoulder Pain, Chronic Pain Back pain and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. A further pathway is planned for arthritis and is currently under development.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* primary total hip replacements, *(b)* revision total hip replacements, *(c)* primary total knee replacements and *(d)* revision total knee replacements there have been in the NHS in each year since 1997-98; and if he will break down the data by primary care trust area for the latest year for which figures are available. [249257]

Ann Keen: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* admitted and *(b)* non-admitted patients were treated within 18 weeks following GP referral in each month since January 2007 in the (i) orthopaedic and (ii) rheumatology specialty, broken down by strategic health authority area; and what the (A) mean and (B) median length of time from referral to treatment was for a patient in the (1) orthopaedic and (2) rheumatology specialty in each month since January 2007, broken down by strategic health authority area. [249247]

Ann Keen: The data have been placed in the Library.

Figures have been provided on a commissioner basis, as this is the basis against which the national referral to treatment targets are being measured. Figures on mean waiting times have not been calculated as the distribution of waits in the final time band is not known.

NHS Litigation Authority

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the gross value of the provisions held by the NHS Litigation Authority was for each category for which provisions were made in each of the last 10 years. [249799]

Ann Keen: The information requested in the following table and was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

Provisions recorded by the NHSLA by year and by scheme

£ million

	Ex-Regional Health Authorities Scheme	*Existing Liabilities Scheme*	*Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts*	*Property Expenses Scheme*	*Liabilities to Third Parties Scheme*	*Total*
1998-99	64.57	0.00	1,166.72	0.00	0.00	1,231.28
1999-2000	78.81	0.00	1,777.27	2.50	3.86	1,862.43
2000-01	79.36	1,826.79	2,212.52	10.11	41.47	4,170.25
2001-02	50.92	1,471.24	3,720.46	3.45	65.39	5,311.45
2002-03	29.49	1,182.20	3,639.79	5.26	58.43	4,915.18
2003-04	27.90	1,176.24	5,094.85	8.15	88.65	6,395.80
2004-05	25.61	1,153.37	5,709.63	8.98	105.42	7,003.00
2005-06	28.71	1,402.14	6,788.61	8.99	116.54	8,344.98
2006-07	28.12	1,359.62	7,706.97	7.16	122.59	9,224.46
2007-08	42.20	1,925.24	9,943.37	8.25	141.05	12,060.12

NHS Treatment Centres

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have awarded contracts to private companies to operate walk-in centres; and which company has been awarded the contract in each case. [250574]

Mr. Bradshaw: With regard to which primary care trusts (PCTs) may have locally commissioned private sector companies to operate national health service (NHS) commuter walk-in centres (CWICs), this information is not held centrally.

The Department holds information about six NHS CWiCs procured as part of the centrally funded independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme.

These centres are operated by the following providers:

Centre location	*Provider*	*Opened*
Manchester Piccadilly walk-in centre	Atos Origin, IT Services UK Ltd.	17 November 2005
London Liverpool Street walk-in centre	Walk-in Health Ltd.	19 December 2005
London Canary Wharf walk-in centre	Atos Origin, IT Services UK Ltd.	21 April 2006
Newcastle Central walk-in centre	Care UK Clinical Services Ltd.	17 May 2006
London Victoria walk-in centre	Care UK Clinical Services Ltd.	11 December 2006
Headrow walk-in centre, Leeds	Netcare Healthcare UK Ltd.	1 February 2007

NHS: Billing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 169W, on NHS: finance, what proportion of undisputed invoices for goods and services *(a)* were paid and *(b)* were not paid by NHS trusts within contract terms or within 10 days where no terms had been agreed since 31 October 2008. [249806]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service prompt payments to suppliers' performance information, is collected on a quarterly and on an annual basis against a 30 day target.

The latest information available is for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008. For this period NHS trusts recorded an 84.5 per cent. achievement against the 30 day payment target for non-NHS payments leaving 15.5 per cent. outside of the target. This compares to an achievement over the first two quarters of 2007-08 of 82.6 per cent., an improvement over the whole year.

David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, wrote to all NHS Trust Chief Executives on 21 October asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. Bill Moyes, Executive Chair, Monitor, has written similarly to all foundation trusts.

However we do not currently collect performance data of total NHS bills paid within 10 days because no specific requirement has yet been placed on NHS bodies to meet this target.

NHS: Buildings

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 164W, what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* risk-adjusted backlog maintenance was for each NHS trust in 2007-08. [249845]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Public capital expenditure in the national health service has risen every year since 1999-2000 and will rise from £4.7 billion in 2008-09 to a record peak of £5.6 billion in 2009-10; at the same time 76 hospital schemes funded under the Private Finance Initiative have opened worth £5.3 billion. These record levels of capital investment in the national health service estate have resulted in a quarter of the estate occupied by NHS trusts being replaced since 1997, and the proportion of the estate that predates the establishment of the NHS itself has fallen from 50 per cent. in 1997-98 to less than 20 per cent. in 2007-08.

NHS organisations are responsible for the provision and maintenance of facilities to support the delivery of high quality clinical services. Therefore, the NHS will locally prioritise investment to reduce backlog maintenance based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of backlog maintenance relates to low priority work, which trusts will undertake through maintenance programmes. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority. While levels of backlog maintenance vary across the NHS, it is estimated that around 75 per cent. of the total costs to eradicate backlog maintenance is concentrated in 20 per cent. of organisations.

The Department collects data on backlog maintenance and risk adjusted backlog maintenance annually from NHS trusts through its Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The data provided are not amended centrally and the responsibility for its accuracy lies with the contributing NHS organisations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 164W, on NHS: buildings, when he plans to publish backlog data for 2008-09. [250913]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department collects data on backlog maintenance annually from national health service trusts through its Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The data are published at the end of October each year on the Health Estates Facilities Statistics website. The 2008-09 data will be available by the end of October 2009.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been convicted of abusing NHS staff on *(a)*, one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more occasions in each of the last three years. [251064]

Ann Keen: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2004-05, the number of criminal sanctions reported by national health service bodies in England in cases of physical assaults against NHS staff has been collected annually by the NHS Security Management Service. This information is shown in the following table:

	Number
2004-05	759
2005-06	850
2006-07	869
2007-08	992

Criminal sanctions include:

cautions and conditional cautions;

community rehabilitation or punishment orders;

imprisonment (including suspended sentences);

conditional discharges; and

fines.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers he has in existing legislation to make directions requiring NHS bodies to publish information relating to the quality of NHS services which they provide; and if he will make a statement. [250892]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 8 of the National Health Service Act 2006 provides that the Secretary of State may give directions to certain NHS bodies about the exercise of any of their functions. The Secretary of State may use the powers in section 8 to require the publication of information by these bodies. This power covers NHS bodies in public ownership, but does not allow the Secretary of State to make directions for other bodies providing NHS healthcare services.

The quality accounts provisions in the Health Bill published on 16 January seek to establish a requirement for anyone providing NHS healthcare services to publish information about the quality of those services, regardless of the status of the provider, as set out in the report of Government's review of the future of the NHS, "High Quality Care for All".

NHS: Safety

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision there is for exempting NHS organisations from full compliance with *(a)* fire safety standards and *(b)* health and safety standards in respect of patient-occupied floor areas; and what measurement his Department makes of such exemptions (i) nationally and (ii) locally. [250881]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 removed Crown immunity from national health service premises. Since then, the NHS has been required to comply with all fire safety and health and safety legislation.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in piloting integrated care organisations as referred to in his Department's NHS next stage review, "High Quality Care for All", published 30 June 2008. [249155]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the announcement that the Department would launch a pilot programme to test and evaluate clinically-led models of integrated care, and an initial event to engage with the national health service and social care organisations, the Department published a prospectus setting out the scope of the programme and process for selection, and inviting applications, in October 2008. Over 100 applications were received by the deadline of November 2008.

These initial applications were shortlisted down to 37 sites to go forward to the final stage of the selection process during December 2008. This stage will involve further analysis of written information from sites, as well as a series of site visits.

The aim is for the final pilot sites to be selected by the end of March 2009.

The pilot programme will run for two years, with the evaluation taking place over three years.

Orthopaedics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished episodes of care for elective orthopaedic surgery there were in each year since 1997-98. [249274]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of elective finished consultant episodes for trauma and orthopaedics in each year from 1997-98 to present is shown in the following table.

	Finished admission episodes
2006-07	634,488
2005-06	596,001
2004-05	565,735
2003-04	552,560
2002-03	512,732
2001-02	473,979
2000-01	469,388
1999-2000	458,267
1998-99	458,946
1997-98	421,815

Note:

1. HES data cannot distinguish orthopaedic episodes only. Data have been provided where the consultant's main specialty is trauma and orthopaedics.
2. Count of elective finished admission episodes where the consultant's main specialty is trauma and orthopaedics in 1997-98 to 2006-07.
3. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Osteoporosis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for *(a)* all osteoporosis-related conditions and *(b)* osteoporotic fractures there have been in each year since 1997-98, as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database. [249269]

Ann Keen: The total number of hospital admissions where there was a primary diagnosis for osteoporosis, an osteoporosis-related conditions, and osteoporotic fractures, for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07 is given in the following table.

	Total finished admission episodes	
	Osteoporosis and osteoporosis-related conditions	*Osteoporotic fractures*
2006-07	13,218	3,837
2005-06	12,949	4,034
2004-05	11,971	3,924
2003-04	10,422	3,642
2002-03	9,958	3,661
2001-02	10,759	3,311
2000-01	10,420	3,462
1999-2000	9,452	3,292
1998-99	8,915	3,390
1997-98	7,987	3,105

Note:

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Pain: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of pain management services provided by the NHS which offer individual psychological therapy; and if he will make a statement. [249264]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such estimate. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to decide which services and treatments it will provide to meet the needs of its population.

The Department does recognise that the effects of chronic pain on quality of life can be considerable, and that the treatment of pain is less successful when psychological components of pain are not addressed through an integrated pain management programme. The Department has published an 18-week patient pathway for chronic pain which provides commissioners with the support they need to commission services appropriately. A copy has been placed in the Library. NHS Choices has also provided information that will raise the awareness of chronic pain and treatments, including psychological components.

In addition, the Department has established an Expert Patients programme (EPP) to help patients manage their long-term conditions through programmes that address issues such as healthy eating, dealing with pain and extreme tiredness, relaxation techniques and coping with feelings of depression, including a "Persistent Pain programme". The EPP has helped more than 30,000 patients since it was established in April 2002.

Patient Choice Schemes

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of hospital appointments were made in each primary care trust using choose and book in the last period for which figures were available. [250167]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportion of general practitioner (GP) referrals to a first consultant-led out-patient appointment made in each primary care trust using Choose and Book for November 2008 is shown in the following table.

Percentage of GP referrals to first out-patient appointments made via Choose and Book (CAB), by primary care trust, November 2008

PCT	*Percentage of GP referrals via CAB*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	64
Barking and Dagenham	70
Barnet	14
Barnsley	93
Bassetlaw	76
Bath and North East Somerset	81
Bedfordshire	34
Berkshire East Teaching	64
Berkshire West	64
Bexley Care Trust	32
Birmingham East and North	44
Blackburn with Darwen	57
Blackpool	68
Bolton	60
Bournemouth and Poole	83
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	48
Brent Teaching	21
Brighton and Hove City Teaching	36
Bristol Teaching	70
Bromley	25
Buckinghamshire	51
Bury	38
Calderdale	63
Cambridgeshire	44
Camden	25
Central and Eastern Cheshire	46
Central Lancashire	44
City and Hackney Teaching	39
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	66
County Durham	59
Coventry Teaching	59
Croydon	33
Cumbria	43
Darlington	66
Derby City	71
Derbyshire County	75
Devon	73
Doncaster	73
Dorset	77
Dudley	53
Ealing	32
East and North Hertfordshire	33
East Lancashire	58
East Riding of Yorkshire	34
East Sussex Downs and Weald	24
Eastern and Coastal Kent	46
Enfield	41
Gateshead	58
Gloucestershire	67
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	40
Greenwich Teaching	47
Halton and St. Helens	38
Hammersmith and Fulham	34
Hampshire	34
Haringey Teaching	33
Harrow	36
Hartlepool	61
Hastings and Rother	22
Havering	87
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	46
Herefordshire	43
Hillingdon	34
Hounslow	27
Hull Teaching	66
Isle of Wight Healthcare	23
Islington	38
Kensington and Chelsea	54
Kingston	50
Kirklees	41
Knowsley	44
Lambeth	31
Leeds	25
Leicester City Teaching	69
Leicestershire County and Rutland	64
Lewisham	15
Lincolnshire Teaching	42
Liverpool	57
Luton Teaching	46
Manchester	51
Medway Teaching	58
Mid Essex	54
Middlesbrough	64
Milton Keynes	84
Newcastle	38
Newham	57
Norfolk	33
North East Essex	68
North East Lincolnshire	42
North Lancashire	53
North Lincolnshire	44
North Somerset	68
North Staffordshire	48
North Tees	59
North Tyneside	30
North Yorkshire and York	46
Northamptonshire Teaching	94
Northumberland Care Trust	46
Nottingham City	68
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	78
Oldham	71
Oxfordshire	69
Peterborough	38
Plymouth Teaching	79
Portsmouth City Teaching	29
Redbridge	54
Redcar and Cleveland	59
Richmond and Twickenham	22
Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton	70
Rotherham	64
Salford Teaching	84
Sandwell	81
Sefton	28
Sheffield	43
Shropshire County	60
Solihull	36
Somerset	87
South Birmingham	37
South East Essex	66
South Gloucestershire	73
South Staffordshire	39

Percentage of GP referrals to first out-patient appointments made via Choose and Book (CAB), by primary care trust, November 2008

PCT	*Percentage of GP referrals via CAB*
South Tyneside	56
South West Essex Teaching	48
Southampton City	39
Southwark	34
Stockport	60
Stoke on Trent Teaching	46
Suffolk	33
Sunderland Teaching	81
Surrey	45
Sutton and Merton	34
Swindon	60
Tameside and Glossop	60
Telford and Wrekin	64
Torbay Care Trust	90
Tower Hamlets	61
Trafford	31
Wakefield	42
Walsall Teaching	34
Waltham Forest	61
Wandsworth	27
Warrington	44
Warwickshire	59
West Cheshire	48
West Essex	48
West Hertfordshire	49
West Kent	37
West Sussex Teaching	51
Westminster	33
Wiltshire	80
Wirral	74
Wolverhampton City	45
Worcestershire	30

Post-mortems

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many post mortems were held in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those followed deaths *(a)* in hospital, *(b)* in care homes and *(c)* under the care of a surgeon. [249787]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many post mortems were held in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those followed *(a)* deaths in hospital, *(b)* deaths in care homes and *(c)* deaths under the care of a surgeon. (249787)

The attached table provides the estimated number of deaths where a postmortem was carried out for the years 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available), and how many of these deaths *(a)* occurred in a hospital and *(b)* occurred in a care home.

It is not possible to provide figures for the number of deaths where a postmortem was carried out and the person was under the care of a surgeon, as this information is not recorded at death registration.

These figures should be treated with caution, as changes from year to year may reflect known issues of incomplete reporting and operational factors affecting the recording of postmortems at death registration.

Table 1. Estimated number of deaths where a post-mortem was carried out, by place of death[1] 1998-2007[2]

			Postmortems (persons)	
	Care home	*Hospital*	*Other*	*Total*
1998	8,469	57,260	56,302	122,031
1999	9,168	58,128	57,444	124,740
2000	9,919	61,312	57,490	128,721
2001	9,640	57,846	55,940	123,426
2002	9,523	56,040	53,871	119,434
2003	9,832	55,351	54,601	119,784
2004	9,158	53,532	52,910	115,600
2005	9,004	51,504	53,099	113,607
2006	8,272	49,743	52,200	110,215
2007	7,835	48,511	52,027	108,373

[1] 'Care home' includes private nursing homes (NHS and non-NHS), and residential homes (private and local authority). 'Hospital' includes NHS and non-NHS hospitals, or multifunction sites. Deaths occurring in all places not defined above, including hospices and private residences, are included in the 'other' category.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Prescriptions

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1202-3W, on prescriptions, what reporting process for an error involving a controlled drug in a care establishment is required by the Commission for Social Care Inspection; to which individual services such reports are made; and if he will publish the reports made of such events occurring in the last 12 months. [250894]

Phil Hope: Care homes registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) must provide a report of serious incidents to CSCI. The CSCI retains these reports in the service record and the information is used during a key inspection process when the care service star rating and inspection frequency is determined. CSCI does not inform any other agency and the content of serious incident notifications is not published.

CSCI does not receive notification if a controlled drug error was made by the general practitioner who prescribed the controlled drug or by the community pharmacist who supplied the controlled drug. When errors relating to prescribing and supply of medicines occur within the national health service, primary care trusts are encouraged to have a procedure to report the errors to the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). But there is no current mechanism for social care services to make similar reports to NPSA about medicine administration errors.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there is a regulatory requirement for a patient to be examined before a prescription for a controlled drug is issued to that patient. [250915]

Phil Hope: In general, a patient will be assessed by their prescriber before a prescription, including one for a controlled drug, is issued. However, there is no requirement in regulation for the patient to be examined. The decision as to whether an examination is required is a clinical one made by the prescriber.

Rheumatology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many rheumatology admissions to hospital there were in each year since 1997, as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database, broken down by whether the admissions were (i) ordinary and (ii) day-case. [249263]

Ann Keen: The total number of ordinary, and day case admissions, to hospital where the main consultant specialty is recorded as rheumatology is given in the following table.

	Day case	*Ordinary*
2006-07	62,707	31,577
2005-06	56,938	32,277
2004-05	53,183	31,530
2003-04	49,003	31,440
2002-03	41,003	32,279
2001-02	33,041	34,056
2000-01	30,331	35,524
1999-2000	27,275	37,033
1998-99	24,045	36,968
1997-98	20,496	38,976
1996-97	17,538	40,053

Note:

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Tobacco

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met (i) tobacco companies and (ii) representatives of and lobbyists acting on behalf of tobacco companies in the last three months. [250654]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no such meetings.

Wheelchairs: Waiting Lists

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how long on average existing wheelchair users wait for a chair with different specifications in *(a)* Southend Hospital Trust, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement; [250073]

(2) what the average waiting time for a replacement wheelchair after assessment is for existing permanent wheelchair users in *(a)* Southend Hospital Trust, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement. [250074]

Phil Hope: Information about waiting times for wheelchair users is not held centrally. The collation of wheelchair information that may assist commissioning decisions is for local determination.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 January 2009

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the Higher Education Minister received briefing from departmental officials before his television appearance on Celebrity Mastermind. [249569]

Mr. Lammy: I received no official briefing from the Department prior to my appearance on Celebrity Mastermind.

My appearance was in the spirit of charity and raised £2,750 for Action Aid, an international NGO which helps people in the developing world to fight hunger and disease.

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people enrolled on a foundation degree course in each year since its inception; and what the drop-out rate has been in each year. [249106]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows.

Table 1 shows the number of enrolments in foundation degrees since 2001/02.

Table 1: Home, EU and overseas enrolments on foundation degrees English higher education institutions and further education colleges academic years 2001/02 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Enrolments*
2001/02	4,320
2002/03	12,310
2003/04	23,945
2004/05	37,820
2005/06	46,780
2006/07	60,580
2007/08	71,915

Note:

The numbers of overseas entrants for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are estimated by assuming they represent the same proportion as for the other years, that is 4.6 per cent. for full-time and 5.5 per cent. for part-time. 2001-02 student numbers include some continuing students from 2000-01 which were marketed as foundation degrees but which may not have had all the attributes described in the HEFCE foundation degree prospectus.

Source:

"Foundation degrees 2007/03" and "Foundation degrees 2008/16" reports published by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Columns one plus two of HESES and HEIFES (2007-08 values are provisional).

Table 2 shows the latest information on the progress of foundation degree students.

Table 2: Home foundation degree students by progress and institution type English higher education institutions and further education colleges—years of entry 2003/04 and 2004/05

Year of entry	*Institution type*[1]	*Progress*[2]	*Number*	*Percentage*
2003/04	FECs	All FEC entrants	1,935	100
		Of which:		
		Change to FE level course	70	4
		Not studying	510	26
	HEIs	All HEI entrants	9,655	100
		Of which:		
		Change to FE level course	235	2
		Not studying	1,305	14
2004/05	FECs	All FEC entrants	4,805	100
		Of which:		
		Change to FE level course	160	3
		Not studying	1,225	25
	HEIs	All HEI entrants	12,615	100
		Of which:		
		Change to FE level course	230	2
		Not studying	1,580	13

[1] Institution type refers to the institution the student is registered with.

[2] Study in the following year includes students registered for any FE or HE study in HEIs in the UK, and students registered for any HE or FE study in FECs in England. Any study outside this coverage is not included and the students will be categorised as 'not studying'.

Source:

"Foundation degrees 2007/03" and "Foundation degrees 2008/16" reports published by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Figures in table 1 cover home, EU and overseas enrolments, whereas figures in table 2 cover home entrants only.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of those who have received a foundation degree have gone on to enrol on an honours degree course since the inception of such degrees, broken down by *(a)* year and *(b)* type of honours institution; and what proportion of such enrolment was into (i) pre-1992 and (ii) post-1992 university. [249112]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is shown in table 1. This information is not available by type of honours institution, or pre/post 1992 university.

Table 1: Home foundation degree qualifiers[1] who progressed to an honours degree. English higher education institutions—academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06

	2004/05		2005/06	
Progression to honours degree programmes	*Number of qualifiers*	*Percentage*	*Number of qualifiers*	*Percentage*
Honours programme registered at same institution	1,140	47	2,260	50
Honours programme registered at different institution	160	7	225	5
Total on honours programmes	1,305	54	2,485	54
Not on honours programme	1,110	46	2,080	46
Total overall	2,470	100	4,565	100

[1] Some students qualify with an honours degree without being reported as gaining a foundation degree. These qualifiers are excluded from the analysis presented here.

Source:

"Foundation degrees 2007/03" and "Foundation degrees 2008/16" reports published by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

The available information on Foundation Degree (FD) qualifiers from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) who went on to study a first degree in the following academic year only is shown in table 2. The figures were derived from the destinations surveys, which collect information about the destinations of qualifiers six months after qualification. Figures for 2007/08 will be available in July 2009.

The available information is limited to qualifiers who went on to study for a first degree in the year immediately following qualification: it does not cover those who chose to progress to a first degree at a later stage.

For a number of reasons, it is difficult to draw reliable conclusions about the trends in the numbers of FD qualifiers who went on to study for a first degree in the following academic year. FDs were only introduced in 2001/02 and until 2004/05 there were relatively low numbers of qualifiers, which makes the figures inherently more volatile. It is also important to note that FD qualifiers tend to be older than qualifiers from other levels of study. Older qualifiers are less likely to go on to study for a first degree in the year immediately following qualification, because they are often already employed and tend to have other financial and domestic commitments. They may therefore be more likely to proceed to further study at a later date.

Table 2: Number of UK domiciled foundation degree qualifiers and the number of those who went on to study for a first degree in the following academic year by type of institution. UK higher education institutions—academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Foundation degree qualifiers of known category of destination	770	1,980	4,070	6,330	8,200
Of which:					
Are studying a first degree in following academic year[1]					
Number	450	1,010	2,140	3,530	4,485
Percentage	58.3	51.2	52.6	55.8	54.2
Of which:					
Are studying for a first degree, by type of institution					
Old[2]	30	135	165	265	395
Percentage	6.9	13.2	7.7	7.4	8.8
New[3]	190	505	1,455	2,160	2,670
Percentage	42.6	50.1	68.1	61.1	59.5
Other HEIs[4]	185	235	380	770	975
Percentage	41.7	23.3	17.7	21.8	21.8
Other/unknown[5]	40	135	140	340	445
Percentage	8.7	13.3	6.5	9.6	9.9

[1] Covers students who are participating in (a) work and further study and (b) further study only, based on their situation six months after obtaining their qualification. Not all students provide information of their destination.

[2] Old covers pre-1992 universities.

[3] New covers post-1992 universities.

[4] Other HEIs covers Higher Education colleges.

[5] Other/unknown includes other UK institution; other non-UK institution; other public body in the UK; other private body in the UK; UK FE college; unknown and missing.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)—the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many foundation degrees were awarded in each employment sector in each of the last five years. [249115]

Mr. Lammy: Qualifiers from foundation degrees by employment sector are not available. The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for qualifiers from foundation degrees by subject of study have been provided as an alternative. The HESA student record only covers qualifiers from higher education institutions (HEIs).

Table 1: Qualifiers[1] from foundation degrees by subject of study, English higher education institutions, academic years 2002/03 to 2006/07

Subject of study	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0	0	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	65	270	405	775	1,090
Biological sciences	45	85	110	235	385
Veterinary science	10	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	20	145	255	425	575
Physical sciences	25	30	50	80	110
Mathematical sciences	5	0	0	0	0
Computer science	20	125	370	680	730
Engineering and technology	140	250	400	525	635
Architecture, building and planning	15	20	50	165	235
Social studies	70	350	700	720	1,030
Law	0	10	15	40	100
Business and administrative studies	220	385	745	1,110	1,445
Mass communications and documentation	35	85	150	230	260
Languages	0	20	15	15	20
Historical and philosophical studies	0	0	0	10	70
Creative arts and design	285	640	980	1,480	1,945
Education	110	445	1,385	2,325	2,370
Combined	0	0	0	5	0
Total	1,060	2,855	5,635	8,820	11,000

[1] Figures cover qualifiers from all domiciles and modes of study.

Notes:

Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

As HESA data are limited to those studying at HEIs, the latest figures from Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for entrants to foundation degrees by subject of study have been provided as these cover both English HEIs and English further education institutions (FECs). Figures for entrants have been provided as an alternative, as figures for qualifiers are not available.

Table 2: Home foundation degree entrants by subject of study[1], English higher education institutions and further education colleges, academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06

Subject area	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	1,835	2,230
Biological sciences	1,015	1,205
Veterinary science	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	1,210	1,645
Physical sciences	130	220
Mathematical sciences	0	0
Computer sciences	1,570	2,270
Engineering and technology	1,360	1,385
Architecture, building and planning	405	730
Social studies	1,740	2,385
Law	310	325
Business, admin studies	2,885	4,085
Mass comms, documentation	440	455
Languages	15	0
Historical, philosophical studies	170	265
Creative arts and design	2,865	3,985
Education	3,905	4,915
Combined	715	845
All subjects	20,570	26,940

[1] A small number of entrants were recorded as studying medicine and dentistry. It has been assumed that these were coding errors and they have been included within the 'other' subgroup of 'subjects allied to medicine'.

Source:

'Foundation degrees 2007/03' and 'Foundation degrees 2008/16' reports published by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The academic subject classification (JACS) is not always well suited to describing foundation degrees. The new HESA record being collected for 2007-08 will facilitate the identification of courses and it is hoped that future reports will be able to describe foundation degree provision in ways that will be more recognisable to stakeholders.

Graduates: Employment

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with higher education institutions on levels of graduate employment in the current economic situation; and what representations he has received on proposals for *(a)* reskilling and *(b)* upskilling courses for graduates preparing for employment. [250712]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS Ministers have met groups of university vice-chancellors, representatives of university careers services and graduate employers to discuss the prospects for graduate employment and the contribution of universities to helping individuals and businesses in the economic downturn. Universities' contributions to skills, training and workforce development are exemplified in the leaflet "Standing together—universities helping business through the downturn" available at:

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Documents/StandingTogether.pdf

In addition, the Secretary of State announced plans to increase the availability of internship places as a contribution to improving the skills of graduates preparing for employment.

Graduates: Government Assistance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the Prime Minister's plans to introduce a Government-funded intern scheme for university graduates, whether the scheme will be restricted to or targeted at particular socio-economic or demographic groups of recent graduates. [250466]

Mr. Lammy: As part of its overall package to support individuals through the economic downturn, the Government are developing proposals to increase the number of internships places for graduates who are unemployed next summer. We expect to offer graduates the opportunity to spend three months with an employer in either the private, public or third sector to apply their learning in the workplace and build the work-ready skills they will need for permanent employment. It is still early days and the details will be carefully worked out in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders.

Higher Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the work of British higher education institutions in promoting transnational educational partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [247755]

Mr. Lammy: Transnational education—the delivery of the courses and qualifications of one country in another one—brings great benefit to the individual higher education institutions (HEIs) involved as well as to the country as a whole. It makes a major contribution to the high reputation enjoyed by UK higher education in other parts of the world. The overall value of transnational higher education to the UK is estimated to be some £200 million per annum. A recent study commissioned by the Department and published by Sheffield Hallam University in May 2008 found that our institutions are well-engaged in making their high quality programmes and expertise available in other countries. The report, entitled "Transnational education and higher education institutions: exploring patterns of HE institutional activity", is available on the research and analysis pages of the Department's website. As part of the second phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative for international education (PMI2), £4 million has been allocated in 2007-08 to supporting HEIs in developing international partnerships and expanding their successful transnational education strategies to further improve the visibility of UK higher education on the international stage. Some 189 projects are being supported which involve UK HE institutions collaborating with institutions overseas.

Higher Education Funding Council: Consultants

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much and what proportion of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget was spent on the employment of management consultants in the last financial year. [249109]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England spent £145,000 in 2007-08 on management consultancy activities. This represents 0.002 per cent. of its budget for that year.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to meet the target of 50 per cent. participation rate in university education for young people aged 18 to 30 years. [248911]

Mr. Lammy: Over half of young people from all social backgrounds aspire to go to university. We are helping them to fulfil that aspiration. The latest UCAS figures show that acceptances from England are up by 7.4 per cent. (22,764) on the same point last year and this year's figures are the highest ever. Increasing initial participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30 is challenging but is an essential investment in our future prosperity. The high level skills acquired through university education help individuals and businesses to innovate and thrive. Our interim target is 42 per cent. for 2010/11 and we achieved 40 per cent. in 2006/07.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on which universities and higher education institutions have received over £50,000 from *(a)* a donor and *(b)* a foundation that had investments in the Madoff scheme; [250546]

(2) what information his Department holds on which universities and higher education institutions that had investments in the *(a)* Fairfield Greenwich, *(b)* Tremont Capital, *(c)* Union Bancaire Privée, *(d)* Access International, *(e)* Santander, *(f)* Gabriel Capital, *(g)* Fortis, *(h)* Kingsgate, *(i)* Normura, *(j)* Bank Medici, *(k)* Picower, *(l)* Union Bancaire, *(m)* Aozora, *(n)* Maxam, *(o)* Dexia, *(p)* HSBC, *(q)* Pioneer AL, *(r)* MR, *(s)* BNP, *(t)* Reliance, *(u)* BBVA, *(v)* Nativis, *(w)* Reichmuth, *(x)* credit mutual, *(y)* EIM and *(z)* Yeshim University hedge funds in 2008; [250547]

(3) what information his Department holds on which universities and higher education institutions had investments in the *(a)* MAN, *(b)* Unicredit, *(c)* Hadassah, *(d)* UBI, *(e)* Great Eastern and *(f)* fixed hedge funds in December 2008; [250548]

(4) what information his Department holds on which universities and higher education institutions invested in *(a)* Bernard Madoff investment securities and *(b)* hedge funds that invested in the Madoff scheme; and how much money was lost in each case. [250549]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions are responsible for their own banking and investment decisions and we have no data on the individual decisions they have taken. But the total level of annual income from all such investments is about 2 per cent. of the total income institutions now generate each year. The Higher Education Funding Council for England will keep the situation under review but has concluded that no institution is at risk as a result of any investment decisions it has taken. There is therefore no reason for students, prospective students, businesses or charities to reconsider their dealings with universities and other higher education institutions.

National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what relevant specialist qualifications the head of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research holds; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short-listed for interview; and if he will make a statement. [245073]

Mr. Lammy: The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) was established in 2004. It built upon and replaced the work of the Medical Research Council's (MRC) Centre for Best Practice for Animals in Research. Dr. Vicky Robinson, the chief executive of the NC3Rs was appointed by the MRC as head of the MRC Centre in 2002 following a competitive appointment process. The position was advertised in the New Scientist and called for relevant postdoctoral research, medical or veterinary qualifications as well as previous research/clinical experience. Dr. Robinson holds an honours degree in Biology and a PhD in Development Biology, and prior to her appointment was a research scientist with considerable experience of the 3Rs, including having worked for the RSPCA Research Animals Department for three years.

Overseas Students: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of non-UK EU domiciled students who graduated from an English university in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007 have started repaying their student loan. [illegible]

Mr. Lammy: Non-UK EU students commencing courses in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 are eligible for a tuition fee grant, but not eligible for a student loan. Those commencing courses in 2006/07, who are the first students to be eligible for a loan, would not be expected to graduate until summer 2009 at the earliest, so figures are therefore unavailable at present.

Research: Standards

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department proposes that multi-disciplinary research should be assessed in the Research Excellence Framework using the same procedures as mono-disciplinary research. [illegible]

Mr. Lammy: The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is being developed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in consultation with the higher education sector.

No decisions have been made on methods of assessing multi- and mono-disciplinary research within the REF. HEFCE will announce any such decisions in due course.

Student Numbers: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what records he holds of the number of Newcastle-based further education students who are at university in the city. [244128]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to answer the question precisely in the way it has been asked on the basis of the data which are collected centrally. However, there are now 48,470 higher education students at providers of higher education in Newcastle which represents an increase of 12,845 compared with 1997. Our policies are designed to help local students progress from further to higher education in order to increase and widen participation.

Students: Admissions

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of UK students admitted to universities in England left university before completing their course in each of the last five years. [251029]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available figures for the percentage of full-time first degree entrants not continuing in higher education after their first year are shown in table 1. These figures are also referred to as non-continuation rates. Comparable figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in June 2009.

Table 1: Percentage of full-time first degree entrants not continuing in HE after their first year, English higher education institutions, academic year 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Percentage*
2001/02	8.7
2002/03	9.1
2003/04	9.1
2004/05	8.4
2005/06	8.3

Source:

Performance Indicators in HE, published by Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The latest available figures for the percentage of full-time first degree starts expected to neither obtain an award nor transfer are shown in table 2. These figures are also known as non-completion rates. Comparable figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in June 2009.

Table 2: Percentage of full-time first degree starters expected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution, English higher education institutions, academic year 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Percentage*
2001/02	13.8
2002/03	13.9
2003/04	14.4
2004/05	13.8
2005/06	13.9

Source:

Performance Indicators in HE, published by Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

We are maintaining very good completion rates for first degrees with the latest statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development showing that the UK ranks 3rd of the 27 countries reporting data in this area. This has been achieved and maintained during a period when higher education has been opened up to both increased numbers and a greater diversity of students.

Students: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals progressed to higher education in the last year for which data are available. [251296]

Mr. Lammy: Currently only one data point is available (for 19-year-olds in 2005/06) and this shows that, at a national level, 13.6 per cent. of young people who were in receipt of free school meals (FSM) at age 15 in 2001/02 had progressed to HE by age 19 by 2005/06. The equivalent figure for non-FSM pupils was 33.0 per cent., leaving a gap of 19.4 percentage points between the two groups.

Percentage of children aged 15 in maintained schools in England by FSM status in 2001/02, who attended an HEI in the UK (or studied HE in an FEI college in England) by the age of 19 in 2005/06

	Population	Number of children progressing to HE	Percentage
Children in receipt of FSM	79,700	10,800	13.6
Children not in receipt of FSM	475,200	156,700	33.0
All children	556,600	167,900	30.2
Gap in participation by FSM status	—	—	19.4

Note:
Due to rounding (to the nearest 100 children), components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Matched Higher Education and Statistics Agency (HESA), National Pupil Database (NPD) and Individual Learner Record

Work is currently in progress to obtain matched data that will allow DIUS analysts to extend the progression rate analysis to higher education entry by age 20 and this will be available in the next few months.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to establish a mechanism for annual review of the new funding regime for equivalent or lower qualifications. [250711]

Mr. Lammy: The Secretary of State established when he finalised this policy in January 2008 that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) should conduct an annual review on its impact. I wrote to HEFCE earlier this month setting out the terms of reference for the review. A copy of this letter has been placed in the House of Commons Library. HEFCE has started work on the review and plan to report later in the year.

Letter from David Lammy to Tim Melville-Ross (HEFCE), dated 7 January 2009:

Redistributing funding for equivalent and lower level qualifications

1. In January 2008 the Secretary of State, John Denham, wrote to you about the Government's policy on the redistribution of institutional funding for students doing equivalent and lower level qualifications (ELQs). Your redistribution of ELQ funding began at the start of the 2008/09 academic year, and is then set to scale up over time. In his letter John said that the impact of the policy should be reviewed annually by the Council, and the Council should be prepared to act on the findings of these reviews to improve the implementation of the policy.

2. We have always been aware that the scope of this first annual review, scheduled for December 2008, would inevitably be limited. We are only in the first year of the new arrangements, only a minority of the overall redeployment of funds have taken place and limited data regarding 2008-09 entry will be available at this point in time. One role of this initial investigation is therefore to provide a baseline for future reviews, but this should not rule out appropriate changes, if they are justified by the evidence.

3. I am, however, also conscious that the economic climate has changed since John announced the Government's new policy on ELQ funding in September 2007. In an economic downturn it is more important than ever that individuals and businesses have access to high quality, affordable educational provision to improve competitiveness and to enable workers to enter growth areas in the labour market.

4. As you review the implementation of ELQs, I would like the Council to consider whether there is evidence that any modification to the approach decided on earlier this year will help universities respond more effectively to the challenges of the economic downturn. The review should not, however, lead to a significant net increase in the overall number of ELQ students studying exempt or protected subjects because we will continue to give priority for public funding to those who have not yet obtained a first higher education qualification.

5. As part of the review, I would like the Council to investigate whether there is any evidence available of changes in the flow of students as a result of ELQ policy. If there is concrete evidence of a large fall in demand at national level for a subject of national strategic importance, I would like the Council to advise us on:

a. the scope to increase demand for that subject from those without an equivalent or higher level qualification

b. whether there is adequate provision of Foundation Degrees—as the hallmark vocational qualification—in that subject

c. the scope for labour market demand for graduates in that discipline to translate into increased employer funding to support students in that discipline; and only then

d. whether there is a case for exempting entrants to the subject who have an ELQ from the general ELQ funding rule or protecting it in other ways.

6. In any such cases, the Council should also advise on the scope for removing exempted or protected subjects from the list. We will then work with you to agree any changes to the subjects that are exempted or protected.

7. It is, of course, for the Council to decide on the best way of conducting this review but I would like it to take an evidence-based approach. I imagine the review will exclude Strategically Important and Vulnerable Subjects because the health of these disciplines rightly falls under the remit of your new Strategically Important Subjects advisory group, chaired by Peter Saraga. And, given your additional support for SIVS, it would be difficult (if not impossible) to establish a baseline for the review that would be comparable with other subjects. You will, no doubt, work with Peter's group as and when it is necessary.

8. I am very grateful to the HEFCE Board and its officers for their work on the implementation of the policy and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Council on this and other issues.

Students: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of writing off unpaid student loans has been in each year since such loans were introduced. [248912]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

Amount of public loan debt written off by financial year (UK and EU domiciled students)

Financial year	*Loan write off amount (£ million)*
2007-08	11.1
2006-07	6.9
2005-06	5.6
2004-05	3.0
2003-04	3.2
2002-03	2.6
2001-02	1.4
2000-01	1.1
1999-2000	1.2
1998-99	0.9
1997-98	1.0
1996-97	0.9
1995-96	0.5
1994-95	0.3

There are two types of student loan—those taken out before 1 September 1998 ('mortgage style loans') and those taken out after 1 September 1998 (income contingent repayment loans).

Excluding those in arrears, loans are written off when, in the case of those who entered higher education before 1 September 2006, the borrower reaches the age of 65; or, in the case of those who entered higher education from 1 September 2006, 25 years after their statutory repayment due date.

Loans are also written off if a borrower dies, or receives a disability benefit and because of the disability is permanently unfit for work.

The significant rise on write offs for the financial year 2007-08 is due to £3.2 million of backdated write offs for individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) and bankruptcy, which the Student Loans Company did not have the functionality to process until that year. Since the Higher Education Act 2004 came into force, borrowers declaring themselves bankrupt have still been liable for their student loan debt.

The steady rise in the amount of public loan debt written off each year also reflects the growing maturity of the student loan book. In other words, there has been a year-on-year increase in the total number of loans which have been issued since the schemes began.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of the amount overpaid in student loan repayments in the last 12 month period for which data are available. [248553]

Mr. Lammy: The data are not available in the form requested.

On 31 March 2008, the loan accounts of 30,091 borrowers were in credit by over £5.00, at an average of £210 per borrower. These amounts are refunded with interest by the Student Loans Company when borrowers' accounts are reconciled at the end of the financial year.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the difference between market interest rates and the interest rate charged on student loans; and if he will make a statement. [250203]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* In the last three months, Members have tabled five questions on this subject. The Department has also received representations from members of the public and the press.

The legislative provisions for income contingent repayment student loans require that the rate of interest must: (i) be no higher than is necessary to maintain the value of the loan in real terms; and (ii) not exceed 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates of a specified group of banks[1] (the 'low interest cap').

The interest rate is normally set every September to equal the retail prices index for the previous March—currently 3.8 per cent. Following the reduction in the Bank of England base rate by the Monetary Policy Committee on 4 December 2008, all the specified banks reduced their base rates to 2 per cent. and the low interest cap came into play. The Student Loans Company (SLC) therefore reduced the interest rate for income contingent loans from 3.8 per cent. to 3 per cent. with effect from 5 December 2008.

Following the latest reduction in the Bank of England base rate on 8 January 2009, all the specified banks have now reduced their base rates to 1.5 per cent. The SLC therefore reduced the interest rate for income contingent loans from 3 per cent. to 2.5 per cent. with effect from 9 January 2009.

The SLC published this information on their website and in national newspapers.

The interest rate for loans taken out before 1998 (known as 'mortgage style loans') is not affected as these loans are governed by different legislation.

[1] Bank of England; Bank of Scotland; Barclays Bank plc; Clydesdale Bank plc; Co-operative Bank plc; Courts and Co; HSBC Bank plc; Lloyds TSB Bank plc; Natwest Bank plc; the Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 27 January 2009

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General what meetings officials from the Attorney-General's Office have had with *(a)* business organisations and *(b)* individual companies on retaining the provision for the Attorney-General's consent for prosecution of corruption offences involving national security and international relations in the last 12 months; on what dates such meetings were held; and who attended each meeting. [251067]

The Solicitor-General: There have been no such meetings in the last 12 months. A public consultation was held on the role of the Attorney-General from July to November 2007, and the results were published in March 2008.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what representations the Attorney-General's Office has received from *(a)* the Confederation of British Industry, *(b)* the Society of British Aerospace Companies and *(c)* the International Chambers of Commerce on retaining the provision for the Attorney-General's consent for prosecution of corruption offences involving national security and international relations in the last 12 months; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each such representation; [251068]

(2) from which *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals the Attorney-General's Office has received written representations on retaining provision for the Attorney-General's consent for prosecution of corruption offences involving national security and international relations in the last 12 months; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such representation. [251073]

The Solicitor-General: No such representations have been received in the last 12 months. A public consultation was held on the role of the Attorney-General from July to November 2007, and the results were published in March 2008.

CPS Merseyside: Witnesses

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Solicitor-General what research has been undertaken on witnesses' opinions of their treatment by Merseyside Crown Prosecution Service. [251342]

The Solicitor-General: There has been no specific research on witnesses' opinions of their treatment by Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Merseyside. However, data is available to all the criminal justice agencies in Merseyside from the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) commissioned by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The WAVES survey has been designed to measure local and national victim and witness satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System (CJS). The survey involves telephone interviews with a number of victims and witnesses from each of the 42 local criminal justice board (LCJB) areas and provides important information to drive improvements to services and support for victims and witnesses.

In addition to the WAVES survey, the LCJB in Merseyside is proposing to commission its own victim and witness survey, which will provide additional local information for the various CJS agencies to act upon.

Serious Fraud Office: Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Solicitor-General how much and what proportion of waste by volume the Serious Fraud Office has recycled in each of the last five years. [248872]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the volume of material sent for recycling by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) in each of the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Total volume recycled (tonnes)*
2003-04	41.62
2004-05	59.13
2005-06	57.94
2006-07	75.34
2007-08	42.90

The only type of waste recycled by the SFO for the financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07 was paper. In May 2007, the SFO began the collection and recycling of cardboard, plastic, aluminium and glass. The figure of 42.90 tonnes for the financial year 2007-08 includes these types of waste.

The total volume of waste produced by the SFO in the financial year 2007-08 was estimated at 70.99 tonnes. The proportion of waste recycled by volume is therefore 60.43 per cent. This far exceeds the sustainable operations target of 40 per cent., set in June 2006.

The SFO does not have accurate data for the total waste produced for the financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07, so it is not possible to calculate the proportion of waste recycled by volume for these years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Heating

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many complaints have been made about heating facilities in the offices of hon. Members and staff in *(a)* 1 Parliament Street, *(b)* Norman Shaw North, *(c)* Norman Shaw South, *(d)* the Palace of Westminster, *(e)* 7 Millbank and *(f)* Portcullis House in each of the last three years for which information is available. [248139]

Nick Harvey: The number of requests for maintenance to heating and air conditioning in each of the last three years is as follows:

2006

Building	*Number requests*
1 Parliament Street	325
Norman Shaw North	113
Norman Shaw South	77
Palace of Westminster	1243
7 Millbank	147
Portcullis House	198
Total	2103

2007

Building	*Number requests*
1 Parliament Street	322
Norman Shaw North	179
Norman Shaw South	207
Palace of Westminster	1255
7 Millbank	126
Portcullis House	305
Total	2394

2008

Building	*Number requests*
1 Parliament Street	299
Norman Shaw North	169
Norman Shaw South	167
Palace of Westminster	1277
7 Millbank	89
Portcullis House	265
Total	2266

We do not record how many of these requests for maintenance were complaints.

Parliament: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what programme of preventative maintenance has been established for 1 Parliament Street. [248232]

Nick Harvey: Since 1 Parliament Street was opened in 1991, planned preventative maintenance contracts (PPMCs) have been established for all major plant, equipment and systems to maintain the property. The largest PPMC covers the operation, repair, and planned preventative maintenance for all the major plant, equipment and systems, including catering equipment, and is inclusive of all minor day to day repairs found necessary to maintain the property.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-112WS, on guaranteed minimum pension contributions, what the timetable is for the National Audit Office review. [250333]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office is currently developing terms of reference for its review of the causes of the incorrect pension payments. It plans to publish the findings of the review in the early summer.

WALES

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* original expected delivery date, *(c)* actual cost incurred and *(d)* actual delivery date was of each ICT project undertaken and completed by his Department in each year since its inception; who the contractors for each project were; what the (i) initial estimated and (ii) outturn payment to each contractor was; and if he will make a statement. [251141]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is provided with its IT services by the Ministry of Justice. Consequently, the Department does not directly undertake IT projects.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251531]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252236]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the latest available figures on the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued in England and Wales relate to the period to December 2006; and when data on antisocial behaviour orders issued after that date will be published. [250111]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data on antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is based on information supplied to the Home Office by courts. This information is compiled by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for the Home Office.

ASBO data undergo extensive checking and a rigorous quality assurance process to verify the accuracy and completeness of the data they contain. Since December 2006 ASBO data has been published together with data on all the antisocial behaviour tools and powers collected from Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in an annual survey. The publication date of the ASBO data is determined by the complexity of this exercise and timing it to coincide with the CDRP survey.

Data for 2007 are expected to be available shortly.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued to men aged 18 to 25 years in each of the last five years. [250115]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available information on the number of ASBOs issued goes up to 31 December 2006. ASBO data is broken down by age group 10 to 17 and adults aged 18 and over, and by gender. The available information is shown in the following table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to males aged 18 and over, at all courts in England and Wales in each year, 2002-06

	Issued
2002	127
2003	574
2004	1,751
2005	2,078
2006	1,371

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

2. Prepared by OCJR Evidence & Analysis Unit.

Source:

As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) Uxbridge constituency and (ii) the London borough of Hillingdon since 1 January 2005. [250781]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Centrally collected data on the numbers of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are not compiled below criminal justice system area level.

Arrests: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures are in place to ensure that police officers receive sufficient information from regulatory authorities to allow officers to judge whether an arrest is necessary for an alleged regulatory offence; [247093]

(2) what procedures are in place to ensure full disclosure of information by regulatory authorities to the police when they ask the police to arrest an individual. [247094]

Mr. Coaker: Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 a police officer may only arrest a person if they suspect their involvement or attempted involvement in the commission of a criminal offence and the officer reasonably believes that arrest is necessary against the criteria defined in section 24 of the Act and the 'Code of Practice for the Statutory Power of Arrest by Police Officers' (PACE Code G).

A decision to arrest a person under PACE is at the operational discretion of the individual officer concerned. The disclosure of information provided by regulatory authorities to the police is an operational matter for the individual authority and the police.

Asylum: Appeals

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals against decisions not to grant asylum have been upheld in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [248433]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of asylum appeals upheld is published quarterly and annually. Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

The most recent publication available is Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom - Third Quarter 2008.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access asylum seekers who are appealing against the decision not to grant them asylum have to *(a)* legal, *(b)* medical and *(c)* housing services; and if she will make a statement. [248434]

Mr. Woolas: A person who is appealing against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant them asylum is entitled to legal aid provided they satisfy the means test and can also show that the merits of their case justify public funding. The tests are set out in the Legal Services Commission's Funding Code.

A person who is appealing against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant asylum is eligible for NHS medical treatment.

The UK Border Agency provides support to asylum seekers who need it to avoid destitution from the time they arrive in the UK until their claim is fully determined (appeal rights exhausted). Support includes the provision of housing, if required. A person who had submitted an appeal against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant asylum and who had qualified for accommodation support whilst their asylum claim was still under consideration would continue to receive that support while the appeal remained outstanding.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of failed asylum seekers were returned to their homeland in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [248432]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of asylum cases, including dependants, who were removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the United Kingdom to their country of nationality between January 2004 and September 2008, along with the percentage of total asylum cases removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the United Kingdom to their country of nationality.

The figures are rounded to the nearest five and data since 2007 are provisional.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of asylum cases[2], by destination, January 2004 to September 2008

					Number of removals[3]
Period	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[4]*	*Jan-Sep 2008[4]*
Total asylum cases removed	14,915	15,685	18,280	13,705	9,070
Of which:					
Removed to country of nationality	11,380	12,175	14,545	11,235	7,250
as percentage of total asylum cases removed	76	78	80	82	80

[1] Includes enforced removals, port asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[4] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Eritrea

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Eritrean asylum-seekers have returned voluntarily to Eritrea in the last year; how many have been granted asylum in the last five years; what plans she has to enforce the return of those who are not granted asylum; and how many are in receipt of section 4 support. [248999]

Mr. Woolas: There is no policy precluding the return of unsuccessful asylum seekers to Eritrea. Each case is considered on its individual merits against the background of the latest available country information and relevant case law. Individuals found not to be in need of international protection by the asylum decision making process and the independent appeals process are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. If they do not leave voluntarily they may have their return enforced.

For the period January to September 2008 there were five assisted voluntary returns to Eritrea from the UK. Additionally, for the same period, there were 260 enforced removals of Eritreans including further voluntary departures after enforcement action had been initiated. All removals statistics are for principal applicants only, excluding any dependants who were also removed. Figures relating to the period October to December 2008 will not be available until 24 February 2009.

Information concerning grants of asylum to Eritrean nationals from 1998-2007 is published in table 3.1 (cases granted asylum) of Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 (bulletin 11/08). Quarterly data for the period January to September 2008 have also been published. This is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

As at 11 January 2009, there were 902 Eritreans receiving section 4 support. This figure is taken from management information, which is provisional and subject to change.

Asylum: Malawi

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to monitor the welfare of asylum seekers who have arrived in the UK using Malawian passports but who claim to be Zimbabweans after they have been returned to Malawi. [248731]

Mr. Woolas: Unsuccessful asylum claimants are returned to Malawi only if they are entitled to reside there, and only when the decision making and independent appeals system have found that this would be consistent with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Among many other factors, decision makers and the courts take full account of any risk that the claimant would be removed from Malawi to a country where they could be at risk.

The UK Border Agency does not routinely monitor the treatment of individual unsuccessful asylum claimants on return to their country of origin. They are, by definition, foreign nationals who have been found as a matter of law not to need the UK's protection and it would be inconsistent with that finding for the UK to assume an ongoing responsibility for them when they return to their own country.

The UK Border Agency does constantly strive to obtain the best information to inform the asylum decision making process. It works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including the British embassy in Harare and the British high commission in Lilongwe, who will pass to the UK Border Agency any relevant information they receive regarding the treatment of unsuccessful asylum seekers returned from the UK.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what co-operation her Department receives from the Malawian High Commission and the Malawian Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with establishing the entitlement to Malawian citizenship of asylum seekers who arrive in the UK using Malawian passports but claiming to be Zimbabweans. [248732]

Mr. Woolas: Information received from asylum seekers for their asylum claim is treated in confidence and the details of their asylum claims are not disclosed to the authorities of the country or countries they fear being returned to. The nationality or entitlement of an applicant to reside in a country is determined by looking at and weighing up all of the available documentary and oral evidence. Where a person holds a genuine Malawian passport or other identity document issued by the Malawian authorities, this would normally be enough to show that the holder is entitled to reside in Malawi.

Where claims are unsuccessful, limited disclosure of information may be made to foreign authorities, including the Malawian authorities where we are returning an individual to Malawi, if it is necessary for travel documentation purposes.

No reference is made to the fact the individual has claimed asylum in the UK.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what co-operation her Department receives from the Malawian High Commission and the Malawian Ministry of Home Affairs in confirming as genuine the Malawian passports of asylum seekers who arrive in the UK using Malawian passports but who claim asylum as Zimbabweans. [248733]

Mr. Woolas: Information received from asylum seekers for their asylum claim is treated in confidence and the details of their asylum claims are not disclosed to the authorities of the country or countries they fear being returned to. The nationality or entitlement of an applicant to reside in a country is determined by looking at and weighing up all of the available documentary and oral evidence. Where a person holds a genuine Malawian passport or other identity document issued by the Malawian authorities, this would normally be enough to show that the holder is entitled to reside in Malawi.

Where claims are unsuccessful, limited disclosure of information may be made to foreign authorities, including the Malawian authorities where we are returning an individual to Malawi, if it is necessary for travel documentation purposes.

No reference is made to the fact the individual has claimed asylum in the UK.

Asylum: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers resident in Peterborough constituency were in receipt of section 4 support as at 1 November 2008; and if she will make a statement. [249284]

Mr. Woolas: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Unsuccessful asylum seekers may be eligible for support under section 4 of the 1999 Act if they are destitute and there is a temporary barrier to leaving the UK. On 9 November 2008, the nearest date for which figures are available, there were 22 people, excluding dependants, in receipt of section 4 support in the Peterborough constituency.

The figure provided is management information, not national statistics, which is provisional and subject to change.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the e-Borders programme; and if she will make a statement. [250052]

Mr. Woolas: Since contract award in November 2007, the legislation which requires carriers to provide e-Borders with the required data has been put in place.

Significant progress has been made in taking forward the design and delivery of the e-Borders solution, the first phase of which is currently being tested. In addition to this, a site in the North-West has been secured for the new operational base, the National Border Targeting Centre.

Since Project Semaphore, the operational prototype to test the e-Borders concept was trialled in 2005; over 79 million passenger movements have been monitored.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had with the Department for Transport on the role of registered traveller programmes in enhancing airline security and contributing to the e-borders programme. [250064]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers and officials from the Home Office and the Department for Transport have had several discussions concerning the use of "registered traveller" and automated border controls and the contribution they can make to border and passenger security. Both Departments are committed to working together, with airport operators, to introduce new technology to ensure that travel to and from the UK, and the crossing of the border, is quick and safe for all passengers.

There are currently two automated border control systems in operation: The Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS) and the Automated Clearance Service (ACS).

IRIS is a pre-enrolment scheme for frequent travellers and is in operation at 10 major airports around the UK. ACS is a scheme for UK and European e-passport holders, currently in trial at Manchester and Stansted airports only. It does not require pre-enrolment—passengers simply present their e-Passport as evidence of identity and entitlement to entry. The aim of both schemes is to help low-risk passengers cross the UK Border more quickly. While they are not a formal component of aviation or maritime security policy, both schemes ensure that only passengers who are entitled to cross our border are able to do so.

In the future, ACS deployment will be fully integrated with the e-Borders system.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* airline operators, *(b)* airport operators and *(c)* the Department for Transport on the introduction of authority to carry; and when she expects these discussions to be completed. [250096]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders programme officials meet regularly with concerned partners. I have recently met with members of the British Air Transport Association, including representatives from British Airways, Virgin and bmi.

Discussions continue to take place with carrier and port representatives both on an individual level and at regular working groups. In addition the e-Borders programme is represented at the 'Facilitation Stakeholders Forum', organised by the Department for Transport. These meetings provide an opportunity for all e-Borders issues to be discussed, including the Authority to Carry scheme.

The introduction of an Authority to Carry Scheme will only be brought forward for parliamentary approval, once the full 12 week consultation period with all stakeholders has taken place.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average annual cost of applying checks to each individual passenger movement under the e-Borders programme. [250097]

Mr. Woolas: The total gross cost of the e-Borders programme will be £1.4 billion over 10 years from 2007.

The gross cost to Government is £1.2 billion over that period. The global figure for carriers is £242 million over the same 10-year period, which includes the set-up and running costs.

The average cost per passenger movement was estimated at 14p when the regulatory impact assessment was prepared in 2006, however we expect this figure to drop considerably and the average to go down as carriers modernise their systems.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made in discussions with the European Commission on the EU's passenger name record proposals; and if she will make a statement. [250099]

Mr. Woolas: In November 2007 the European Commission published draft legislation on the use of EU passenger name records (PNR) for law enforcement purposes. The UK Government believes that the EU PNR proposal presents an important opportunity to share data in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, and facilitate legitimate travel to the UK.

Significant progress was made on the EU PNR dossier during the French presidency, especially in increasing technical expertise on the draft instrument. Furthermore, the dossier was raised in the July, October and November Justice and Home Affairs Councils. The UK's objective is for the instrument to be compatible with UK domestic initiatives, specifically e-Borders. We are seeking a flexible EU instrument allowing member states to address the different threats they face whilst minimising the burdens on industry. Negotiations will continue during the Czech presidency.

British Nationality

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many exemptions from the requirement for applicants for British citizenship to attend a citizenship ceremony have been granted on the grounds of ill health. [247154]

Mr. Woolas: Section 42 of the British Nationality Act 1981 (the Act) sets down the requirement that persons of full age (being 18 years) should not be registered or naturalised as a British citizen or British overseas territories citizen unless they have made the relevant citizenship oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony.

Discretion may be exercised under section 42(6) of the Act to disapply the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony in the special circumstances of a particular case.

The following table provides a breakdown of figures since commencement of this requirement in 2004 of those who have not attended a citizenship ceremony.

Children are exempted in law from the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony and this is also represented in the table.

In total, 465,595 persons of full age, who were therefore required to attend a citizenship ceremony, were registered or naturalised as a British citizen between 2004 and 2007. A total of 650, equating to 0.14 per cent. of this total were exempted from the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony as a result of the exercise of discretion by the Secretary of State during this period. Final figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Exemptions are only granted in exceptional circumstances; for example, when a requirement to attend a ceremony would have national security implications or when an applicant cannot attend due to chronic illness or disability. Further breakdown of the figures to distinguish between exemptions on the grounds of national security and chronic illness or disability would require examination of individual files at disproportionate cost.

Nationality grants and exemptions from ceremonies, excluding ceremony attended

		Ceremony overseas (exemption)		*Grant*		*Total grants over 18 (excluding minors)*	
Outcome year	*Total not attended a ceremony*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Over 18*	*Percentage not attended*
Total	138,930	300	5	350	138,280	465,595	0.14
2004	15,540	[1]—	—	55	15,480	109,860	0.05
2005	40,760	25	—	130	40,605	120,060	0.13
2006	42,410	205	[1]—	100	42,105	111,575	0.27
2007	40,220	65	—	65	40,090	124,100	0.10

[1] Negligible i.e. two or less.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Ceremonies were introduced on 1 January 2004, therefore only application dates post 1 January 2004.

Source:

Local Management Information.

Christmas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in each year between 1993 and 1996. [250735]

Mr. Woolas: I am afraid the Department's accounting system does not hold information for the financial years 1993-96.

Crimes of Violence: Research

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has undertaken on trends in the level of violence towards street-based sex workers. [250082]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has commissioned a number of research studies which have considered issues relating to the risk of violence towards those involved in street prostitution. These studies include; For Love or Money: Pimps and the Management of Sex Work (May, T, Harcopops, A, Hough M (2000)); Vulnerability and involvement in drug use and sex work Cusick, L, Martin, A, May, T (2003) and Tackling Street Prostitution: Towards an holistic approach (Hester, M and Westmarland, N (2004)).

In addition to this work the Government's "Paying the Price": a consultation paper on prostitution and A Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy took account of a range of independent research relating to the levels of violence towards those involved in street prostitution. A review of the existing literature on tackling the demand for prostitution and a study of prostitution in nine different countries was also commissioned, last year, to inform the development of policy.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much air mileage incurred through departmental and associated agency travel was offset in 2007-08, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul travel. [250093]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides a breakdown for how much *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul air mileage incurred by the Department and associated agencies through 2007-08 was offset:

	Miles
Domestic air travel	3,115,863
Short-haul air travel	1,626,114
Long-haul air travel	3,980,766

The data cover some business areas that are now part of Ministry of Justice.

The Home Office participates in the Government carbon offsetting fund which is co-ordinated by DEFRA. This ensures the Department offsets carbon dioxide emissions from its official air travel.

All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the civil service management code.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248798]

Mr. Woolas: As records are not held in the breakdown requested the following table gives the total cumulative figure across all three categories requested drawn from available financial records for the last four years.

Financial year	£
2004-05	18,142,000
2005-06	21,461,000
2006-07	19,324,000
2007-08	13,610,000

The aforementioned figures in this table do not include maintenance costs within outsourcing contracts including PFIs. There is no record of any expenditure on wallpaper. Figures for 2003-04 are held in historic format and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Plans for spending in 2009-10 and future financial years which may include decoration works are not yet finalised.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 281W, on departmental consultants, how many passes were issued in the most recent month for which records are available. [250354]

Mr. Woolas: For the period 1-31 December 2008, where records are available, 22 passes were issued to consultants working in the Home Office HQ.

Departmental Data Protection

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department and its agencies are authorised to access electronic files and databases relating to an individual's *(a)* immigration status, *(b)* asylum application and *(c)* passport application; and if she will make a statement. [243147]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: The information requested is not held centrally. As such, it is not possible to answer the PQ within the time and cost limits of the PQ process.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many freedom of information requests have been received by her Department in 2008 to date; and how many have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* rejected. [244037]

Meg Hillier: The Department received 1,489 requests between January and September 2008. Where a response has been provided, information was held in 627 of cases. Responses to 414 requests resulted in information being disclosed in full, 103 requests resulted in partial disclosure, and 110 requests resulted in information being withheld. A request was also refused on 323 occasions where the department did not hold the information, on six occasions where the request was considered vexatious and seven as they were considered to be repeat requests. A response was refused on 191 occasions where it was estimated that the cost limit would be exceeded, and advice and assistance was provided in response to 164 requests.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241953]

Mr. Woolas: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* security passes and *(b)* identity cards of her Department and its agencies were reported (i) lost and (ii) stolen in the calendar year 2008. [250525]

Mr. Woolas: The number of Home Office security passes and identity cards reported lost or stolen (broken down where known) in the calendar year 2008 is as follows: 246 security passes were lost and 30 stolen; 15 identity cards have been reported lost and six stolen (warrant cards are included in this figure as for some business areas they are the same document).

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246978]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently 11 0845 numbers being used by the Home Office and its agencies. The following table outlines these numbers and their purpose.

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0845 121 0046	Passport Office Authentication by Interview (ABI) Booking Line	Phone
0845 603 7788	Family Records Centre (Office of National Statistics) General Register Office Certificate Services	Phone
0845 010 6677	UKBA Employers' Helpline	Phone
0845 601 2298	UKBA Evidence and Enquiry line	Phone
0845 602 1739	UKBA Enquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0845 010 5200	UKBA Nationality telephone enquiries	Phone
0845 600 0914	UKBA Asylum Support Customer Contact Centre	Phone
0845 601 1145	UKBA National Asylum Support FAX Line	Fax
0845 601 1143	UKBA National Asylum Support FAX Line	Fax
0845 600 0877	UKBA Asylum and Immigration Tribunal	Phone
0845 600 0914	UKBA Voucher and discontinuation helpline	Phone

Deportation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of Peterborough constituency are appealing against decisions not to grant them indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [249215]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: Information on the number of residents in the constituency of Peterborough who are appealing against decisions not to grant them indefinite leave to remain is not available.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009 to question 246149, in what format and at what location, information on individuals awaiting determination in respect of applications for indefinite leave to remain in Peterborough is held; and if she will make a statement. [249311]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: When an application for indefinite leave to remain is received into UK Border Agency, both a paper file and an electronic record are raised at the same time.

Our electronic database is called the case information database (CID) and management information is extracted using fixed datasets at any given point in time.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009 to question 246149, what her estimate is of the cost of ascertaining how many individuals in Peterborough have been awaiting determination of their applications for indefinite leave to remain since May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [249312]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: Producing retrospective management information reports on previous outstanding work in progress is not possible, as the data will have changed as cases are received and cleared. In order to provide this information each individual record would have to be manually identified and analysed before producing a summary report at a disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Religious Hatred

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the repatriation to their country of origin of non-UK nationals who fear persecution on religious grounds following their return. [247933]

Mr. Woolas: The United Kingdom is a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees ("Refugee Convention"). Each claim for asylum is considered on its individual merits by specially trained caseworkers to determine whether the applicant has demonstrated a well-founded fear of persecution in his or her country of nationality or habitual residence for one of the reasons set out in the Refugee Convention. These are reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

The UK is also a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly referred to as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). This precludes the UK from removing certain people to another country, where for example, removing them would expose them to a real risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Applicants who engage our protection obligations are granted leave to remain in the UK. Individuals whom the asylum decision-making process, and the independent appeal process where a suspensive appeal right exists, have found not to need international protection and who do not have the right to remain in the United Kingdom are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. If they fail to do so, the UK Border Agency will seek to enforce their return where it is satisfied that it is safe to do so.

The UK Border Agency may return an asylum seeker to a country other than their country of origin where the provisions of the Dublin Convention apply. In addition, the United Kingdom is signatory to a number of bilateral and European Community Readmission Agreements. In certain circumstances these agreements can be utilised to affect the removal of an illegal migrant to a signatory state that a person can be proven to have transited directly en route to the UK, rather than their country of origin. The United Kingdom would, however, be obliged to consider any claim for international protection under the Refugee Convention before that person could be removed to the transit country, except in cases where they qualified to be removed under the Dublin Convention.

Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reservations her Department is seeking in relation to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if she will make a statement. [248193]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office will lodge a reservation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to protect the primacy of domestic immigration legislation and enable differential treatment on health grounds and related issues. The reservation is necessary primarily to protect public health. Immigration functions are and will remain subject to domestic legislation in regard to disability discrimination, and the reservation will have no effect on existing provisions.

Driving Under Influence

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of drivers who were breath-tested failed the test during January in each year since 2004. [251339]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on breath tests and the number and percentage positive/refused covering 2004 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

Data for 2007 are due to be published in April 2009.

Screening breath tests and number and percentage positive or refused in January of each year, England and Wales 2004-06[1]

	Total tests	*Positive/refused*	*Percentage positive/refused*
2004	46,256	8,405	18
2005	48,442	8,404	17
2006	50,165	8,788	18

[1] Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2006 and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 and 2005.

Drugs: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for *(a)* possession of and *(b)* dealing in ecstasy in each of the last 10 years. [248646]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for the possession of and dealing in Ecstasy in England and Wales from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) are given in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the possession of and dealing in Ecstasy[1]*, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007*[2, 3]

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*[2]2002[2]*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Possession	810	1,369	2,064	2,626	2,277	2,156	1,921	1,765	1,618	1,693
Possession with intent to supply	410	693	1,081	1,352	1,064	947	726	649	582	592
Supply	308	408	545	528	399	306	261	245	207	217

[1] Methylenedioxymethamphetamine or MDMA is most commonly known as Ecstasy.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Entry Clearances: China

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applicants from mainland China have had their applications refused in each of the last three years; of those how many have appealed; how many such appeals have succeeded; and how many decisions have been withdrawn prior to determination of the appeal. [247907]

Mr. Woolas: The following provides requested statistics received in mainland China at our embassy in Beijing and the Consulate-Generals in Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangzhou. The number of appeals received in each year does not directly correspond to the number of determinations received as the appeal process takes time and results are received in subsequent years.

The number of determinations received and the results of those determinations are included to give a more accurate representation of decisions on appealed cases.

UK Border Agency—Determinations and appeals from Mainland China

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Total applications refused	1,0969	1,4234	1,8091
Applications with right of appeal	5350	7275	1,1200
Number of appeals received	1,318	1,090	2,270
Appealed applications withdrawn prior to determination	395	250	389
Determination received successful appeals	614	300	370
Determination received dismissed appeals	477	469	571
Total determinations received (successful + dismissed)	1,091	769	941

European Convention on Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime. [251017]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are currently following the process for ratification of treaties and we believe that the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime will be completed by April 2009.

Extradition: USA

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited to the United States since 2003; and for what alleged offences they have been extradited. [250080]

Meg Hillier: 63 persons have been extradited from the United Kingdom to the United States since 2003.

The offences for which those persons were sought are as follows:

	Number
Drugs	20
Fraud	18
Sexual offences	6
Murder	4
Theft	3
Money laundering	3
Child pornography	2
Satellite signal theft	2
Child abduction	1
Grievous bodily harm	1
Terrorism	1
Forgery	1
Obtaining property by deception	1

Fishburn Hedges

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure her Department and its agencies has incurred in hiring Fishburn Hedges in the last 36 months; and for what purposes. [250461]

Mr. Woolas: The Department made no payments to Fishburn Hedges during the financial years 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09; for 2006-07 the Department made six payments totalling £149,620.

The payments related to the publicity of Home Office activities, including the promotion of the Tackling Drugs Changing Lives strategy; and delivery of an internal communications programme in the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

For the Department's agencies, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau have not made any payments.

Identity Cards: Contracts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 196W, on public sector contracts, whether general break clauses have been included in the contracts for *(a)* national identity cards and *(b)* the National Identity Register. [250275]

Meg Hillier: Contracts being procured for the national identity scheme contain provisions for termination. These contracts cover replacement of and enhancements to existing Passport and UK Border Agency capabilities, as well as to support identity cards in the future. Termination provisions are based on Office of Government Commerce guidance for IT contracts and include terms for ending a contract in the case of poor performance or where a decision is made to terminate early (for 'convenience').

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1976W, if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the hon. Member. [249467]

Mr. Woolas: I can confirm that a copy of the letter dated 14 January 2009 to the hon. Member for Hertsmere has been placed in the Library of the House.

Immigration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce illegal immigration. [249477]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* We are delivering the biggest shake-up of Britain's border security and immigration system in a generation.

Last year we launched the UK Border Agency. With a combined budget of £2 billion, a staffing complement of 25,000 and a presence in 135 countries world-wide, Britain's border security is now among the toughest in the world.

Since the launch of the UKBA our officers have seized over 800 million cigarettes, representing a potential loss of over £149 million in tax revenue, £260 million worth of illegal drugs and have taken 4,800 dangerous weapons, including firearms, stun guns and hundreds of knives, off the streets. For the same period, over 809,000 freight vehicles have been searched at our juxtaposed controls and we stopped over 21,000 attempts to cross the Channel illegally.

The new points based system and the continuing ban on non-EU low skilled migrants we are controlling migration to ensure that only those the UK needs can come to work and study. This allows us to attract and keep people with the skills our economy needs: maximising the benefits to Britain.

Anyone applying for a visa—three quarters of the world's population—now has their fingerprints checked against UK databases. So far we have enrolled over 3.6 million sets of fingerprints detecting over 5,200 identity swaps.

Airline Liaison Officers have assisted in preventing nearly 210,000 people from boarding planes over the last five years. That is equivalent to about two jumbo jets a week.

We have also introduced ID cards for foreign nationals and a hi-tech electronic borders system, the e-Borders Programme, which will be fully rolled out by March 2014 and will enable us to count people in and out of Britain. The pilot scheme for the Government's electronic borders system has already checked over 75 million passenger journeys before arrival in the UK, leading to over 2,700 arrests.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Government-authorised exchange schemes for nationals of non-EEA countries under tier 5 of the points-based immigration system are in operation; and what plans she has for the future of such schemes. [249802]

Mr. Woolas: The organisations that have registered under the Tier 5: Government Authorised Exchange category are as follows:

British Council (IAESTE Programme);
British Council Northern Ireland;
IEPUK Ltd.; and
The University of Sheffield.

There are no current plans to amend the policy framework for Tier 5: Government Authorised Exchange, however, the points-based system will be subject to a post-implementation review that will assess the success of the system as a whole. This will include an assessment of Tier 5: Government Authorised Exchange.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2257-58W, on genetics: databases, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [241670]

Mr. Alan Campbell: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary wrote to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 8 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent, reference M4848/7. [248180]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 16 January 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she signed off the costed security plan for the 2012 Olympic games; and if she will make a statement. [250270]

Mr. Coaker: A draft costed security plan was delivered to Home Office Ministers in November 2008 and made available to Ministers across Government and the London Mayor. Following consultation with other Government Departments, the Greater London authority, the police, the Olympic delivery authority and the London organising committee for the Olympic games, it was agreed that the costed security plan would be augmented with an integrated Olympic safety and security strategy and associated concept of operations. This suite of documents will be presented to the Cabinet sub-committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (Protective Security and Resilience), which is chaired by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on 25 February 2009.

Passports

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce waiting times for the issue of new passports. [249480]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The current waiting times for passports are reasonable and realistic and there are no plans to reduce the published turnaround times further.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has undertaken to deliver 99.5 per cent. of straightforward online, partner and postal adult renewal and first-time child applications within 10 working days and to see 95 per cent. of callers to their public counters and interview offices within 20 minutes of their appointment time.

The Tiered Application System (TAS) guarantees to turnaround premium counter applications within four hours and fast-track counter applications within one week.

Latest available figures show that IPS has consistently met and often exceeded these targets, which are constantly monitored.

Passports: Fraud

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people granted a passport were subsequently found to have made their application fraudulently in each year since 2003. [250079]

Meg Hillier: Information on the number of fraudulently obtained passports for each of the years since 2003 is not available as the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not routinely collate information on the year of issue of passports found later to have been issued as result of fraudulent applications. Furthermore, IPS is not always informed when fraudulent passports are identified, seized and taken out of circulation by other agencies in the UK and abroad.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were reported lost or stolen in the last 12 months; and how many valid passports there were in that period. [250524]

Meg Hillier: In 2008, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) processed 296,018 reports of lost and stolen passports. There were 249,261 reports of lost passports, 38,120 stolen with the balance of 8,637 in the 'other' category. 'Other' includes passports reported as damaged or destroyed.

The latest estimate of the number of passports issued by IPS and currently valid is 47,282,000 (an exact figure cannot be given because lost and stolen passports may not be replaced immediately).

Passports: Photographs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many passport applications were rejected in each of the last five years because the frames of glasses worn by the applicant covered their eyes in the accompanying photograph; [248701]

(2) how many passport applications were rejected in each of the last five years because of reflection or glare in glasses worn by the applicant in the accompanying photograph. [248572]

Meg Hillier: If the photograph sent with a passport application does not meet the requirements of the standards agreed through the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the applicant is asked to send new photographs but because of the way in which data on this is stored it is not possible to provide an annual breakdown of reasons for rejection without incurring disproportionate cost. A check of manual records in July 2007 showed that in 17.5 per cent. of applications in which photographs were rejected, the reason was that the eyes were obscured for various reasons, including wearing glasses and glare.

During 2008-09 the Identity and Passport Office have worked with customers and the photo industry to reduce rejection rates which currently are 3.8 per cent. of all applications containing photographs do not meet the standards, again these include wearing glasses and glare. It is necessary for the eyes to be visible in passport photographs in order for facial recognition technology to work. The Identity and Passport Service therefore advises applicants to remove spectacles so that there will be no risk of the eyes being obscured by the frames or reflections on the lenses.

Police National Computer

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records were held on the police national computer in each of the last five years for which records are available. [250456]

Mr. Coaker: The number of records held on the police national computer (PNC) in each of the last five years is not held centrally. As an operational tool, the PNC always reflects the current situation and it is not possible to produce figures for a specific historical date unless they were obtained on that date.

The PNC contains records from a number of separate information databases. The following table shows the number of records held on the PNC, broken down by the various information databases as at 13 November 2008, the latest date for which figures are available. These figures are not mutually exclusive; for example, the same record may be included in more than one database.

	Number
Vehicles	58,161,658
Names	9,172,689
Drivers Licenses	51,901,851
Property	97,978
Crimelink	621
National Firearms Certificate Holders Register (NFCHR)	1,390,920

Police Stations: Health Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have fully-qualified medical staff on duty at all times. [251487]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and chief constable, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Administration

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average proportion of police time spent on clerical or paper work in England. [249876]

Mr. Coaker: In 2007-08 21.6 per cent. of police officer time was spent on paper work in police forces in England. This excludes data from Staffordshire, which are unavailable, and relates to foot/car/beat patrol, CID and traffic officers.

Police: Security

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of current procedures for assessing the risks to the personal safety of senior police officers; and what arrangements are in place for review of such procedures. [250819]

Mr. Coaker: Risk assessment processes are based on individual forces' circumstances and any specific intelligence at that time.

The responsibility for risk assessment lies with each chief police officer.

Police: Stop and Search

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average a police officer took to *(a)* make an arrest, *(b)* issue a caution and *(c)* conduct a stop and search procedure in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [249875]

Mr. Coaker: There are no centrally held data on the time taken to *(a)* make an arrest, *(b)* issue a caution and *(c)* conduct a stop and search procedure in England. This will vary greatly depending on the circumstances of the case and the amount of investigation that precedes these procedures.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2479W, on the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: Government Departments, what the purpose was of each of her Department's conferences organised by R Glasgow and Associates Public Relations Ltd and held in the Conference Centre. [248998]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the information we hold centrally in the Home Office, between September 2007 and February 2008, we commissioned Glasgow's to support us with the event management of three Home Office events at the QEII Conference Centre. Two were leadership events for senior civil servants (half-day events for 150 delegates at each conference) and one was an AGM for the Network—a staff support group for BME staff—a full-day event for 400 staff.

Glasgow's is on the Home Office list of agreed suppliers who have expertise in delivering events.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to registrars on ensuring that lack of out-of-hours registrars' service does not prevent prompt burials or cremations required for religious purposes, particularly over periods of closure of services; and if she will make a statement. [248535]

Meg Hillier: The Registrar General has issued guidance to registrars of births and deaths in England and Wales to comply with any reasonable request to deal with urgent registration business outside their advertised hours of attendance. If their office is to remain closed for two or more consecutive days, or if special facilities have to be provided in the area, they must exhibit a notice explaining what arrangements have been made to deal with any urgent matter which might arise. The law and administrative arrangements governing the registration of deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland are different.

More generally, in accordance with the national Good Practice Guide for the delivery of the registration service, local authorities are encouraged to consult on customer needs and provide an accessible registration service which takes into account the local community's needs and expectations.

Vetting: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on vetting: fees and charges, whether those people undertaking unpaid voluntary activity which requires them to be monitored are required to pay a registration fee to the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [251924]

Meg Hillier: Individuals in paid employment will pay a fee of £64 when applying for registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). This fee will not apply to those undertaking unpaid voluntary activity regulated by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many skilled non-EU workers were given leave to remain under the work permit system in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* each of the last four quarters for which figures are available, broken down by occupation. [249169]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The following table provides information on the number of non-EU nationals who were granted extension of leave to remain as work permit holders for the period 1 January 2005-31 December 2007, including a quarterly breakdown for 2007. The information requested about occupation is not held in the format requested.

Non-EU nationals granted extension of leave to remain—work permit holders for the period 1 January 2005-31 December 2007

Year and quarter	*Number of cases*
2005	61,690
2006	50,625
2007	44,685
2007 Q1	12,035
2007 Q2	9,870
2007 Q3	11,780
2007 Q4	11,005

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted for 2007 by quarter are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:

The data presented excludes dependents of principal applicants, 'in-line' dependents, EU and Swiss nationals. The UK Border Agency is unable to comply with the request to provide data pertaining to occupation breakdown.

Source:

Home Office, Migration Statistics

TRANSPORT

Humber Bridge

7. **Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to receive the report of the public inquiry into the Humber Bridge tolls. [250993]

Paul Clark: The public inquiry will begin on 3 March 2009. Following the inquiry the inspector will submit a written report to the Secretary of State for Transport, for final decision.

Sleeper Rail Services

8. **Mr. Charles Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for spending on sleeper services between London and Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [250994]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have no plans for spending on Anglo-Scottish sleeper services. The specification and funding of ScotRail services, including its sleeper trains, is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

High Speed Rail Network

9. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 356, on transport infrastructure, if he will bring forward proposals to connect Sheffield and other cities in Yorkshire and the East Midlands to a new high speed rail network. [250995]

Mr. Hoon: As I announced to the House on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 356, a new company, "High Speed Two", has been formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland.

As a first stage, the company is expected to bring forward detailed proposals for Britain's second new high speed line, between London and the West Midlands, and to consider the potential for new lines to serve the North of England and Scotland.

Motorway Traffic Flow

10. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the police on improving traffic flow on motorways. [250996]

Paul Clark: Ministers have not had any recent discussions with the police in relation to improving traffic flow on motorways. However, the Highways Agency has regular liaison meetings with police forces and the Association of Chief Police Officers to discuss matters relating to the strategic road network.

Taxi Drivers

11. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals on the maximum number of hours that can be worked by taxi drivers. [250997]

Paul Clark: We have no plans to introduce legislation regulating the hours which taxi drivers can work. We are, however, willing to consider carefully any new representations or evidence put to us on this issue.

Transport Infrastructure

12. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the construction of transport infrastructure to serve proposed residential and commercial developments. [250998]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport supports the Government's aims of increasing the supply of housing, and promoting national competitiveness and growth. Well-planned, sustainable infrastructure can play a key role in achieving these ambitions. Specific infrastructure development proposals should be consistent with local and regional strategies, and with national planning policy and guidance.

Heathrow

13. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect of a third runway at Heathrow on local levels of nitrogen oxides. [250999]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our modelling shows that nitrogen oxides in the area are set to fall by 49 per cent. by 2030, compared to 2002, even with a fully utilised third runway; and that EU limits for nitrogen dioxide (the critical pollutant) will be met in 2020 even with a third runway operating at the level we have approved, namely 605,000 annual movements.

The detailed figures can be found in the Heathrow consultation document and associated technical reports on the Department for Transport's website.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

14. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will announce the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation target for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [251000]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government recently consulted on proposals for future obligation levels up to 2013-14 under the renewable transport fuel obligation. The consultation closed on 17 December and the Government are considering the responses received. An announcement on the outcome will be made shortly.

Commuting Times

16. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has commissioned or evaluated research on the effect of commuting times on levels of well-being. [251002]

Paul Clark: Yes. Research into people's willingness-to-pay for travel time savings suggests that, on average, commuters value travel time at a rate of £5.04 per hour. This value is ordinarily used to aid decision making on infrastructure investments because many of the benefits reflect reduced delays for commuters. However it also provides an indication of the importance that people place on the time taken to commute to work.

Rolling Stock Plan

17. **Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the timetable for his Department's rolling stock plan. [251003]

Paul Clark: 423 of the 1,300 additional vehicles announced in the rolling stock plan have already been ordered. The Government have recently announced the accelerated procurement of 200 diesel multiple unit vehicles to speed up the process further. It is currently in discussion with train operators on the deployment of additional vehicles announced in the plan. Announcements will be made only after deeds of amendment to train operators' franchise agreements have been concluded.

West Coast Main Line

18. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the reliability of services on the West Coast Main Line. [251004]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has received a small number of representations over changes to timetables introduced in December 2009. These have related almost entirely to minor aspects of the planned timetable, rather than the reliability of actual services.

East Anglia: Road Network

19. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next expects to meet representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss improvements to trunk roads in that area. [251005]

Paul Clark: We currently have no plans to meet local authorities in East Anglia to discuss trunk road improvements.

Southport-Manchester Line

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the additional trains announced in November 2008 will be available for the Northern franchise's Southport to Manchester line to replace class 142 railbus units. [251001]

Paul Clark: The additional trains are to provide extra capacity, rather than replace existing vehicles. The Government are in discussion with train operators on where best to deploy the vehicles to achieve the greatest benefit. Announcements will be made only after deeds of amendment to train operators' franchise agreements have been concluded.

Accessibility and Equalities Directorate

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Accessibility and Equalities Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [251108]

Mr. Hoon: The Permanent Secretary is responsible for the effective management of staff and resources to achieve all departmental goals, including the promotion of greater equality of opportunity for all citizens. Various options fort he management of the Department's business, within available budgets, are being considered as part of the current business planning round.

Allen Lane

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what functions the company Allen Lane carries out for his Department. [251053]

Mr. Hoon: The Department uses Allen Lane Ltd to provide temporary financial and accountancy staff.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* the Scottish Executive on harmonisation of the concessionary bus pass schemes in England, Scotland and Wales. [250652]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with ministerial colleagues, the Welsh Assembly Government or the Scottish Executive on the harmonisation of the concessionary bus pass schemes and nor have I. Discussions are taking place at official level with the devolved Administrations about how reciprocal arrangements for cross-border concessionary travel could work. However we have no immediate plans to introduce such an arrangement at this time.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248058]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information, where recorded, has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251447]

Mr. Hoon: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Information about average response times for replying to correspondence from members of the public cannot be provided within disproportionate costs limits, however, the Department for Transport aims to respond to all written correspondence within 20 working days.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247918]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows:

	£
2005-06	599,867
2006-07	1,155,007
2007-08	1,043,916

Driving Under Influence: Death

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were killed in drink-driving related incidents in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leicester in the last year for which figures are available. [251743]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In England, it is estimated that 490 people were killed in 2006 in reported personal injury road accidents where one or more motor vehicle drivers or riders involved was over the legal alcohol limit.

Estimates of the number of drink-drive accidents or casualties are not available below Government office region level.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many additional aircraft movements arising from the construction of a third runway at Heathrow Airport he expects there to be in each of the years from 2020 to 2030. [250801]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: We have made clear that our support for a third runway is subject to an aggregate limit of 605,000 annual movements, to be reviewed in 2020. Any further increase in capacity would depend on the outcome of that review and planning requirements. The review would take into account developments such as the operation of the compliance mechanism for noise and air quality, progress with public transport access, the levels of resilience being achieved at the airport and advice from the Committee on Climate Change on progress towards meeting the UK's carbon reduction targets.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementing the proposals for hard shoulder running on the *(a)* M1, *(b)* M25, *(c)* M6, *(d)* M62, *(e)* M3 and *(f)* M4 on the Highways Agency's budget for the Programme of Major Schemes in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12, (iv) 2012-13 and (v) 2013-14; [250918]

(2) whether funds in excess of the proposed Highways Agency Programme of Major Schemes budget will be allocated to meet the cost of proposals for additional miles of motorway lanes. [250920]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: On 15 January 2009 in "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: Motorways and Major Trunk Roads" we announced the Highways Agency's programme of national major schemes that we expect to enter construction by 2015, and that up to £6 billion had been allocated to fund this work.

In developing this programme of schemes part of the assessment undertaken to determine the timing and priority of schemes related to affordability and deliverability within expected budgets. An element of over-programming has been included to allow for uncertainty over the individual delivery programmes for schemes at an early stage in their development and the scope for the Highways Agency to realise efficiencies through technology and procurement developments. Allowing for over-programming the programme and the funding envelope announced on 15 January are consistent.

Budgets for the Highways Agency are set on an annual basis but they will be consistent with the overall figure given above.

Oxford-Cambridge Railway Line

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the merits of reopening the Oxford to Cambridge railway line; and if he will make a statement. [250975]

Paul Clark: The proposal to reopen the railway line between Oxford and Cambridge is being promoted, developed and assessed by a consortium of local authorities and regional bodies.

The Department for Transport maintains dialogue with the consortium and is prepared to consider railway reopening proposals which meet wider objectives, represent value for money and for which funding can be identified.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* HM Treasury on workplace parking charges in the last 12 months. [250750]

Paul Clark: Colleagues in other Departments, including Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury, were given the opportunity to comment on our proposals for regulations for workplace parking levy schemes, before we launched the consultation I announced on 11 December 2008.

Railways: Ashchurch

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make representations to Network Rail to reinstate the direct service from Ashchurch railway station to Birmingham New Street. [251973]

Paul Clark: Already, there are direct services from Ashchurch railway station to Birmingham New Street operated by Cross Country. Monday to Friday there are five services from Ashchurch to Birmingham New Street and three services in the opposite direction. Saturdays there are four services from Birmingham New Street and two in the opposite direction. There are no services on Sundays.

Railways: Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on subsidising rail replacement bus services between Ealing Broadway station and Wandsworth Road station in the last five years; [247298]

(2) how many of the rail replacement bus services funded by his Department are not advertised to the public. [247300]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W.

Mindful of the requirements of relevant legislation, the Department for Transport is currently funding a rail replacement bus service between Ealing Broadway station and Wandsworth Road station. This service, which is a temporary measure until the Department can arrange a replacement rail service in this area, has been operating since 14 December 2008 at a four-weekly cost of £1,880 to the Department for Transport.

The Department intended the bus to be advertised from 14 December 2008. Following a contractual delay, the bus service has been advertised from the beginning of this week at the stations it is contracted to call at which are Ealing Broadway, Kensington Olympia and Wandsworth Road.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been of so-called ghost buses for replacement rail transport in each of the last five years. [247426]

Paul Clark: Rail replacement bus services have been operated as a temporary substitute for train services over sections of track between:

(1) Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road on a weekly basis since 14 December 2008 at a four-weekly cost of £1,880.

(2) Kensington Olympia and London Waterloo on a weekly basis between May and December 2004. The bus service was procured by the Strategic Rail Authority. The Department for Transport does not hold information on the cost of the bus service.

Rail replacement bus services have also been operated as a temporary substitute to:

(1) All train services to Barlaston, Wedgewood and Norton Bridge since May 2003.

(2) All train services to Stone between May 2003 and 13 December 2008.

(3) Some train services to Atherstone between May 2003 and 13 December 2008.

(4) Most train services to Polesworth between May 2003 and 13 December 2008.

The costs for these are not specifically identified as they are part of the overall subsidy payment for the London Midland franchise.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail replacement bus services have operated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [247427]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of rail replacement bus services operated because of engineering works.

Additionally, rail replacement bus services have been operated as a temporary substitute to train services over sections of track between:

(1) Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road on a weekly basis since 14 December 2008.

(2) Kensington Olympia and London Waterloo on a weekly basis between May and December 2004.

Rail replacement bus services have also been operated as a temporary substitute to:

(1) All train services to Barlaston, Wedgewood and Norton Bridge since May 2003.

(2) All train services to Stone between May 2003 and 13 December 2008.

(3) Some train services to Atherstone between May 2003 and 13 December 2008.

(4) Most train services to Polesworth between May 2003 and 13 December 2008.

Railways: Fares

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with train operating companies on recent increases in rail fares; and if he will make a statement. [247082]

Paul Clark: Ministers and officials meet regularly with train operating companies, and with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) to discuss a range of issues relating to the railways, including fares.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average rise in regulated rail fares from Chelmsford Station to London was in each year since 1997. [249977]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information in the form requested.

The Office of Rail Regulation publish data about the annual average increases in fares in National Rail Trends, which is available from their website at:

www.rail.reg.gov.uk

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the effects on rail passengers of increases in regulated fares. [251091]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State has not recently received any formal representations from any passenger representatives or user groups on this subject. There has been a nominal amount of individual correspondence, but only at volumes normally received just after the annual January increases.

Railways: Members

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on subsidising parliamentary trains within the meaning of the Railways Act 1844 in each of the last 10 years. [247302]

Paul Clark: No funds have been spent in the last 10 years. Section 6 of the Railway Regulation Act 1844 was repealed by the Cheap Trains Act 1883.

Road Traffic: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been paid to local authorities in Tyne and Wear for pilot projects designed to tackle congestion under the Transport Innovation Fund; under what budgetary headings those payments were made; and whether a final report on the outcome of each such pilot has been submitted to his Department. [250848]

Paul Clark: Tyne and Wear authorities received a total of £1.7 million pump priming funding from the Department for Transport's Transport Innovation Fund. Payments were made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. This funding was provided to assist in assessing the congestion problems and the role that demand management, including road pricing, alongside better public transport could play in tackling them and, if appropriate, to develop a TIF business case. We are awaiting the outcome of Tyne and Wear's work.

Roads: Accidents

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the incidence of accidents on roads in the vicinity of schools where the speed limit is *(a)* 20mph and *(b)* 30mph. [251943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Road Casualties Great Britain, published in September 2008, shows that there were 541 children aged 16 or under killed or seriously injured on journeys to or from school in 2007. This equates to one seventh of children aged 16 or under killed or seriously injured on our roads in 2007.

These statistics do not, however, specify whether the incident took place in the vicinity of a school.

Roads: Death

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road fatalities were caused by drivers alleged to be over the legal blood alcohol limit during the period of the Government's Christmas and new year anti-drink-drive campaign in 2008-09. [251034]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. Provisional estimates of drink drive accidents and casualties for 2008 will be published in August 2009. Final results will not be available until a year later due to coroners' data being available a year later than the main road collision data. Therefore final estimates can only be made eighteen months in arrears.

Roads: Salt

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* undertaken on an alternative to sodium chloride for managing the effects of ice on roads. [251023]

Paul Clark: Sodium chloride is a cost-effective treatment for the prevention of ice forming and treatment of snow and ice. The Highways Agency has considered other approaches used elsewhere in the world, but there is little evidence to suggest there are cost effective alternatives suitable for the UK that would warrant research.

Alternatives, such as potassium acetate, are used on some major structures to reduce the potential for corrosion. However, such treatments are over 50 times more expensive than sodium chloride and so are not suitable network wide.

Recognising that the use of salt has environmental implications the Highways Agency's research is focussing on reducing the amount of salt spread. Increasing use is being made of pre-wetted salt, which results in less loss of salt allowing spread rates to be reduced by up to 25 per cent.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to increase British military participation in restoring security within Kabul. [249209]

Mr. Hutton: There are no plans to increase UK troop levels in Kabul. Security for Kabul remains the responsibility of Regional Command (Capital), which is currently led by French forces and supported by the Afghan National Security Forces.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* strength is of each of the three battalions of the Parachute Regiment; and if he will make a statement. [250455]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The current strength of 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment and 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment is 506 and 507 respectively. The establishment of both Regiments is 556. It is not our policy to release corresponding data for 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment.

These figures relate to Infantry soldiers at Regimental Duty and are the battalions' established strength rather than its deployable strength.

Armed Forces: Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the provision of emergency fire cover by armed forces in the event of a *(a)* local and *(b)* national fire strike. [252436]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1440-41W.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for repair call-outs were received by Modern Housing Solutions in each of the last 12 months. [251105]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The number of requests for repair call outs received by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) is not separately identifiable, however, the number of repair jobs raised in 2008 was as follows:

Month	*Number of repair jobs raised*
January	23,462
February	18,548
March	19,358
April	18,359
May	17,225
June	16,823
July	18,230
August	17,657
September	20,197
October	21,225
November	19,762
December	17,628
Total	228,474

MHS provides a comprehensive repair and maintenance service to occupants of Service Family Accommodation in England and Wales. Repair requests range from emergencies such as burst water pipes to routine tasks associated with the everyday wear and tear of domestic occupation. Figures also include work orders raised in relation to communal areas, children's playgrounds and other facilities managed by MHS.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on departmental housing, how many houses owned by his Department were rated as grade *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [251695]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are working to identify what information can be provided. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Asbestos

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent estimate is of the number of his Department's offices which contain asbestos. [251715]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Military Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what stage negotiations on procurement contracts have reached in respect of the *(a)* Airbus A400M military transport aircraft, *(b)* future strategic air tanker, *(c)* third tranche Eurofighter, *(d)* joint strikefighter, *(e)* defence training review, *(f)* future aircraft carrier, *(g)* Apache block three upgrade and *(h)* Tornado capability upgrade strategy (pilot); [250086]

(2) what financial penalties for *(a)* full cancellation and *(b)* reduction in numbers ordered would fall to be paid by his Department to the prime contractor under the contract for (i) A400M, (ii) Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft, (iii) 3rd Tranche Eurofighter, (iv) Joint Strike Fighter, (v) Defence Training Review, (vi) CVF, (vii) Apache block 3 upgrade and (viii) Tornado Capability Upgrade Strategy (Pilot) project; and at what procurement stage they would fall to be paid in each case for each project. [250687]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information regarding the current stage of negotiations for each of the projects listed is as follows:

(a) A400M

A contract for the development and production of the A400M aircraft was signed with Airbus Military on 27 May 2003 by the Organisation for Joint Armaments Co-operation (OCCAR) on behalf of participating nations (Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Turkey and the UK). Airbus has recently proposed a new approach for the A400M programme. OCCAR and the Partner Nations are not in negotiation with Airbus in relation to the contract.

(b) Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (TSTA)

Contract negotiations with AirTanker Ltd. were successfully concluded on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 21WS, and the contract was formally signed in March 2008, *Official Report*, column 31WS.

(c) Tranche 3 Eurofighter

Negotiations with partner nations and industry are continuing.

(d) Joint Strike Fighter

Negotiations for production contracts for JSF are conducted annually. UK participation in the forthcoming negotiations remains subject to formal departmental approval.

(e) Defence Training Review

Package 1, which aims to deliver technical training, is currently near the end of the Assessment Phase. A Final Clarification and Confirm ('FC&C') exercise is now ongoing. The Metrix Consortium's revised proposals have been received and are being evaluated.

Package 2, to deliver specialist training for Logistics and Personnel Administration and Policing and Guarding (both Military and MOD Police), has just started a two year Assessment Phase.

(f) Future Aircraft Carrier

The manufacture contract was signed on 3 July 2008 but further negotiations to agree a way forward are now underway with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance following the recent announcement of the intention to delay the in-service dates of HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales by between one and two years.

(g) Apache Block III

We have had early discussions with the US Army about their Block III upgrade programme but, to date, have not made any decisions about whether to adopt elements of the Block III programme as part of our own plans to sustain UK Apache capability through-life.

(h) Tornado Capability Upgrade Strategy (Pilot)

The contract for the Design, Development and Integration stage was awarded on 21 December 2007.

I am withholding information relating to the detail of any financial remedies that may be incurred as its disclosure could prejudice the commercial interests of the contractors and the Department.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence against what timetable and in what instalments expenditure on the *(a)* future strategic air tanker and *(b)* Airbus A400M military transport aircraft will be incurred. [250087]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) service is planned to begin in 2011 with the full service being available by 2016. The MOD will not pay instalments but will pay for the service as it is used.

Expenditure on the A400M programme is allocated separately to development and production activities. Development is funded in instalments by all partner nations against an agreed profile that started in 2003 and is on-going. Production is funded as a series of six payments against each individual aircraft, with the final payment occurring on actual delivery.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the estimated cost is of extending further the lives of the C-130K aircraft; [250459]

(2) what steps are being taken further to extend the lives of the C-130K aircraft; [250460]

(3) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of further extending the lives of the C-130K aircraft; and if he will make a statement; [250462]

(4) what the current out-of-service date is for the C-130K aircraft. [250463]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 24 November 2008, *Official Report* column 903W. No steps have been taken to extend the out of service date of the C130K fleet as work to assess the cost-effectiveness of options to mitigate any potential capability gaps that might arise as a result of delays to the A400M programme is ongoing.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many C-130K aircraft are to be retired in the current financial year. [250461]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We expect to retire one C130K aircraft before the end of the current financial year.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what options there are for bridging the potential capability gap if the A400M programme experiences further delays. [250464]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Following the announcement of delays by Airbus Military on the A400M programme, we are considering a number of options as a contingency to mitigate any potential capability gaps that may arise. These include an extension to the life of the C-130K fleet and leasing or procurement of additional C-17 and C-130J capacity.

Departmental Fuels

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department took in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 to reduce its use of fuel derived from petroleum; and if he will make a statement. [249633]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The Ministry of Defence has been working on alternative energy sources for several years. The RAF has led on examining fuel efficiency and alternative fuel sources, including the wider application of biofuels across the land, sea and air environments. In 1999, RAF aircraft were among the first in the world certified to fly on up to 50 per cent. non-crude oil derived synthetic fuel. Since 2008, RAF aircraft, excluding the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and a few small training aircraft have been certified to use 100 per cent. synthetic fuel.

The MOD is also working with industry to develop ideas to achieve reduced dependency on fossil fuels.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the banner stands bearing his image and title placed in his Department's main building; and how many such stands have been purchased. [250883]

Mr. Hutton: Two pictures were purchased for a total cost of £381. Pictures of this type are routinely produced by the Department for new Secretaries of State as a part of the internal communications process. The stands were already owned and there was no cost involved in their use.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251401]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Ministry of Defence capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn.

Guided Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current in-service date is for the Meteor missile. [249719]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Following a major review of the programme during 2007-08, the Meteor In-Service Date has been redefined to reflect a two-stage approach to delivering the capability:

> a fully developed missile standard ready for delivery and platform integration in August 2012; and
>
> the first front-line Typhoon unit declared Meteor-capable in July 2015.

The review of the Meteor programme was made in light of changes to the perceived threat and to seek benefit from aligning integration of Meteor with other planned major Typhoon enhancements.

Joint Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which brigade forms the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF); whether it is fully equipped; whether the present JRRF is deployed; and when the future JRRF will take over from the present JRRF. [249740]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) is a high readiness contingency capability which is deployed in support of the UK's foreign and security policy objectives. Each deployment is tailored to meet the operational requirements of the mission, and can draw from a pool of highly agile and adept units.

JRRF commitments currently held at high readiness are the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) and Small Scale Contingent Battle Group (SSCBG). The SSCBG is provided by 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment until December 2009 and the SLE is based on 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment until 31 July 2009.

For non-discretionary JRRF tasks, equipment holdings exist to ensure mission success. However, some equipment might need to be re-apportioned from other activities depending on the task, to ensure that appropriate quantities are available in the short term to meet the emergent need.

No JRRF Brigade is currently deployed.

Military Aid: Belize

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* joint manoeuvres and *(b)* other military co-operation there has been between the UK and Belize in each of the last 20 years. [250737]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Substantial British support has been provided to the Belizean Defence Force (BDF) since Belize's independence in 1981.

The British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB), formed in 1994, co-ordinated joint training activities and military co-operation initiatives but details of these for the last 20 years are not recorded.

Examples of joint manoeuvres and military cooperation in the last three years, and activities which we expect to continue, include:

> The BDF has provided an opposing force for numerous exercises, in particular for six battlegroup size exercises;
>
> BDF personnel have participated on three six-week jungle courses;
>
> The UK Civil Military Cooperation group has provided comprehensive disaster relief training for the BDF during an exercise in 2006;
>
> The BDF provide opposing forces for The Infantry Battle School (IBS) final exercises and the IBS reciprocates by providing one free place for a BDF junior officer on each of its three platoon commanders battle courses in the UK;
>
> British helicopter support is provided free to the government of Belize and the BDF for approx 10 hours per month. Furthermore, emergency Forward Aero Medical Evacuation to hospital is provided by BATSUB for BDF soldiers if injured;
>
> Where the BDF lacks the equipment or resources to repair facilities if BATSUB has the expertise or the equipment to assist it will. Occasionally it is deemed appropriate to fund repairs if there is joint utility for BATSUB. A recent example is the replacement of a failed lighting system in the BDF's ammunition compound;
>
> Where British Army equipment becomes beyond economical repair, authority is sought from the MOD UK to gift the equipment to the BDF. A recent example is 30 x 4 ton Bedford trucks;
>
> Joint civic events are held throughout the year, e.g. Remembrance Day parades, a military and police tattoo and a BDF open day;
>
> In 2008 the government of Belize authorised a British recruiting team to spend a month in Belize testing and evaluating over 700 Belizean applicants for the British Army in UK. Approx 130 were successful and some are already undergoing training in the UK.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual level of spare part availability is for each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force. [249704]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The required level of spares for RAF aircraft is included in contractual agreements with industry, or is set by the Front Line Command. The achieved level of available spares is measured as part of these agreements.

The following information for the required and achieved level of spares is provided as at 30 November 2008 unless otherwise stated. Although not used as a performance indicator as part of a contract with industry, the off the shelf satisfaction rate (OTSSR) is also measured for some aircraft types, and is therefore included in the table. The OTSSR is defined as the percentage of demands for spares satisfied direct from MOD stock.

Aircraft	*Requirement*	*Achieved*	*Percentage OTSSR*
Typhoon	80	76	76
Tornado GR4	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured.		95
Tornado F3	As above		98
Harrier GR7/GR9/T10/T12	85% of spares to be delivered within the required delivery date	86	96
Nimrod MR2/R1	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured		

Aircraft	*Requirement*	*Achieved*	*Percentage OTSSR*
Tristar	85	83	74
VC10	80	87	—
Sentry	90	95	—
Sentinel	75, 95 and 95% of [1]spares to be delivered within the required delivery date	[2]81, 73 and 71	—
Hercules C-130J/K	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured.		
C-17	As above		
BAE 146	Spares availability is not measured[3]		
BAE 125	As above		
Sea King 3/3a airframe[4]	Less than 5% operational days lost due to lack of spares	0.1% operational days lost in Oct-Dec 2008	96[5]
Sea King engines[6]	95	95	[5]95
Dominie	Spares availability is not measured.		85
HawkT1/T2	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry; spares availability is not measured.		86
Tucano	As above		95
Vigilant Glider	Spares availability is not measured.		95
Viking Glider	As above		95

[1] 75% figure is for mission non-critical spares, 95% is for mission critical spares and 95% is for consumables.
[2] This was for the period October-December 2008.
[3] These aircraft are military derivatives of civil aircraft. Spare parts are procured on a "just-in-time" basis from the civil market to supplement minimum stock holdings held at the main and forward operating bases.
[4] The Sea King Mk 3/3a is used by the RAF in the Search and Rescue role.
[5] As at 31 October 2008.
[6] These figures include the Sea King Mk4, Mk5 and Mk7 operated by the Royal Navy.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on helicopter (a) procurement and (b) maintenance in each year since 2001. [249706]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The amount spent on helicopter procurement in each financial year since 2001 is shown in the following table.

	£ million
2001-02	710
2002-03	470
2003-04	250
2004-05	110
2005-06	160
2006-07	190
2007-08	490

In addition, sums in the region of £500 million have been spent on maintenance and support of in-service helicopters in each financial year since 2001-02. This includes equipment support, some stock consumption and manpower costs, along with the costs associated with the repair, maintenance, overhaul and associated Post Design Services. Other maintenance costs elsewhere, such as at the Front Line Commands, have not been included as these figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250131]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence has two lease agreements in place for the provision of the majority of non-operational cars (white fleet vehicles). It does not therefore own such vehicles under these arrangements. As at 31 December 2008 there were 8,701 cars leased under the UK and British forces Germany white fleet contracts. The engine sizes are broken down as follows:

Class	*Size*	*Number*
Motor Vehicle Registration System (MVRIS) Class B	Supermini (1000-1400 cc)—e.g. Ford Fiesta/Vauxhall Corsa	1,885
MVRIS Class C	Lower Medium (1300-2000 cc)—e.g. Ford Focus/Vauxhall Astra	4,907
MVRIS Class D	Upper Medium (1600-2800 cc)—e.g. Ford Mondeo/Vauxhall Vectra	1,300
MVRIS Class H	Dual Purpose 4x4 Vehicles (2500 cc)	55
MVRIS Class I	People Carriers (1800-2000 cc) e.g. Ford Galaxy/ Renault Espace	554

MVRIS is a motor industry system which provides data on the registration of new vehicles in the UK.

The MOD also hires vehicles as and when required. This amounted to approximately 185,000 last year for the UK mainland. This can be broadly broken down as follows:

MVRIS class B 24 per cent.; class C 60 per cent.; class D 14 per cent.; class I 12 per cent.

MOD agencies such as the Defence Support Group, Met Office and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and overseas dependencies are outside of the White Fleet contract and have separate local arrangements. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the small number of cars owned by Ministry of Defence for use on operations is being withheld as its disclosure could prejudice operational capability.

Pakistan: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear weapons and their impact on security in the subcontinent were discussed on his recent visit to Pakistan. [250157]

Mr. Hutton: These matters were not discussed.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Secondment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have (i) met and (ii) spoken on the telephone to representatives of (A) Anglo American plc, (B) BHP Billiton plc, (C) Rio Tinto plc, (D) Vedanta plc and (E) Xstrata plc since April 2007; and how many staff from each such company have been seconded to his Department in that period. [245890]

Mr. Thomas: The following table shows the number of meetings and consultations by telephone which Ministers have had with the five companies since April 2007.

	Minister	
Contact since April 2007 between DFID and	*phone*	*meeting*
Anglo-American	1	4
BHP Billiton	0	0
Rio Tinto	0	1
Vedanta	0	0
Xstrata	0	0

The information requested on meetings and calls between officials and these five companies cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

No staff from these companies have been seconded to the Department for International Development (DFID) since April 2007.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Cooperation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what dates since June 2008 she has met *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, *(b)* the Director General of the Government Olympic Executive, *(c)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(d)* Treasury officials to discuss the budget for the 2012 Olympics. [250266]

Tessa Jowell: I have frequent meetings with a wide variety of colleagues to discuss all aspects of the 2012 Olympic programme. Naturally, many of these discussions include the budget.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Alan Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of materials delivered to the Olympic park have adhered to the Olympic Delivery Authority's target of 95 per cent. to be transported by sustainable methods. [250420]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority's sustainable development strategy set an aspiration to transport 50 per cent. of construction materials (by weight) by sustainable means. This target is reflected in the planning obligations for the Olympic park. As at November 2008, 57 per cent. of construction material has arrived by rail and/or water.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Olympics who is responsible for assessing the business continuity plans of contractors working at the Olympic site. [250568]

Tessa Jowell: Contractors' business continuity plans are assessed by the Olympic Delivery Authority to ensure that they are able to perform their contractual requirements.

Olympic Games 2012: Hadleigh

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her plans are for Hadleigh's fishing lakes and ponds in the context of preparation of the facilities for the Olympic mountain bike events. [251062]

Tessa Jowell: The detailed planning on the course layout and the temporary facilities required to support the venue at Hadleigh Farm is scheduled to take place this year. As part of the town planning process technical studies will be undertaken later this year to determine the environmental and ecological impacts which need consideration, this will include consideration of the impacts on the existing fishing lakes and ponds. Furthermore the London Organising Committee will commence public engagement with the local community to understand those issues which require further consideration during the design development and planning phase.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to my hon. Friend the Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1579W, on Members: allowances, what methodology is used to estimate the date upon which Members are deemed to incur costs; and whether hon. Members may spend against the communications allowance in the period between the announcement of a general election and the dissolution of Parliament in circumstances where the invoice for such expenditure is dated of a day upon which Parliament has been dissolved. [250035]

Chris Bryant: In general, the invoice or purchase date denotes when a Member has incurred a cost to be met from the allowances.

The rules relating to the Communications Allowance, as given in the 'General Election Arrangements—Rules for Members', state that

> "claims from the Communications Allowance which relate to the period after the date the House is dissolved will not be met".

Therefore, an invoice for goods or services dated after the date of Dissolution will not be paid. In addition, material paid for from the Communications Allowance cannot be distributed in any form after Dissolution irrespective of when the invoice was raised or the costs settled.

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have employed domestic staff using the additional costs allowance in the last three years for which information is available. [250303]

Chris Bryant: Members cannot employ staff from their additional costs allowance, although they may be reimbursed for services provided such as cleaning and garden maintenance. Typically this is done on a self-employed basis, but it would not be easy to determine precisely how many Members claim this way without incurring disproportionate cost.

Members: Offices

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House what recent estimate she has made of the number of hon. Members renting office accommodation from political parties *(a)* in total and *(b)* who are paying in excess of £5,000 per year in rent. [250321]

Chris Bryant: Sample figures collated for the Members Estimate Committee report Review of Allowances (HC 578-II) suggest that about 26 per cent. of Members rent office accommodation from political parties. About one-third of these pay more than £5,000 per year, although a proportion of this number have additional services such as telephones and photocopiers within the total cost.

Members: Staff

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members employ staff who are also employed by a political party. [250324]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held by the House although some information applying to parliamentary passholders only is available in the Register of Interests of Members' Secretaries and Research Assistants. There are no rules which prevent Member's staff having a second employment.

Ministerial Corrections

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the Ministerial Correction of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 72W, correcting the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1129W, what role she personally played in *(a)* issuing the original answer and *(b)* issuing the correction. [250343]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend is responsible for all parliamentary questions and written ministerial statements issued in her name.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 individuals or organisations in England received the highest payments in sterling terms under subsidies available under the Common Agricultural Policy in 2007-08. [249830]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: The following list gives the 10 individuals and/or organisations that received the highest subsidies available under the common agricultural policy for the European financial year 2008, which runs from 16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008.

Individual/organisation

K G Growers

G's Growers

Farmcare Limited

The Berryworld Producer Organisation

Strutt and Parker Limited

The National Trust

Sir Richard Suttons Settles Estate

Lilburn Estates Farming Partnership

Blankley Estates Ltd

Fruition Producer Organisation Limited

Air Pollution

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which cities and towns in England were in breach of air quality laws on PM10 in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; what estimate he has made of when PM10 levels will fall within the legal limit in each case; and if he will make a statement. [249756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under EU legislation, the UK is required to monitor the air continuously for levels of particulate matter (PM$_{10}$) and to report to the European Commission on an annual basis. The UK also reports modelled data, in accordance with the legislation.

For the purposes of implementing EU legislation the UK is divided up into 43 agglomeration zones (areas with a contiguous population of over 250,000 as specified by the air quality directives) and non-agglomeration zones. There are 23 agglomeration zones in England and eight non-agglomeration zones; the latter are based on Government office regions in England.

As a result of improvements over many years the limit values are met across more than 99 per cent. of the country, delivering significant health benefits. The few remaining areas where we have reported exceedences are small. The list of agglomeration and non-agglomeration zones where there were breaches of the limit values for PM$_{10}$ in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is summarised as followed; provisional information for 2008 is also given as the fully ratified data are not yet available:

2005

London, Bradford[1], Brighton (monitored)

Birmingham, Stoke, Eastern, Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands zone (modelled)

2006

London, Bradford[1], Brighton, Scunthorpe (monitored)

Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, Stoke, Coventry, Southampton, Eastern (modelled)

2007

London, Brighton (monitored)

Birmingham, Southampton (modelled)

2008 *Provisional (monitored only)*

London

[1] Bradford experienced local building work.

A new council directive on ambient air and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) was adopted in June 2008. Among other things it allows member states to exclude from their assessments particulate matter from natural sources (given that this cannot be controlled). This reduces the number of agglomeration and non-agglomeration zones in exceedence between 2005 and 2008 to six (plus one each in Scotland and Wales):

Greater London urban area

West Midlands urban area

West Yorkshire urban area

Brighton/Worthing/Littlehampton

Eastern England zone

Yorkshire and Humberside zone

In light of the challenges faced by nearly all member states in meeting the limit values by the 2005 attainment date, the directive allows member states to apply for a time extension until 2011, subject to meeting strict conditions and assessment by the European Commission. A consultation on a UK application for such a time extension will be published shortly which will demonstrate that the limit value will be met at all locations by 2011.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what notification he has received from the European Commission regarding the Government's legal obligations in respect of the air pollutant PM_{10}; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Last June the European Commission wrote to all member states that reported exceedences of particulate matter (PM_{10}) limit values in 2006—all member states had exceeded values except the Republic of Ireland. They asked for information by the end of September on the steps being taken in response to breaches of PM_{10} limit values reported in 2006 to achieve compliance.

In light of the difficulties faced by most member states in achieving full compliance with the PM_{10} limit values by the attainment date (2005), council directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, which was adopted in June 2008, provides for a notification procedure for member states to apply for an exemption from the obligation to apply the PM_{10} limit value until 2011.

The directive must be transposed into national legislation by June 2010 and does not contain any deadline for submitting any notification. Nevertheless, the Commission in their letter also stated that in the absence of a notification in accordance with article 22 of council directive 2008/50/EC by 31 October, they intended to propose pursuing legal enforcement action in relation to the reported breaches of the PM_{10} limit values.

The UK Government replied to the Commission by the end of September setting out the UK's continuing efforts to meet limit values in as short a time as possible and the UK timetable for submitting our article 22 notification to the Commission. EU limits for PM_{10} are met across 99 per cent. of the UK and the few remaining areas where the UK has reported exceedences at some point since 2005 are small. Our actions to improve air quality are set out in our National Air Quality Strategy, published in 2007:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/

We expect to publish our consultation on the UK draft notification shortly.

Bees: Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the written ministerial statement of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 14WS, on a new science agency, whether the Food and Environment Research Agency plans to *(a)* undertake and *(b)* commission research into bee health; and if he will make a statement. [250884]

Jane Kennedy: The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), is a new Executive agency of DEFRA which will come into being on 1 April 2009. Overall policy responsibility for bee health, including management of any research funding, will transfer into the agency. The National Bee Unit (NBU) (which will also be part of FERA) currently delivers DEFRA's bee health programme and undertakes research in support of the programme and will continue to so as part of FERA. The NBU will also continue to apply for funds from DEFRA and other organisations to carry out projects on other bee issues.

DEFRA has recently announced additional funding for bee health research. £400,000 added to the existing c. £200,000 provision for each of the next five years. £500,000 per annum of this will be transferred to a new research programme which will consider the wider problems facing pollinators. The details of the research programme are still being negotiated with other potential funders and collaborators. We will announce further details once these negotiations are complete.

Biofuels

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the levels of emissions of *(a)* particulates and *(b)* polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which would arise if the UK were to achieve its targets for the usage of biomass as a fuel as set in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation 2008. [249621]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The consultation on a Renewable Energy Strategy, published in June 2008, set out a variety of ways in which biomass could be used as fuel. In terms of the pollutants mentioned, those uses which are subject to regulation by the Environment Agency and others, such as large scale electricity generation, are not thought likely to contribute significantly to any emissions increase. However, research by the Government and others has shown that the uptake of biomass for heating purposes, specifically the use of wood as a heating fuel, could under certain circumstances have significant impacts on air quality.

DEFRA has undertaken an analysis of the likely impacts on air quality of achieving the levels of biomass uptake set out in the consultation. This analysis used a number of assumptions about the locations and types of units likely to be used, and about the effect this has on the use of other fuels, including coal, oil and natural gas. Given that the UK is starting from a very low level of biomass use, it has been assumed that the growth in biomass heat will be achieved by the use of modem equipment, whose emissions are relatively much lower than those of existing plant.

The evidence base used to inform this analysis suggests that, for modern, efficient units, the emission of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) is minimal. Therefore no significant increase in emissions or ambient concentrations of PAH is expected as a results of meeting the specified levels of biomass heat.

In terms of particles, analysis of the "baseline" scenario, i.e. the emissions we would expect with no change in biomass heat uptake but assuming all other policies operate as expected, shows that the emissions of particulate matter (as PM10) drop from 18.3 ktonnes in 2006 to 13.2 in 2020. Under the most likely uptake scenario for biomass heat, emissions fall to 14.5 ktonnes in 2020, a difference of 1.3 ktonnes. This analysis is very sensitive to the type of plant used and its location. In particular, the analysis assumed that the majority of uptake, especially in the early phase, is off the gas grid, and that the fuels it displaces are mainly coal and oil used for heating purposes.

Birds

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken on DNA sampling of those bird species at most risk of being taken illegally from the wild for commercial purposes. [250653]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DNA testing carried out by the Animal Health Agency relating to Schedule 4 birds will be conducted on a risk-based and intelligence led approach. Similarly, risk-based decisions will be taken to conduct inspections using the following three main risk factors:

1. Priority keepers
2. Priority species
3. Priority inspection types

New processes have been introduced to improve operational effectiveness and to help implement the move away from traditional routine visits to a more directed and targeted inspection effort. This will enable more consistency and coordination between Animal Health and enforcement agencies and has already resulted in the development of a current DNA-related prosecution case, which is the first involving a Schedule 4 bird of prey for 10 years.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the proposed Game Bird Welfare Code; and whether he plans to consult on the code. [250696]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The working group currently drafting the code of practice on the welfare of game birds aims to publish a draft available for public consultation by July 2009.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Martin Horwood) of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 726W, on birds: trade, which organisation has been contracted by his Department to assess the effects of the prohibition on the importation of wild birds into the EU; when the contract was let; what the stipulated date of completion of the contract is; how much the contract has cost his Department to date; and when he expects a report on the assessment to be published; [250697]

(2) when he expects the report on the effects of the prohibition on the importation of wild birds into the EU to be published; and if he will make a statement. [250698]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The contract was let on 13 December 2006 to the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The initial completion date for the work was 1 September 2007 but because of difficulties experienced by UNEP-WCMC in making contact with some countries their investigations were extended. An initial report was subsequently received on 18 January 2008. Uncertainties about some of the content of the report have delayed its finalisation, but it is now expected to be published in time for it to be presented to the next EU CITES Management Committee on 13 March. The cost of the contract has been £70,000.

Birds of Prey

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on reintroducing golden eagles to northern England. [250124]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are committed to conserving our native species and habitats and it is important to use our resources wisely for this purpose. We would support the reintroduction of species if justified on environmental and sustainability grounds, but any proposal would have to be very carefully considered.

I am not aware of any current proposals to reintroduce golden eagles to northern England. A reintroduction project for this species would require a full feasibility study and a formal assessment against internationally accepted guidelines produced by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) before it could commence. No such feasibility study or IUCN assessment has been undertaken or commissioned by Natural England.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on population levels for the hen harrier in England; and what recent steps it has taken to preserve hen harrier populations. [250125]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has implemented a number of initiatives recently to address the conservation of birds of prey, including the hen harrier:

> The hen harrier was included in the list of species and habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England, published on 22 May 2008, under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The

listing means that Government must take reasonable steps to further their conservation or promote the taking of such steps by others.

Natural England is looking to improve the conservation of the hen harrier by examining the feasibility of reintroducing this species to the lowland part of its former range.

On the basis of the work carried out by the National Wildlife Crime Unit, hen harrier persecution is a UK wildlife crime priority. The inclusion of hen harrier persecution as a wildlife crime priority for two years running demonstrates how seriously the Government take this issue.

The wildlife incident investigation scheme (WIIS) investigates the deaths of wildlife throughout the UK where there is evidence that pesticide poisoning may be involved. WIIS is supported by the Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP), which aims to protect some of Britain's rarest birds of prey and wildlife from accidental and illegal poisoning by pesticides, and was relaunched in July 2008. Over the next three years activities under CAIP will include preventing poisoning and improving detection of poisoning cases.

To emphasise the Government's concern about persecution of birds of prey, on 23 October 2008, I publicly signed a pledge with a number of conservation and shooting interest organisations that recognised the importance of raptors in England and that there is no place for the illegal killing of these species.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the effects of bluetongue vaccination on fertility in bulls. [R] [250724]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* Responsibility for licensing veterinary medicines in the UK, including bluetongue vaccine, rests with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). In licensing a product, the VMD assesses data on safety, quality and efficacy and establishes that the advantages of the product outweigh any risks before issuing a marketing authorisation. Once a product has been marketed, the VMD monitors its safety and efficacy through reports of suspected adverse reactions.

There is no evidence from the data assessed prior to issuing a marketing authorisation or field use that bluetongue vaccination has any effect on fertility in bulls.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247360]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not hold this information centrally. The Department's grant programmes are administered by a wide range of delivery bodies.

To collect the information centrally would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff. [249072]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the Department has 37 directly-operated catering outlets and no franchised catering outlets.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245385]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its agencies have over 1,000 discrete application systems of varying size, complexity and age. The build and management of IT systems is subject to a number of over-arching security controls that apply across the DEFRA IT estate. A joint project with DEFRA's IT service provider is under way to review all existing systems. Those continuing to meet an operational requirement will be subject to a formal accreditation procedure. For new systems, the accreditation process defined in the new Government Security Policy Framework (SPF) will be embedded into the system development life cycle.

While it is not possible to provide an accurate assessment of the percentage of IT systems accredited to Government security standards across DEFRA and its agencies it is a fact that the DEFRA IT network infrastructure is accredited to Government standards required for the processing of protectively marked information. Work is currently in hand to ensure that the network fully meets the standards now defined in the SPF.

In addition the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) network is fully accredited to Government standards, while the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) systems are accredited to ISO27001 standard.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249866]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the paybill costs of bonuses paid in 2007 and 2008 pay awards and the number of bonuses paid.

	£	*Number*
2007	1,438,261	136
2008	1,435,476	132

Non-consolidated cash payments, otherwise known as bonuses, reward in-year performances in relation to agreed objectives, or short-term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Bonuses are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Bonuses are allocated by Departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the SSRB recommendations. The intention is that bonus decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the highest achievers.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247341]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the Department has identified 38 0845 telephone numbers, which are used as common national numbers for helplines and enquiry lines covering elements of the Department's business. None of the numbers is revenue sharing. No 0844 numbers have been identified. Information on what use service providers under contract to the Department make of 0844 and 0845 numbers could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department is considering the introduction of 03-prefixed telephone numbers as part of its review of common national numbers.

Dredging: River Thames

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold a public consultation on the effects of dredging of the Thames for the Thames Gateway Port on *(a)* the local fishing industry, *(b)* the local ecology and *(c)* Canvey Island sea defences; and if he will make a statement. [250075]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Harbour Authority, London Gateway Port Ltd, has set up a Marine Ecological Advisory Group that will assess any impacts from the dredging operation. The group includes representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Marine and Fisheries Agency, Port of London Authority as well as the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee.

Maintaining navigational safety within the tidal Thames is the responsibility of the Port of London Authority.

Environment Protection: Lighting

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the effects on the environment of the use of mercury in low-energy light bulbs. [249873]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK and the European Union are committed to reducing the use of mercury and exposure to mercury of humans and the environment. This includes restricting usage where it is unnecessary; for example in new measuring instruments and in the chlor-alkaki industry. In cases where there are no alternatives and mercury usage is unavoidable, limits on mercury content are set.

Energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) offer 75-80 per cent. in energy savings when compared with traditional incandescent lamps while in use, and also last much longer. CFLs contain an amount of mercury in order to operate and in the EU this is limited to 5 mg under the restriction of hazardous substances directive.

There is increasing evidence that if the life times of CFL and incandescent lamp types are compared, CFLs will produce less mercury. This is due to the fact that mercury is emitted from power stations during electricity generation and, as CFLs are more energy efficient, they require less electricity overall.

That said, CFLs should be disposed of responsibly. The European waste electrical and electronic equipment directive places a responsibility on manufacturers to ensure that these bulbs are disposed of in a safe manner.

In June 2008 the European Lamp Companies' Federation pledged to limit the amount of mercury in lamps to below the legal requirement of 5 mg per lamp.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken on the proportion of domestic lighting fittings which have the capacity to take low-energy fluorescent bulbs. [249877]

Jane Kennedy: Since they were first introduced in the 1980s, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) have significantly decreased in size to match the size of old-fashioned incandescent bulbs and are therefore now available for virtually all standard household Edison bayonet and screw fittings.

In 2007, through its Market Transformation Programme, DEFRA jointly commissioned, with the UK Lighting Association, a survey of household lighting stock and consumer attitudes. When asked, less than 3 per cent. of those interviewed said that they would not buy CFLs because they thought they might not fit their light fittings.

UK homes commonly use fittings other than standard Edison fittings, including spot lamps, fluorescent tubes and novelty fittings. Many fittings are also controlled by dimmer switches and, while dimmable CFLs are now increasingly available on the market, standard CFLs cannot be used with these controls.

In those instances where CFLs cannot be used, halogen 'look-alike' bulbs can be substituted: these are now on the market and are fully dimmable. However, these do not offer the same level of energy savings as CFLs.

Fishing: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the cost to *(a)* boat owners and *(b)* recreational sea anglers of obtaining a licence under the proposals in Article 47 of the Commission's proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, COM(2008) 721 final. [250838]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As part of the process of negotiating the proposal for a council regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, we shall be seeking clarification from the EU Commission on a number of issues relating to Article 47. Until then, it is difficult to accurately assess its potential impact in the areas referred to in this question.

DEFRA shall be seeking stakeholders' views on these points which will be considered in more detail in the Impact Assessment that my officials are drafting, and which we shall publish as part of the formal consultation procedure.

Flood Control: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to involve voluntary sector organisations in the implementation of the action plan set out in the Government's response to the Pitt Review of the summer 2007 floods. [249607]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A number of steps have already been taken to involve the voluntary sector in the implementation of the action plan. This is largely though local flood response planning and response arrangements. For example, numerous local resilience forums now have Memorandums of Understanding with voluntary agencies to provide assistance to vulnerable people during flooding incidents and in providing care and support during recovery from flooding.

The Government recognise and acknowledges the significant contribution that voluntary organisations can make. We will continue to provide guidance to response agencies on how voluntary sector groups can best be utilised during incidents and in the ongoing implementation of the action plan.

DEFRA is also committed to helping the National Flood Forum to work both with and through third sector organisations to provide advocacy and voice on the issue of flood risk; and to encourage property owners to take action which improves their resilience to flooding.

Floods

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of regular local flooding on the sustainability of communities; and if he will make a statement. [248200]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There has been no single piece of research which addresses the sustainability of communities after a flood event. However the impacts of flooding are known from individual case studies. These studies show how some communities resist adapting to flooding following an event and wish to return to a pre-flood status. Conversely, some communities, often in rural or suburban areas, establish flood groups and take affirmative, adaptive action to increase the resilience of the community to floods. These studies have also shown that the sustainability of communities can be negatively affected by flooding.

The long-term adaptation of communities to increasing flood and coastal erosion risk is being considered under the ongoing cross-government 'Making Space for Water' programme. In respect of new development, Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk provides the policy framework for local planning authorities to avoid, manage and reduce flood risk towards delivering appropriate sustainable development in the right places.

Floods and Water Bill

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the draft Floods and Water Bill contains the measures on *(a)* abstraction and *(b)* water metering and charging, outlined in Future Water, Cm 7319. [249498]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government intend to publish their draft Floods and Water Bill in the spring. Its content is not yet finalised.

However, and as set out in Future Water, the Government will shortly consult on proposed changes to the abstraction licensing system. Household water charging and metering are the subject of an ongoing independent review led by Anna Walker, which is due to report in the summer.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations the Environment Agency has received on the waiving of controls on development in flood risk areas of Canvey Island in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [250033]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has not received representations as described. The Environment Agency advises local authorities, which make decisions on planning applications within flood risk areas.

Floods: Pickering

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of properties at risk of flooding in Pickering, North Yorkshire. [250855]

Huw Irranca-Davies: An extensive study of the flood risk in Pickering carried out by the Environment Agency indicates that 52 residential and 13 commercial properties are considered to be at risk from a one-in-100-year flood.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the feasibility of creating upstream retention dams to protect against flooding of Pickering, North Yorkshire; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the project. [250856]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Durham university led a project with the local community, the local authority and the Forestry Commission to look at ways of managing floods in Pickering. The results of this study have been made available to the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency is now considering the technical issues associated with the creation of upstream storage above Pickering (including costs) from data supplied by Durham university. The technical appraisal will involve the local community throughout.

The Environment Agency is supporting the Forestry Commission in a bid for a pilot project to look at other ways of reducing flood risk. The outcome of this bid will be known at the end of January.

Floods: River Ouseburn

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the strategic co-ordination group set up by the Environment Agency to investigate measures to reduce flood risk in the Ouseburn catchment is expected to report; and on what dates it has met. [250847]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A professional partnership consisting of Newcastle city council, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water Ltd. was formed to co-ordinate activities exploring flood risk alleviation opportunities across the city.

The group has met three times since September 2008, most recently on 21 January 2009. At the end of 2008, the group held its first full public meeting, chaired by the leader of the council and attended by over 100 residents. The group expects to report further in March 2009.

Floods: West of England

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage change in the incidence of flooding in the west of England has been during the last five years. [249872]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In order to collate instances of flooding that have taken place in the west of England over the last five years the consideration of a number of factors and definitions at a large number of locations would be required. These cannot readily be interpreted into a percentage.

Factors such as comparison between years, the sources of flooding, flood warnings for tidal and fluvial flooding, the number of properties flooded and daily flow and rainfall records would need to be collated and analysed which would incur disproportionate cost.

Food From Britain

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to abolish his Department's non-departmental public body, Food from Britain; how much was spent by his Department on Food from Britain in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [250226]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State announced the Government's intention to close down Food from Britain (FFB) in a written ministerial statement on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 9WS. The process of closing down FFB is already underway and it will cease operations as planned on 31 March 2009, though a small number of staff will remain until the end of June 2009 to prepare FFB's 2008-09 annual report and accounts. The close down is taking place in anticipation of FFB's formal dissolution in law which will happen as soon as a suitable legislative vehicle can be found.

The amount of funding provided to FFB by DEFRA in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table:

	DEFRA funding (£)
2008-09	4,000,000
2007-08	6,025,400
2006-07	6,014,095
2005-06	6,419,642
2004-05	6,427,472
2003-04	6,413,955
2002-03	5,902,602
2001-02	7,923,999
2000-01	5,582,663
1999-2000	5,464,084

Notes:
1. Data from the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08 is taken from Food from Britain Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000 to 2007-08.
2. Data for 2007-08 and for 2008-09 was provided by DEFRA

Forestry Commission: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 476W, on public relations: Forestry Commission, which *(a)* external public affairs and *(b)* external public relations firms hired in that period; and how much was spent on each firm. [250301]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Public affairs and public relations firms engaged by the Forestry Commission deal with a range of activities. These include the promotion of the public forest estate, including advertising and marketing of events and the promotion of visitor facilities and attractions. Other work includes the production and distribution of publicity resources (for example literature, video, display material), support for the regional distribution of Commission news releases, and strategic consultancy, for example preparation of communications plans.

Some of the expenditure is on externally funded projects in which the Forestry Commission is a partner. A common feature of many of these projects is the focus on community engagement where communications plays a significant role.

Firm	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Government News Network	24,615.07	17,684.49	22,037.19	36,133.12	294.34	100,764.21
COI Communications	4,516.25	809.05	—	—	72,083.88	77,409.18
Angel Tomney Associates	73,706.52	50,485.35	40,106.47	38,263.54	28,083.15	230,645.03
Pennington PR Ltd	38,243.33	65,621.68	22,178.13	2,203.13	2,702.50	130,948.77
Focus PR Ltd.	31,103.63	55,953.62	—	—	—	87,057.25
Osprey Communications Ltd.	—	16,745.19	24,703.24	25,381.33	—	66,829.76
Richard Darn	10,361.63	12,235.49	17,002.10	17,142.13	23,164.05	79,905.40
James Delanoy	—	5,522.50	15,216.25	22,869.69	29,355.04	72,963.48
CSPR Ltd.	—	—	35,557.74	30,432.50	33,522.73	99,512.97

Firm	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Creative Concern	40,937.72	68,823.87	78,010.30	91,694.02	103,076.96	382,542.87
Mark Dixon	—	—	788.82	—	—	788.82
Pam Beddard	—	—	—	500.00	—	500.00
Sue Forsyth Associates	5,708.74	1,321.87	8,074.25	176.25	—	15,281.11
Total	229,192.89	295,203.11	263,674.49	264,795.71	292,282.65	1,345,148.85

Horses

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of microchipping of equidae. [250188]

Jane Kennedy: A new Commission regulation introducing compulsory microchipping of foals and older horses that have not previously been identified comes into force on 1 July 2009.

The regulation is directly applicable throughout the United Kingdom. DEFRA are currently consulting on implementation of the legislation in England. This consultation will come to an end on 2 February. Further information is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the establishment of a national database of equidae in England. [250189]

Jane Kennedy: The National Equine Database (NED) is a joint initiative between DEFRA and the horse industry designed to be of benefit to both parties. It contains information about every equine born or resident in the United Kingdom with a UK passport. It is used by Government to monitor horse passport compliance, aid disease control and surveillance and by the industry to improve quality of horses thus enhancing their value.

Inland Waterways Interdepartmental Working Group

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Interdepartmental Working Group on Inland Waterways last met; what its agenda was; and how often the Working Group meets. [250769]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Interdepartmental Working Group on Inland Waterways last met on 5 November 2008. Agenda items were: engagement with regional development agencies (with a presentation from the East Midlands Development Agency on regeneration projects linked to waterways); the review of Waterways for Tomorrow; the EFRA report on British Waterways and the Government's response; and the prioritisation of restoration projects. The group plans to meet three or four times a year.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what facilities are available for the safe disposal of light bulbs; and if he will make a statement. [248324]

Jane Kennedy: Certain types of lighting fall within the scope of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. These include the most common type of energy saving light bulbs: Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). A list of designated collection facilities which take back CFLs and other types of waste electrical and electronic equipment is available at:

http://www.valpak.co.uk/dts/page1734la.aspx

Retailers have a responsibility to tell their customers where they can take waste CFLs. Some retailers take back CFLs when they sell customers a new bulb.

Under the WEEE Regulations, producers (manufacturers or importers) fund the treatment and recycling of equipment once it becomes waste. The regulations require that mercury is removed from CFLs and that at least 80 per cent. by weight of the materials be recycled or recovered. The producer responsibility requirements of the WEEE regulations have been in force since 1 July 2007.

We are not aware of specific facilities for disposal of incandescent bulbs. These will be phased out across the EU by September 2012 because of their poor energy efficiency.

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which areas of his Department's budget he expects the cost of implementing proposals in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill to be met. [251031]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The cost of implementing this important legislation will be taken into account along with all the Department's other objectives when prioritising and allocating resources.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the steps necessary to *(a)* implement and *(b)* enforce the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill in respect of activity undertaken in the area between the 12 and 200-mile limits. [250908]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine and Coastal Access Bill provides a new legislative framework for our marine area, and much of the detailed implementation of the Bill will be through secondary legislation. Further cost-benefit analysis, impact assessments and consultation, both within Government and with the public, will be necessary for many elements of the Bill. These will be undertaken prior to the introduction of secondary legislation and accompanying guidance.

Effective enforcement is essential to ensure that the rules and regulations designed to manage the marine area are followed. Under the Bill, we are consolidating and modernising existing inspection and investigation powers to provide a core set of common enforcement powers for sea fisheries, marine licensing and nature conservation. These will make it simpler for those being inspected to know what powers inspectors have.

The impact assessment published alongside the Bill on 4 December 2008 provides our assessment of the key impacts to date of the provisions contained in the Bill. This includes those relating to the implementation and enforcement of sea fisheries, and nature conservation and marine licensing legislation between the 12 and 200 nautical mile limits.

Discussions with the devolved Administrations continue on an official and ministerial level on those provisions in the Bill for which they have responsibility in the 12-200 nautical mile limit.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to be able to provide a substantive reply to the hon. Member for Hyndburn's letter of 12 August 2008 on behalf of his constituent, Mr. M. Saunders. [250468]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers have received a range of representations about the move from charging based on rateable value to site area charging for surface water drainage. The Government are aware of the affordability issues faced by some customers as a result of the switch and are currently reviewing their position. While the issue is under consideration, letters will continue to be acknowledged, and I will respond in full as soon as possible.

Nature Conservation

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the recommendations made by the Joint Nature Conservation Council in its Review of Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1984, published in December 2004, were accepted; and what progress has been in implementing such recommendations. [250649]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee made seven recommendations in 2004 which formed part of the consultation on the review of the bird registration scheme in 2006. The recommendations related to the future management and implementation of the bird registration scheme. The following progress has been made with the implementation of the recommendations:

On future reviews and the consequences of removing species from schedule 4, it would be possible to add species to the schedule if the evidence supported such a move. Otherwise I do not envisage a further review of the schedule for at least five years.

With respect to better provision for maintaining a UK database, the National Wildlife Crime Unit now collate all intelligence relating to wildlife crime submitted by governmental and non-governmental organisations. This intelligence database forms the basis for identifying priorities for wildlife crime.

The adoption of standard nomenclature for registering species is not currently considered to be a priority.

On the need to register all hybrids that have a schedule 4 species in their recent lineage, the requirement to register hybrids was removed on 1 October 2008 as these birds did not meet the criteria for schedule 4:

> "the wild population is so small that even the taking of a very few individuals would have a detrimental impact on the conservation of the wild population".

On the recommendation of DNA testing prior to the removal of any species from the schedule, Animal Health did not carry out DNA testing prior to species being removed from schedule 4. DEFRA had no evidence to suggest that the population of birds that were listed on schedule 4 were other than from legitimate sources. The costs of DNA testing the whole captive population would have been prohibitively expensive and would not have been justified by any possible enforcement or conservation benefit. Any DNA testing to be carried out by Animal Health Agency will be based on a risk and intelligence led approach.

On the need for a uniform approach to any changes to schedule 4, my Department has pressed for this with the devolved Administrations. In England new regulations came into force on 1 October 2008. I understand Wales and Scotland are to amend schedule 4 in a similar way in the near future.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246346]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Although information on the criminal history of candidates is collected as part of the recruitment process, this information is not held electronically for members of staff and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Within our recruitment process we carry out character reference checks and undertake security vetting and we request information on criminal records and convictions as part of both processes. When deciding whether or not to confirm an appointment on the basis of the vetting information received, we apply the criteria set out under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [242247]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the three years since 2005-06 a total of 897 people have left on voluntary exit schemes and 33 people have left on involuntary exit schemes. These figures are broken down as follows:

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Severance	*Early retirement*	*Severance*	*Early retirement*	*Severance*	*Early retirement*
Voluntary leavers						
Less than £25,000	17	3	27	12	111	38
£25,001 to £50,000	0	12	11	12	87	32
£50,001 to £75,000	0	7	21	17	83	30
£75,001 to £100,000	1	4	16	13	70	28
More than £100,000	2	27	18	32	43	123
Total number of leavers	20	53	93	86	394	251
Involuntary leavers						
Less than £25,000	—	—	8	8	2	0
£25,001 to £50,000	—	—	2	3	4	1
£50,000 to £75,000	—	—	0	1	1	0
£75,001 to £100,000	—	—	0	0	0	1
More than £100,000	—	—	0	0	1	1
Total number of leavers	—	—	10	12	8	3

2007-08 saw a number of wide-ranging internal schemes within DEFRA to ensure we were making the most effective use of our resources and deliver efficiency savings imposed across Whitehall. Schemes pre-2007-08 were designed to achieve Treasury-agreed headcount reductions. The latter schemes were based on a Treasury-approved Business Case that expect to achieve savings of £21 million to £28 million over a five year period.

Rights Of Way

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 948W, on rights of way, how many further rights of way have been restored by local authorities since March 2008; and what the cost to the public purse of the Discovering Lost Ways programme has been to date. [250542]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Discovering Lost Ways Project has now closed. The total cost incurred by the Countryside Agency and latterly Natural England in preparing for, establishing, running and ending the project was £5.2 million. The 26 cases referred to in the answer on 18 March 2008 continue to be considered by the local authorities concerned. Details of a further 201 cases were passed to relevant authorities at the time of project closure.

The project was closed because Natural England formed the view that constraints on the ability of highways authorities to process claims and place newly identified historic rights of way on the definitive map within a reasonable timeframe would render the effort and expense of identifying such rights nugatory.

Accordingly Natural England has now formed a Stakeholder Working Group to bring together key interests nationally to agree a package of strategic reforms, including any it considers would improve the system for processing claims and reduce unnecessary delay and bureaucracy. The Group is expected to report by the end of the year.

South Downs National Park

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many postcards his Department has received since 1 December 2008 in support of a South Downs National Park as proposed by the Countryside Agency in 2002. [250311]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has received around 16,000 postcards supporting the proposed South Downs National Park since 1 December 2008.

United Utilities

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of United Utilities to discuss the effects of their pricing policies on voluntary sports clubs; and if he will make a statement. [250553]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is for Ofwat as independent economic regulator of the water industry to approve water company charges schemes. The Government are aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and are looking at what can be done.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many councils have bid to participate in pilots for charges for the collection of household waste; what plans he has to invite further bids for pilots; and if he will make a statement. [251620]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member for Meriden to the written statement on Household Waste Incentives on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to repeal the provisions in the Climate Change Act 2008 for charges for the collection of household waste. [251621]

Jane Kennedy: The provisions in the Climate Change Act 2008 were made following requests from local government for these powers to enable incentive schemes to be developed that would improve recycling.

There are currently no plans to repeal the provisions so recently provided, although no local authority has brought forward a proposal to use the powers.

Water Charges

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on community sports clubs of increased costs arising from the new system of surface water charges. [250154]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and is looking at what can be done.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rurai Affairs whether his Department or its agencies have carried out an assessment of the effect of the new system of water rates on *(a)* churches, *(b)* scout huts and girl guide huts and *(c)* sports clubs. [250505]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what economic and financial impact assessments on the effects of the increase in charges for surface water management on *(a)* churches and *(b)* community sports clubs have been undertaken; and what conclusions such assessments reached; [250909]

(2) what consideration was given to alternative forms of charging for surface water management in respect of *(a)* churches, *(b)* voluntary groups and *(c)* charities; and what criteria were taken into account in determining the form of charges; [250910]

(3) if he will delay the introduction of amended charges for surface water management in order to assess the financial and economic effect of the charges on those less able to pay. [250911]

Huw Irranca-Davies: One of Ofwat's duties, as the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sector in England and Wales, is to approve water and sewerage company charging schemes. It is for the individual companies, as private bodies, to set their own charging policy. But these must adhere to company licensing agreements, which Ofwat checks and monitors.

In September 2003, Ofwat provided guidance (RD35/03) to companies on charging non-households for surface water drainage by site-based area. It said that companies which are thinking of introducing site-area charging need to assess possible impacts on all customers' bills. In particular, companies will need to take into account the scale and speed of any bill changes to see if they are reasonable and acceptable to customers.

Water Supply: South East

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the availability of water supplies for *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the south-east during the next 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [249891]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies have statutory duties to maintain adequate supplies of water.

In April 2007, it became a statutory requirement for water companies to prepare and maintain water resources management plans. These plans look 25 years ahead and include projections of current and future demands for water, and describe how the companies will meet this demand, in order to meet their water supply obligations.

These plans are regularly updated, and must take account of relevant factors, such as the most up-to-date information available on housing numbers, population forecasts and climate change.

Last summer, companies' water resources management plans were subject to public consultation for the first time. Water companies, including those in Essex and the south-east, are now considering the comments received and will shortly prepare statements of response. Finalised plans will come into effect on 1 April 2010.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arrest Warrants

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many outstanding warrants have been received from the *(a)* Garda Siochana and *(b)* Ministry of Justice of the Irish Republic in respect of persons in Northern Ireland; to what alleged offence or offences each warrant relates; and if he will make a statement. [251204]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248060]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office is responsible for the repair, maintenance and improvement of a number of sites in various locations across both Northern Ireland and Great Britain. All costs covering the categories requested would be met under the budget for maintenance and minor works. Identifying costs for each of the categories mentioned would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the NIO's expenditure, excluding Agencies and Executive NDPBs, on maintenance and minor works in the last five years:

	Expenditure (£000)
2007-08	1,792
2006-07	2,600
2005-06	2,234
2004-05	2,728
2003-04	2,057

These figures include expenditure such as furniture, professional fees, labour and material costs. There is no departmental budget allocation specifically for decoration.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff are employed in his Department's media and communications team; when each member of staff was recruited; what the responsibilities of each member of staff are; and what the salary of each member of staff is. [248517]

Mr. Woodward: There are currently nine members of staff employed as press officers in the Northern Ireland Information Service. Based on monthly salaries, the total amount for 2008 was £314,684.88. The recruitment of staff is based on an assessment of business needs. The responsibility of each member of staff is to communicate Government information and policy on all issues relating to non-devolved matters.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249859]

Mr. Woodward: Bonuses for senior civil service (SCS) staff are calculated on the basis of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. Individual bonus recommendations are made by line managers and these are moderated by a number of remuneration committees with the involvement of a non-executive Director.

In 2007, 40 members of the SCS received an end year non-consolidated bonus totalling £298,650. In 2008, 42 SCS staff received an end year non-consolidated bonus totalling £317,200.

Human Rights: Cross Border Co-operation

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will hold discussions with the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Ireland on initiatives for co-operation between the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Republic of Ireland Human Rights Commission. [248488]

Mr. Woodward: Joint Committee meetings are held quarterly between the two Commissions. As the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission remains independent of Government, my hon. Friend may wish to write to them directly should he wish to explore this matter further.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with groups of British Muslims on the possible effects of events in Gaza since 27 December 2008 on community cohesion; and what the names were of the individuals who attended each meeting. [252095]

Mr. Khan: Since 27 December the following meetings have been held:

On 6 January I and Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met a range of representatives and individuals from a number of organisations including but not limited to the Quilliam Foundation, Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, the Sufi Muslim Council, the Al Khoei Foundation, the UK Ismaili Council and the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation.

On 8 January I and Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, met members of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG).

On 10 January I met the Young Muslims Advisory Group (YMAG) at their YMAG residential meeting.

On 12 January the Communities Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and I met representatives and individuals from a number of organisations including but not limited to the Quilliam Foundation, Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, City Circle, the YMAG, British Muslims for a Secular Democracy, the Sufi Muslim Council, the Al Khoei Foundation, the UK Ismaili Council and the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation.

On 13 January I and Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, met members of the YMAG.

On 15 January the Communities Secretary and the Home Secretary met representatives and individuals from a number of organisations, including the Sufi Muslim Council, Al Khoei Foundation, the NMWAG, the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation, Association of Muslim Social Scientists, the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, Active Change Foundation, and Quilliam Foundation.

On 15 January I met members of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board.

On 15 January I also met front line providers and deliverers to hear their concerns.

Council Housing: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on local authority housing waiting lists in the East of England in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area. [250816]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on local authority housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals. The number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists in the East of England in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority area is given in the following table.

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
EAST	91,950	98,070	94,850	99,490	110,970	134,310	129,180	135,440	146,250	147,850
Luton UA	5,620	4,330	4,810	6,000	7,050	8,770	3,360	3,820	5,170	6,810
Peterborough UA	3,130	3,350	3,070	2,650	2,110	4,850	6,040	6,290	6,640	8,550
Southend-on-Sea UA	1,070	1,260	1,600	1,810	2,270	2,980	3,760	3,500	3,460	3,460
Thurrock UA	1,800	2,930	3,930	4,640	5,390	9,470	3,070	2,950	2,820	2,500
Bedfordshire	6,750	6,970	9,190	7,290	7,280	8,180	7,890	7,270	7,570	7,010
Bedford	2,450	2,700	3,680	2,070	2,890	2,710	2,650	2,360	2,600	2,210
Mid Bedfordshire	1,650	1,670	2,200	2,670	2,240	2,880	2,910	2,600	2,940	2,870
South Bedfordshire	2,650	2,610	3,310	2,560	2,150	2,590	2,330	2,300	2,040	1,930
Cambridgeshire	11,280	12,290	11,930	9,900	11,120	12,230	14,380	14,800	15,460	15,190
Cambridge	4,320	4,580	4,470	2,860	3,220	3,720	4,250	4,740	5,210	5,980
East Cambridgeshire	1,040	1,260	1,250	1,400	1,540	1,740	1,480	1,440	1,480	1,600
Fenland	1,840	1,080	1,290	1,190	1,250	1,440	2,230	2,030	1,970	1,800
Huntingdonshire	1,790	2,500	3,420	2,720	2,910	2,770	2,890	2,430	2,140	2,180
South Cambridgeshire	2,290	2,870	1,500	1,730	2,210	2,550	3,540	4,160	4,660	3,630
Essex	21,680	22,090	16,610	19,820	23,740	31,810	26,930	29,540	32,260	30,770
Basildon	2,880	2,870	1,750	2,380	3,030	3,180	2,800	2,530	4,080	2,050
Braintree	2,500	2,850	2,430	2,390	2,460	2,310	2,280	2,590	2,010	2,280
Brentwood	510	520	460	370	460	780	1,090	1,440	1,070	1,580
Castle Point	660	700	480	600	940	1,260	780	1,060	1,440	1,470
Chelmsford	3,730	3,580	1,640	3,870	5,090	5,440	5,750	5,350	5,270	2,450
Colchester	3,240	2,150	2,090	1,910	1,590	2,010	2,030	2,500	2,790	3,750
Epping Forest	1,910	2,070	1,770	1,480	2,170	3,280	2,960	4,090	3,630	3,970
Harlow	1,930	2,180	1,910	2,170	3,060	3,680	3,300	4,090	6,230	7,010
Maldon	510	720	350	490	740	5,140	980	910	790	920
Rochford	870	1,050	660	910	580	680	630	900	350	440
Tendring	1,960	2,500	2,760	2,370	2,850	2,930	3,400	3,160	3,390	3,560
Uttlesford	960	910	320	890	770	1,140	930	920	1,210	1,290
Hertfordshire	18,600	18,180	16,790	16,590	19,680	20,650	20,530	21,700	25,920	26,890
Broxbourne	1,670	1,420	1,380	1,400	2,330	2,490	2,630	2,090	2,010	1,360
Dacorum	3,480	3,520	3,040	3,400	3,470	3,230	3,060	2,400	4,410	4,790
East Hertfordshire	1,500	1,530	1,440	1,580	1,770	2,380	2,100	2,510	2,750	2,400
Hertsmere	660	580	400	420	650	890	960	900	1,360	1,500
North Hertfordshire	1,960	1,810	1,180	880	1,110	950	850	1,220	1,920	1,850
St. Albans	1,600	1,730	1,860	1,940	1,760	1,680	1,520	1,650	1,740	1,520
Stevenage	3,250	2,680	2,060	2,280	2,660	2,820	3,080	3,910	4,100	4,940
Three Rivers	820	1,020	850	1,000	1,670	1,570	1,720	1,760	1,830	1,830
Watford	1,470	1,450	1,860	1,160	1,370	1,850	2,000	1,980	2,260	3,070
Welwyn Hatfield	2,200	2,450	2,740	2,540	2,890	2,790	2,610	3,300	3,540	3,640
Norfolk	11,140	14,110	14,610	18,230	19,490	21,000	26,360	27,920	29,800	30,360
Breckland	1,480	1,590	1,550	2,010	2,400	2,450	3,450	3,450	2,750	3,160
Broadland	1,070	1,980	880	2,040	2,190	2,550	2,610	3,190	3,880	2,800
Great Yarmouth	1,920	2,380	2,960	3,250	2,460	2,900	5,040	5,470	5,920	5,330
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	1,390	1,850	2,050	2,470	3,200	2,970	4,540	4,650	5,610	5,430
North Norfolk	860	1,000	1,480	1,620	1,940	2,480	2,450	2,600	3,280	3,700
Norwich	2,910	3,100	3,610	4,950	5,150	5,270	5,580	5,600	5,260	7,000
South Norfolk	1,520	2,220	2,090	1,890	2,150	2,380	2,590	2,970	3,120	2,950
Suffolk	10,880	12,550	12,310	12,550	12,830	14,370	16,870	17,660	17,150	16,300
Babergh	1,070	1,070	1,050	1,010	1,380	1,530	1,470	1,920	1,700	1,780

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Forest Heath	1,060	1,050	970	980	1,060	1,110	1,220	1,510	1,510	1,230
Ipswich	2,760	3,010	3,100	3,430	2,650	3,540	3,550	3,850	4,860	3,520
Mid Suffolk	1,550	1,600	1,590	1,610	1,490	1,760	1,840	1,850	1,590	2,040
St. Edmundsbury	1,800	2,610	2,120	2,230	2,810	3,100	4,120	4,670	4,430	5,090
Suffolk Coastal	960	1,390	1,520	1,290	1,200	1,400	1,570	1,260	930	840
Waveney	1,680	1,810	1,950	2,010	2,230	1,920	3,110	2,620	2,130	1,800

Note:
As reported by local authorities. As at 1 April
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)" This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Additionally, information on the number of households on local authority housing waiting lists broken down by Government office region and for every local authority, including the percentage of households this represents, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual housing strategy statistical appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Council Housing: South West

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on the *(a)* Bath and North East Somerset Council, *(b)* North Somerset Council, *(c)* Bristol City Council and *(d)* South Gloucestershire Council housing register at 1 April in each of the last 10 years. [250820]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* Bath and North East Somerset Council, *(b)* North Somerset Council, *(c)* Bristol City Council and *(d)* South Gloucestershire Council at 1 April for the past 10 years is given in the following table:

Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bath and North East Somerset UA	2,430	3,320	3,520	2,380	2,640	3,290	3,180	5,460	5,940	5,440
North Somerset UA	3,700	2,620	4,000	2,880	2,960	3,730	3,950	4,470	4,900	5,800
City of Bristol, UA	11,300	12,280	11,850	11,380	12,940	11,630	11,810	12,930	14,450	10,110
South Gloucestershire	3,540	4,520	5,530	3,510	5,210	4,960	4,050	4,610	3,840	4,670

Note:
As reported by local authorities. As at 1 April.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)" This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Additionally, information on the number of households on local authority housing waiting lists broken down by Government Office Region and for every local authority, including the percentage of households this represents, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

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Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many members of staff in her Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to her Department in each year since its inception. [248245]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 786-87W.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure her Department incurred under general ledger account number 10006 (furniture and fittings at cost) in the last year for which audited figures are available. [251789]

Mr. Khan: Expenditure of £462,000 is shown in Note 13 (on page 56) of the audited Departmental Resource Accounts for 2007-08 (HC 791) published on 21 July 2008.

Departmental Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects sponsored by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Office for London, were subject to gateway reviews in each of the last four years; what status each project was assigned under such reviews; how much her Department spent on gateway reviews in each such year; and if she will make a statement. [250889]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The projects sponsored by Communities and Local Government which have undergone gateway reviews over the last four years are listed as follows. There have been no gateway reviews relating to Government Office for London projects.

National Register of Social Housing
Sustainable Communities Summit Franchise
Leeds Regional and Town Co-location Review
Electronic Electoral Services Procurement
Application Service provider
IT Services Outstanding
TESA
Fire and Rescue Service Centre of Excellence
e-Consultation
MCIS
Community Builders Programme
Housing Corporation IT System
Commercial Registry Service
Pan-Govt Agreement on Geographical Information Project
Open Spaces Works Project
Fire and Rescue Service e-learning project
Building Regulations Part L
Fire Service College
Replacement Telephone System (RTS)
Webwrap
Tenancy Deposit Protection Project
SpaceFlex
Government Connect Programme
Hub Services Project
FRS Learning and Development Strategy Programme
CAA Programme
Energy Performance in Buildings Directive Programme
Fire Resilience Programme
Home Information Packs Programme
Thames Gateway programme
Local Area Agreements Programme
Local Govt White Paper implementation Programme
Homes and Communities Agency
FireControl
New Dimension
Firelink
Long Term Contract Management
European Regional Development Fund
Infrastructure Planning Commission
Go Transformation
New Intervention Framework Project
HCR Database
Council Tax Revaluation 2007
e-Fire Programme
GO IT Services Outstanding Procurement Project (GOITSOP)
Growth Areas Funds
QE2 CC Chillers
Planning Casework Project
Euro Preparation Programme
e-planning

Gateway reviews are conducted on a confidential basis for the senior responsible owner (SRO) of the project. The final report including its associated RAG (red, amber or green) status is confidential to the SRO. This approach promotes an open and honest exchange between the project and review teams during the review and ensures the review delivers maximum added value.

The cost to the Department for conducting reviews in 2007-08 was £28,000 (excluding value added tax). Prior to that, costs for reviews were met centrally by the Office of Government Commerce.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of her Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if she will make a statement. [252039]

Mr. Khan: Staff working outside their normal working pattern can agree with their line manager a suitable alternative time to take off any accumulated hours subject to the work flows and reasonable demands of the office.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252040]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what efficiency savings have been made by the fire and rescue service in England in each region since 2003; and what such savings have been made by each fire and rescue authority over the same period. [250702]

Mr. Khan: The Government did not set an efficiency target for the English fire and rescue service prior to 2004.

The fire and rescue service was set a national target to achieve £105 million in cash-releasing efficiency savings across the period 2004-08. They exceeded the target and achieved approximately £197 million. The efficiency savings achieved by each fire and rescue authority are listed in the following table.

Fire and rescue authority	*Total (£)*
Avon	5,460,000
Bedfordshire	1,170,000
Buckinghamshire	1,197,000
Cambridgeshire	863,000
Cheshire	2,576,000
Cleveland	5,106,000
Cornwall	1,710,000
Cumbria	1,714,000
Derbyshire	2,481,000
Devon And Somerset[1]	3,508,000
Dorset	1,332,000
Durham and Darlington	1,779,000
East Sussex	1,883,000
Essex	6,396,000
Gloucestershire	785,000
Greater Manchester	29,414,000
Hampshire	4,958,000
Hereford and Worcestershire	2,245,000
Hertfordshire	1,256,000
Humberside	2,715,000
Isle of Wight	1,197,000
Isles of Scilly	4,511
Kent and Medway	5,265,000
Lancashire	5,732,000
Leicestershire	2,382,000
Lincolnshire	1,963,000
LFEPA	33,457,000
Merseyside	15,140,000
Norfolk	2,982,000
North Yorkshire	1,305,000
Northamptonshire	2,023,000
Northumberland	3,374,000
Nottinghamshire	3,652,000
Oxfordshire	950,000
Royal Berkshire	1,319,000
Shropshire	940,000
South Yorkshire	5,518,000
Stoke and Staffordshire	2,254,000
Suffolk	1,181,000
Surrey	4,641,000
Tyne and Wear	5,125,000
Warwickshire	594,000
West Midlands	7,734,000
West Sussex	1,849,000
West Yorkshire	10,347,000
Wiltshire	843,000

[1] Devon and Somerset fire and rescue authorities were merged in April 2007 therefore reported individually on efficiency savings achieved prior to this date.

The efficiency savings achieved by each region from 2004-08 were:

Region	*Total (£)*
South West	13,642,511
South East	23,269,000
London	33,457,000
East of England	11,448,000
East Midlands	12,091,000
West Midlands	13,767,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	19,885,000
North West	54,576,000
North East	15,384,000

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional control centres for the Fire Service have been completed; on what date each was completed; and what estimate has been made for planning purposes of the date upon which her Department will become liable for the running costs of each fire regional control centre which remains to be completed. [251150]

Mr. Khan: All regional control centres except London have now reached Practical Completion. London is expected to reach Practical Completion in early 2010 as planned. Once Practical Completion is completed, CLG becomes liable for running costs. The Practical Completion dates for the new Regional Control Centres are as follows:

Practical completion date	*Region*
29 June 2007	North East
29 June 2007	East Midlands
15 August 2007	South West
20 December 2007	West Midlands
14 May 2008	South East
1 July 2008	North West
1 July 2008	Yorkshire and Humber
1 October 2008	East of England

Fire Services: Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* enforcement notices and *(b)* prohibition notices have been issued by fire and rescue services to bed and breakfast premises under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 since 1 October 2006; and if she will make a statement. [250821]

Mr. Khan: Available information is for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, in which the fire and rescue services reported issuing 947 enforcement notices and 71 prohibition notices to hotels. These may include bed and breakfast premises.

Separate information on enforcement activity on bed and breakfast premises is not centrally held.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the expenditure her Department will incur in meeting the rental and other building costs on buildings housing fire service regional control between the first scheduled cut-over date and the last scheduled cut-over date, broken down by region. [251148]

Mr. Khan: The estimated cost to the Department between first and the last cut over is as follows.

Region	*Estimated cost to the Department between first and last cut over (£)*
North East	370,000
South West	1,240,000
East Midlands	590,000
West Midlands	920,000
South East	670,000
North West	450,000
Yorks and Humber	310,000
East of England	340,000
London	0
Total	4,890,000

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central funding was provided to each regional fire management board in the most recent year for which figures are available. [251789]

Mr. Khan: No central funding has been provided to the fire and rescue service regional management boards. Regional management board running costs are expected to be met from within the constituent fire and rescue authorities' existing budgets.

Fire Services: Pay

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average salary of a chief fire officer was in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available; and what the average was in each (i) fire authority area and (ii) region in each year. [250705]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 563W, on fire services: Working Time Directive, what assessment she has made of the effect of proposed changes to the Working Time Directive on the ability of retained duty system firefighters to work more than 48 hours a week in primary and secondary employment; and if she will make a statement. [251933]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1076W.

FireGuard

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of Firebuy was in the FireGuard project. [252183]

Mr. Khan: Firebuy, the national procurement body for the English fire and rescue service, undertook the procurement for the Fireguard project at the request of 33 fire and rescue authorities, led by the Chief Fire Officers' Association.

Fires: Injuries

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths caused by domestic fires occurred in domestic fires attributable to (i) the absence of a smoke alarm and (ii) smoking materials in the latest period for which figures are available. [250829]

Mr. Khan: Statistics concerning the number of deaths and injuries in dwelling fires, attended by Fire and Rescue Services in England, from 2003 to 2007, that were caused by (i) smokers materials and (ii) that occurred in fires where a smoke alarm was either absent or did not operate are set out in the following tables. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Table 1. Casualties from fires in dwellings, by presence and operation of smoke alarms, England 2003-07[1]

	Total		*Present, operated and raised alarm*		*Present, operated, but did not raise alarm*	
	Fatal casualties	*Non fatal casualties*	*Fatal casualties*	*Non fatal casualties*	*Fatal casualties*	*Non fatal casualties*
2003	344	9,776	55	2,817	16	500
2004	268	9,317	24	2,830	19	522
2005	288	9,151	43	2,977	29	595
2006	287	8,914	47	3,083	29	559
2007	240	8,534	54	3,131	32	567

	Present but did not operate		Absent		Unspecified	
	Fatal casualties	Non fatal casualties	Fatal casualties	Non fatal casualties	Fatal casualties	Non fatal casualties
2003	62	1,433	211	5,026	0	0
2004	65	1,524	160	4,441	0	0
2005	52	1,501	164	4,077	0	1
2006	53	1,267	159	4,005	0	0
2007	46	1,440	108	3,396	0	0

[1] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Table 2: Casualties from dwelling fires, started by smoker's materials, England, 2003-07[1]

	Fatal casualties	Non fatal casualties
2003	93	1,057
2004	73	941
2005	73	812
2006	73	890
2007	69	792

[1] Figures for 2007 are provisional

Group 4 Securicor

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department met representatives of Group 4 to discuss the provision of services in the last 12 months; where each such meeting took place; and what the outcomes were. [251149]

Mr. Khan: No Ministers or officials in the Department of Communities and Local Government have met representatives of Group 4 to discuss the provision of services.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue further guidance on home information packs consequent upon the recent revision of the regulations affecting such packs. [251774]

Margaret Beckett: The Department will be preparing and communicating advice to help consumers and industry understand and plan for the changes to the home information pack regulations that will come into force on 6 April 2009.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 955W, on housing, when she plans to publish the Housing Reform Green Paper. [251960]

Margaret Beckett: As per my answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 955W, I am currently considering the content and timing of the Green Paper.

Housing: Low Incomes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes have been bought in each region through the National Clearing House; [250193]

(2) how much has been spent by the National Clearing House on purchasing unsold homes for affordable housing; [250194]

(3) whether *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities are able to purchase empty land using the National Clearing House. [250195]

Mr. Iain Wright: In May, the Government announced a plan to take advantage of market opportunities to bring private sector developer stock into the affordable housing sector by providing £200 million of funding through the Housing Corporation's national affordable housing programme (AHP) for the purchase of homes from house builders. These funds are not being used to purchase empty land.

To help facilitate this, the Housing Corporation set up the National Clearing House to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders. Housing Corporation investment partners, mainly registered social landlords, wishing to buy smaller numbers of units from developers could bid for funding directly to the corporation in the normal way.

To the end of December over £160 million had been allocated from the initial £200 million. The following table shows the distribution of these allocations by region and social rent and low cost home ownership.

	Social rent		LCHO	
Region	Total grant (£ million)	Number of homes	Total grant (£ million)	Number of homes
East	10.9	276	2.2	172
East Midlands	19.8	506	1.5	160
London	14.3	424	1.3	51
North East	2.9	56	0.7	29
North West	12.7	338	1.6	89
South East	21.4	397	3.9	278
South West	41.1	892	1.9	219
West Midlands	20.0	524	3.6	364
Yorks and Humber	4.3	159	0.1	15
Total	147.4	3,572	16.8	1,377

Local Government Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the data contained on the second advance subsidy form submitted to her Department by each local authority in each year since 1997. [250650]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the contribution of the Minister for Local Government of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 841W, on local government, what the timetable is for the production of the forthcoming Green Paper on local government provision of social care. [251906]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will publish a Green Paper on care and support reform in spring 2009.

The reaction from stakeholders and the public to various key questions was tested during an engagement process from May until November 2008. The comments received then will help inform the Green Paper and a report of the findings will be published with it.

Planning Permission: Berwick-Upon-Tweed

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date it was decided that determination of the three wind farm planning appeals in the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed would be made by the Secretary of State; and when community groups with rule six status were notified of this change. [250773]

Mr. Iain Wright: The decision to link and recover these appeals for the Secretary of State's decision was made on 26 August 2008. The recovery letters are sent only to the local planning authority and the appellants, rule 6 parties were not notified. It is not normally general practice to send recovery letters to other interested parties, as the fact that the decision will be made by the Secretary of State does not affect their case in any way.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Greater London area, *(c)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(d)* Uxbridge constituency in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 to date. [250779]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this subject is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/1999

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Supporting People Programme

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is being spent on the Supporting People initiative in 2008-09. [250473]

Mr. Iain Wright: The indicative national budget allocation for the Supporting People programme is £1.686 billion, £1.666 billion, £1.636 billion for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years respectively.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria for eligibility for assistance under the Supporting People initiative are. [250474]

Mr. Iain Wright: While the Government set the national framework for the provision of Supporting People services, administering authorities have responsibility for developing, delivering and monitoring the programme locally, based on local needs and priorities in relation to the provision of housing support, which develops and sustains an individual's capacity to live independently in their accommodation, as set out in each local authority's Supporting People five-year strategy.

Each local authority is responsible for setting their own eligibility criteria based on local needs and priorities, which then determines who can access services that are funded from the Supporting People Grant (SPG).

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes are planned in the governance arrangements of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Assembly from March 2009. [251794]

Mr. Khan: The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly will cease to exist from 1 April 2009.

The Assembly, Local Government Yorkshire and Humber and Yorkshire Forward responded positively to the Sub-National Review and took the decision to move to new streamlined governance structures by April 2009.

From 1 April, a Joint Regional Board made up of eight LA leaders and eight Yorkshire Forward Board members will be supported by five thematic, advisory boards (Work and Skills, Transport, Planning, Regeneration and Housing and Independent/Challenge). The exact membership and remit of each board is still being worked up.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England has spent on its website in each of the last five years. [249814]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that it has spent the following amounts on hosting and administrative support costs for the Arts Council England and Own Art websites as well as media streaming costs for the Arts Council England website:

	£
2003-04	6,487.50
2004-05	6,487.50
2005-06	6,487.50
2006-07	5,887.50
2007-08	6,787.50

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* unique visitors Arts Council England's website received in each of the last five years; [249815]

(2) how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* unique visitors the Arts Council England's website received in each of the last five years. [250264]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that its website has received the following hits and unique visitors in each of the last five years.

	Hits	*Unique visitors*
2004	25,961,462	575,222
2005	40,205,728	675,582
2006	47,773,873	922,989
2007	54,871,141	1,116,031
2008	96,473,086	1,213,853

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to put into effect the conclusions of the availability to play consultation in respect of the casino licence tendering process for casino operators and local authorities. [250849]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* The consultation on 'availability to play' regulations, formerly known as the 'casino premises licence regulations' under section 172(6) of the Gambling Act 2005, has not yet taken place.

I am considering proposals for the consultation document and the public consultation process will follow in due course.

Casinos: Newham

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the process of procuring a casino in Newham. [250850]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* In inviting and determining applications for casino premises licences, licensing authorities must comply with the statutory provisions in the Gambling Act 2005 and related secondary legislation.

In February 2008, the Secretary of State also published a code of practice on the procedure to be followed by a licensing authority in respect of inviting and determining applications for casino premises licences. Although the Secretary of State maintains an overview of the legislative framework governing the casino premises licence process, he has not made an assessment of the process of procuring a casino licence in Newham.

Convergence Think Tank

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* total and *(b)* staffing cost of the Convergence Think Tank and its seminars was. [247438]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The estimated total cost of the Convergence Think Tank, including seminars, was £375,800, of which staff costs for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform were approximately £249,300.

Estimated staff costs include employer's national insurance and pension contributions. The figures exclude preparatory work carried out by DCMS staff prior to the commencement of the project, as this was not recorded separately.

Cultural Heritage: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* the number of trainees and *(b)* training programmes for acquiring skills required for the preservation of the cultural heritage; and if he will make a statement. [248920]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage undertakes an annual programme of labour market research to assess the supply of historic environment skills. Support for trainees is addressed in several ways, including: English Heritage's Professional Placements in Conservation and Historic Environment Traineeships; the Heritage Lottery Fund's investment of £7 million in training bursaries; and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's provision of £500,000 for apprenticeships.

All of these organisations work closely with a range of bodies to tailor training initiatives to market need and are involved in a number of programmes. These include the Heritage Lottery Fund's awards of more than £446 million to over 1,300 projects that include elements of support for people to learn heritage skills. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council advises that it is working closely with stakeholders in the development of the national occupation standards for the cultural heritage sector and in the introduction of foundation degrees to support skills and learning in the cultural heritage sector.

Cultural Heritage: World War II

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the preservation of pillboxes and other defences from the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [250575]

Barbara Follett: Pillboxes and other Second World War defences form an important aspect of England's military history. English Heritage has undertaken a series of research projects to improve our understanding of them in the context of the many other sites that represent our defence heritage. Options for preservation include statutory designation, although it would not be appropriate to designate all of the many thousands of surviving pillboxes; careful selection is necessary.

Alternatively, many of these structures have local significance and their recording on historic environment records is another way of improving understanding and protection.

Culture East Midlands: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements Culture East Midlands is making for payment by its staff of the workplace parking levy to be introduced by Nottingham City Council in respect of offices located within the zone where the levy will apply. [252477]

Andy Burnham: On 2 July 2008 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport announced its decision to wind up the Regional Cultural Consortia. This process will have been completed well before 2010 when any workplace parking levy for Nottingham is expected to begin.

Culture: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much financial support the Government provided to Liverpool's Capital of Culture year; and if he will make a statement. [251716]

Andy Burnham: DCMS and Arts Council England (ACE) committed £10 million over the period 2005 to 2009 to support Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year. In addition Liverpool received a grant of £1,200,000 from the Urban Cultural programme. In 2008 DCMS and ACE contributed an additional £509,000 to support delivery of the remaining arts programme. The Northwest Regional Development Agency has provided £3.4 million since 2005-06.

I am delighted that Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year was such a magnificent success generating an £800 million boost to the regional economy and one which leaves an exciting cultural and physical legacy.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, what the status is of the funding announced by his Department's press release of 1 April 2005 and referred to in his Department's Five Year Plan as a £6 million Quality and Innovation Fund. [248603]

Barbara Follett: Money for the proposed Quality and Innovation Fund was re-allocated to other pressing priorities. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has continued to support a range of work originally identified with the fund, including new audiences, young talent and a cultural offer for children and young people through initiatives such as Free Theatre, Creative Partnerships and Find Your Talent.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248714]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport awards special bonuses to reward staff members who have made an outstanding contribution in a particularly demanding task or situation. The following table shows the total amount paid in special bonuses in each of the last three years.

	Total of special bonuses (£)
2005-06	53,436
2006-07	69,565
2007-08	68,350

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251397]

Andy Burnham: Currently no capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by either the Department, its agencies or its non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Public Service Agreements

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of his Department's progress in meeting the targets set by public service agreement 3 in the 2004 spending round; and if he will make a statement. [249808]

Andy Burnham: Four out of the 20 targets that make up the overall PSA3 target have been assessed as achieved.

We always knew these would be very challenging targets, and we remain committed to increasing participation in culture and sport across all sectors of the community. Our programme of research is helping us to better understand and address the barriers to participation. The results should help us in giving more people the opportunity to take part.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the datasets from his Department's Taking Part survey in each year since 2005; [247333]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each year's dataset from his Department's Taking Part survey. [249413]

Barbara Follett: Data from the Taking Part survey are made available via the UK Data Archive. The 2005-06 dataset has been deposited, and the 2006-07 and 2007-08 datasets are being processed for deposit and will be uploaded shortly. To access the 2005-06 dataset, visit:

http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/search/searchStart.asp

and search using Study Number 5717

There are no plans to deposit the raw data in the Library. However, all National Statistics based on the survey outputs are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/research_and_statistics/4872.aspx.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of people responding to his Department's Taking Part survey said that they had *(a)* visited a museum or gallery, *(b)* visited a library, *(c)* attended an arts event and *(d)* visited an historic environment site event during the preceding 12 months in each year since 2005. [249358]

Barbara Follett: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

The following table shows annual adult engagement with museums and galleries, libraries, arts events and historic environment sites in the 12 months prior to interview.

Attendance at cultural events by adults (16 and over)

Percentage

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Attended a museum or gallery	42	42	44
Attended a library	48	46	45
Attended an arts event	67	66	67
Attended an historic environment site	70	69	71

These figures are survey estimates. For further information about the methodology and full definitions of attendance, see the latest published annual report at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5396.aspx

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what sampling method is used for his Department's Taking Part survey. [249416]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Between 2005-06 and 2007-08 the Taking Part survey was primarily designed to yield a representative annual sample of around 28,000 adults aged 16 and over who are normally resident in England. For practical purposes, residents of institutional accommodation (armed forces barracks, student halls of residence, hospitals, care homes, prisons etc.) were excluded.

The survey contractor used the small-user postal address file (PAF) as the sample frame. This provides a list of almost all private residential addresses in the UK and is the most comprehensive frame available. Because it lists addresses, not individuals, interviewers were required to randomly select one respondent from among those eligible.

Primary sampling units (PSUs) were designed to be equal to postal sectors except where these contained fewer than 500 delivery points (addresses) on the small-user postal address file (PAF). These sectors were combined with their nearest neighbour to form a 'super-sector'. Before use, the list of PSUs was stratified using the following factors:

1. Region
2. Population density
3. Occupational distribution

This meant 160 strata in total. Each stratum was further sorted by the proportion of residents aged 65 plus.

PSUs were selected with a probability proportionate to size (number of delivery points/addresses) using the method of random start and fixed interval.

Further details on the sampling methodology for Taking Part are available in the technical report that accompanies the 2005-06 dataset, available from the UK Data Archive at

http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/search/searchStart.asp

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average *(a)* standard and *(b)* probable error was in each year in which his Department has carried out its Taking Part survey. [249417]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The term 'standard error' refers to the standard deviation of the sampling distribution of a statistic—that is, it indicates how well a statistic reflects the population from which the sample was drawn. Standard errors can be calculated for individual estimates (statistics) from Taking Part, rather than the overall dataset.

Confidence intervals are derived from the variance and the sample design, and are published for all Taking Part estimates. All survey data contain a margin of error, and the confidence intervals indicate the range in which true percentages could fall.

To see an example, please refer to the latest report at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have responded to his Department's Taking Part survey in each year since 2005. [249422]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following tables show the number of adults (aged 16 and over) and children (aged 11-15) that have responded to the Taking Part survey since it began:

Table 1: Sample size for Taking Part adult survey (aged 16 and over)

Survey year	*Sample size*
2005-06	28,117
2006-07	24,174
2007-08	25,720

Note:
Fieldwork for the main adult survey began in July 2005 and runs on a July to June cycle.

Table 2: Sample size for Taking Part child survey (aged 11-15)

Survey year	*Sample size*
2006	2,918
2007	2,454

Note:
Fieldwork for the child element began in January 2006 to and runs on a January to December cycle.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of people who responded to his Department's Taking Part survey said that they had attended an arts event during the preceding 12 months in each year since 2005 expressed in terms of *(a)* a mean average and *(b)* a median average. [249792]

Barbara Follett: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

The following table shows annual adult attendance at arts events in the 12 months prior to interview. Respondents were asked whether they had attended various types of arts events in the previous year, to which they answered 'yes' or 'no'. These responses were combined to produce an overall estimate of the percentage of adults who had been to at least one event.

The terms 'mean' and 'median' are both measures of central tendency: that is, they indicate a typical (or average) number in a set of data. A mean or median would normally be calculated from a range of numbers that can be summed and/or put in order. Variables such as attendance at arts events are classed as 'categorical' because the values that the variable can take are categories—in this case 'yes' or 'no', but other examples of categorical variables would be gender or eye colour. As these responses cannot be summed or put in any meaningful order, it is not appropriate to calculate an average.

Attendance at arts events by adults (16 and over)

	Percentage
2005-06	67
2006-07	66
2007-08	67

These figures are survey estimates. For further information about the methodology and a full definition of attendance, see the latest published annual report at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5396.aspx

Departmental Training

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 657-8W, on departmental training, which organisations provided the training for the courses on *(a)* team away days and *(b)* stress management. [250050]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Team away days

Information relating to all organisations, who have provided training for all team away days in DCMS, referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 16 June 2008 is not fully available and a complete answer cannot be given at this time.

(b) Stress Management

Stress management training courses, referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 16 June 2008, have been provided by the following organisations for DCMS staff in the last 12 months:

National School of Government (NSG)
Hemsley Fraser Group Ltd.
Reed Business Information Ltd.

English Heritage: Assets

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land is owned by English Heritage; and what estimate has been made of the value of those assets. [249809]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage owns one building which is not part of its historic properties portfolio. The building, Brooklands in Cambridge, which is owned freehold, was last valued during the year ending 31 March 2006 and the net realisation value was £2.46 million. English Heritage does not own any land which is not in its historic properties portfolio.

English Heritage: Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free educational visits to English Heritage properties there were in each region in each year since 1997. [249811]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage advises that the number of free educational visits to its properties in each region in each year since 1997 is set out in the following table. This includes visits to properties managed through Local Management Agreements.

Number of free educational visits to English Heritage properties

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
London	8,041	10,767	10,557	9,696	8,767	6,576	6,602	12,771	15,474	17,997	16,018
West Midlands	45,511	47,447	44,059	37,194	37,756	36,461	36,296	32,190	32,199	30,820	30,043
East Midlands	20,601	22,401	22,083	25,403	20,346	27,711	28,151	26,090	27,070	28,440	28,404
East of England	23,221	25,513	21,038	21,917	20,203	20,417	23,708	24,554	21,651	21,556	19,243
North East	56,326	53,664	49,409	44,790	31,546	38,832	36,107	33,851	32,650	31,141	29,799
North West	20,649	20,128	19,545	18,849	14,477	17,677	18,569	14,522	15,780	15,269	14,923
Yorkshire	68,956	63,095	59,862	68,072	55,895	58,384	64,207	53,821	54,468	49,336	44,976
South East	224,801	213,889	224,573	221,692	194,428	209,808	211,616	205,520	206,483	207,538	186,882
South West	66,804	66,309	62,987	65,679	58,167	62,633	71,772	72,547	80,998	76,048	76,120
Total	534,910	523,213	514,113	513,292	441,585	478,499	497,028	475,866	486,773	478,145	446,408

Galleries and Museums: VAT

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many university museums and galleries reclaim value added tax under his Department's free access policy. [248323]

Barbara Follett: All university museums and galleries that reclaim VAT under my Department's free access policy are set out in SI 2001/2879—Value Added Tax (Refund of Tax to Museums and Galleries) Order 2001.

Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242018]

Barbara Follett: No members of the Department's staff have recorded receiving gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties during the last three years.

The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the civil service management code, and in departmental staff handbooks.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by the Heritage Lottery Fund; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250259]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage Lottery Fund advises that it does not own any buildings or land and therefore does not lease any out. Because of this, no valuation has been conducted.

Local Press: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will meet a delegation from local newspapers in Essex to discuss the contribution of local newspapers to local society. [249645]

Barbara Follett: The contribution of the press to our society, and the current economic difficulties of newspapers—particularly at the local level—is an area being taken forward as part of the Digital Britain project. I would therefore appreciate the opportunity to hear from a delegation from local newspapers in Essex.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250261]

Barbara Follett: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has advised that it does not own the freehold or leasehold on any land or buildings.

Olympic Games 2012: Manpower

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the likely effects of the London 2012 Olympics on staffing levels in his Department in the period up to 2012. [250906]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The last spending review made provision for the staffing of the Department both within the Government Olympic Executive and for Olympic-related projects elsewhere within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) up to 2010-11. This will enable Government Olympic Executive staffing of up to about 90 full-time equivalent (FTE) by 2010-11 in addition to about eight FTE employed elsewhere in DCMS. Provision for staffing in 2011-12 and beyond will be determined in the next spending review.

Sports: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community sports coaches there were in each year since 2002. [248322]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Community Sports Coach Scheme was initially established in April 2003, and implemented from April 2004. The headline objectives were to generate 3,000 paid professional coaches working at a local level and to increase the number and range of coaching opportunities by 2006, according to strategic and local need.

In each year since 2004 there has been the following number of community sports coaches:

	Coaches
2004-05	859
2005-06	2,978
2006-07	3,335
2007-08	3,063

Sports: Private Sector

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many private sector companies have joined the Medal Hopes scheme; what financial contribution each such company is making in each region to the scheme; what estimate he has made of the revenue the scheme will raise in the next three years; what targets his Department has set for scheme revenue; and what contingency arrangements his Department has made for circumstances where such targets are not met. [250795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced in December 2008 an additional £50 million of public funds would be available to UK Sport's elite programme. This consists of additional Exchequer funding of £29 million to UK Sport over the four years to 2012 plus a projected uplift in lottery income of £21 million. This means that for the London cycle the elite sport system will receive the highest level of public funding ever made available over a four-year Olympic/Paralympic cycle—an increase over the Beijing cycle and an unprecedented package of support for elite athletes.

We are still determined that there should be a long-term investment stream in elite sport from the private sector and UK Sport is currently working with Fast Track and others towards this end, including on the proposals currently being drawn up under the Medal Hopes brand.

Negotiations are ongoing with various potential private sector partners and to release further information regarding those negotiations at this time would prejudice commercial interests.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of young people who cease regular participation in sport upon leaving school. [250794]

Mr. Sutcliffe: During the ages of 16 to 19, the period when young people leave school, sport participation[1] drops by 7 percentage points, (or the equivalent of 42,000 participants) from a participation rate of 37.4 per cent. at age 16, to a participation rate of 30.4 per cent. at age 19.

[1] Participation is defined as the percentage of the adult population participating in at least 30 minutes of sport, to at least moderate intensity at least three times a week.

Age	*Percentage*	*Number of participants*
16	37.41	251,370
17	34.60	230,829
18	31.14	208,625
19	30.40	209,368

Source:
Sport England's Active People Survey 2 (Oct 2007-Oct 2008)

St. George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* St. George's Day, *(b)* St. Patrick's Day, *(c)* St. David's Day and *(d)* St. Andrew's Day celebrations in each year since 1997. [247742]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport flew the St. George's Flag on 23 April in 2007 and 2008; it did not fly the flag before 2007. The cost of flying the flag is set out in the table.

The Department has not spent anything on St. Patrick's Day, St. David's Day and St. Andrew's Day celebrations since 1997. It has ordered St. David's and St. Andrew's Flags, which it will fly on those saints' days from 2009 onwards. There is no official St. Patrick's Flag; the Union Flag is the official flag of Northern Ireland.

Cost of flying the St. George's Flag on St. George's Day

	£
2007	114
2008	116

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with *(a)* the Royal Society of St. George and *(b)* Celebrate England on marking St. George's Day. [248358]

Barbara Follett: I have no plans to hold discussions with the Royal Society of St. George and Celebrate England on marking St. George's Day.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department plans to spend to promote St. George's Day 2009. [248359]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will promote St. George's Day by flying the St. George's flag on 23 April 2009. This will be at minimal cost.

Taking Part Survey

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the statistically significant differences between the results of his Department's most recent Taking Part survey and the previous such survey. [247352]

Barbara Follett: The Taking Part survey has been used to measure progress against the Department's SR04 PSA3 target.

Baselines for this target were published in December 2006 using data from the first year of the survey (2005-06). The final assessment was published on 11 December 2008, and compares the baseline estimates with final estimates collected during the third year of Taking Part (2007-08). Full details of the assessment can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

VisitBritain: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land is owned by VisitBritain; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250254]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that they do not own any buildings or land and as such no valuation has been conducted.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by VisitBritain; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250262]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that they currently lease space to two third parties in their New York office. The annual rent received is £16,407 per annum (net of VAT).

VisitBritain also lease space to a number of partners at the Britain and London Visitor Centre in Regent Street. The total income from tenants is £356,000 per annum (net of VAT).

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's policy on bank recapitalisation on the stability of the pound. [248132]

Ian Pearson: The recapitalisation scheme was designed to ensure the stability of the financial system and to protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers. The action taken by the Government in October prevented the collapse of the banking system. Flexible exchange rates fluctuate, and respond to a wide variety of factors on a minute-by-minute basis. In today's economic climate, in the face of what the IMF describe as "the most dangerous shock in mature financial markets since the 1930s", it is to be expected that the world's major currencies are prone to fluctuation.

Bradford and Bingley

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department's plans to take Bradford and Bingley into temporary public ownership were first drawn up; when he took the decision to take Bradford and Bingley into temporary public ownership; and for what reason. [250809]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury, the Financial Services Authority, and the Bank of England monitor the financial system on an ongoing basis. There are regular discussions between the FSA, the Bank and the Treasury about individual institutions and contingency planning.

Following turbulence in global financial markets, Bradford and Bingley had found itself under increasing pressure as investors and lenders lost confidence in its ability to carry on as an independent institution. The FSA determined on 27 September 2008 that the firm no longer met its threshold conditions for operating as a deposit taker under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and FSA rules.

The Government, on the advice of the FSA and the Bank of England, acted immediately to maintain financial stability and protect depositors, while minimising the exposure to taxpayers. It worked over the weekend to bring about the part public, part private solution which best met those objectives.

Children's Tax Credit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many awards of children's tax credit were made for 2001-02; and what estimate he has made of the number of families who were eligible for the credit in that year. [251939]

Mr. Timms: The number of families receiving children's tax credit for 2001-02 are not readily available.

It is estimated that for the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03, 4.6 million families were eligible for children's tax credit. However a separate estimate of eligible families for the financial year 2001-02 is not readily available.

Cox Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's staff provided support for the Cox Review of creativity in business. [248923]

Angela Eagle: The Cox Review of creativity in business was a DTI review, for which the Treasury provided two members of staff.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248072]

Angela Eagle: The total number of *(a)* Ministers that received coaching in a foreign language in the period April 2007 to March 2008 is zero.

The total number of *(b)* civil servants that received coaching in a foreign language in the period April 2007 to March 2008 was 26. This included:

16 French language students
Nine Spanish language students
One English language student
One Japanese language student
One Slovenian language student

Total expenditure for this coaching was £32,460.32.

Departmental Pay

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-pensionable bonuses have been awarded to staff in his Department in each year since 1997. [251659]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the former Financial Secretary (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1879W and 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1039W.

Economic Growth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast he has made of growth in the economy in each of the next 12 months. [251665]

Ian Pearson: The Government set out their latest assessment of UK economic developments and prospects in the 2008 pre-Budget report (Cm 7484). They will produce updated forecasts in the Budget as normal.

Intellectual Property Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's staff provided support for the Gower Review of Intellectual Property. [248898]

Angela Eagle: Andrew Gower's Review of Intellectual Property was an independent review funded by the Treasury. The number of full-time staff provided to support the review was seven, during the course of 12 months.

Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to increase lending to manufacturing industry through those banks he has capitalised. [250786]

Ian Pearson. On 8 October this year the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of their investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm.

These include commitments to maintain, over the next three years, the availability and active marketing of competitively-priced lending to home owners and small businesses at 2007 levels.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 5 December 2008 on late payment of tax, reference 1/64635/2008. [251940]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Non-domestic Rates: Sports

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of community amateur sports clubs in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales received relief from national non-domestic rate liability at 100 per cent. in 2007-08. [250749]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not readily available.

By the end of 2008, over 5000 community amateur sports clubs were registered with HMRC, and entitled to receive 80 per cent. rates relief. It is not known, however, how many have taken up this relief, nor how many of these have received the additional 2 per cent. relief which local authorities have discretion to provide. There is no readily available breakdown of the clubs between the nations of the UK.

HMRC do have data on the number of payments that exceeded the £30,000 threshold and were reported through self-assessment for 2006-07—the most recent year available. They are set out in Table 1.

The limited information we have on payments below £30,000 suggests that a large majority of payments are covered by the tax-free threshold.

Table 1: Number of termination payments over £30,000 that were reported via self assessment in 2006-07

	Number of payments
Total SA	8,000
England	7,000
South East	2,000

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest thousand

Public Expenditure: Ministry of Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph B75 of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7484, what the reasons were for the reclassification of £1.4 billion of Ministry of Defence expenditure in financial year 2007-08 from current to capital expenditure. [245202]

Yvette Cooper: Net investment by the Ministry of Defence in 2007-08 was revised up by £1.2 billion following the Budget 2008 forecast. Most of this adjustment related to a revision of the treatment of certain capital spending which had previously been regarded as solely for military use and therefore considered as current spending for national accounts purposes.

Redundancy Pay

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* mode redundancy payment was in (i) England and (ii) the South East in each of the last five years; and how many and what proportion of redundancy payments have been above the tax free threshold of £30,000 since the threshold was set at that level. [250686]

Mr. Timms: This specific tax exemption applies to redundancy payments and some other forms of termination payment. Where a payment of this kind is not exempt, HMRC collects the tax due through self-assessment and PAYE.

However, only information about non-exempt payments via self-assessments is recorded. HMRC therefore does not have comprehensive data on payments below the £30,000 threshold or what proportion relate to redundancy payments.

Welfare Tax Credits: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals in Peterborough constituency have been overpaid tax credits *(a)* once, *(b)* twice and *(c)* three or more times since 1 April 2005; and if he will make a statement; [250764]

(2) how many individuals in Peterborough constituency have been underpaid tax credits *(a)* once, *(b)* twice and *(c)* three or more times since 1 April 2001; and if he will make a statement. [250765]

Mr. Timms: Child and working tax credits were not introduced until April 2003. The information requested is not available. However the following table provides a snapshot of information on the number of families in the Peterborough constituency with one, two and three or more underpayments or overpayments of tax credits between 2003-04 and 2006-07. This is based on families who had a 2006-07 tax credit award and lived in Peterborough as at 31 August 2006.

Thousand

Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment of tax credits occurred	*Number of awards underpaid*	*Number of awards overpaid*
(a) Once	4.4	3.9
(b) Twice	1.0	1.9
(c) Three or more times	0.2	0.7

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many child care proceedings have been heard in courts in each court district in each of the last five years. [250159]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the number of care and supervision orders made in each area for county and high courts in England and Wales for 2004 to 2007, and in each region for family proceedings courts in England and Wales for 2007, is shown in the following table.

Data on this basis are available from 2004 onwards and are not yet available for 2008.

Number of public law care and supervision orders made[1] in family proceedings courts[2] and county and high courts in England and Wales

		County/high courts				Family proceedings courts			
Region	*Area*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]
London region	London	913	838	981	876				
London region total		913	838	981	876	n/a	n/a	n/a	600
Midlands region	Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	375	337	432	317				
	Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	345	386	366	370				
	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	240	220	141	155				
	Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	199	215	158	137				
Midlands region total		1,159	1,158	1,097	979	n/a	n/a	n/a	600
North-east region	Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	369	403	303	347				
	Humber and South Yorkshire	443	489	559	611				
	North and West Yorkshire	516	427	484	550				
North-east region total		1,328	1,319	1,346	1,508	n/a	n/a	n/a	800
North-west region	Cheshire and Merseyside	330	396	393	466				
	Cumbria and Lancashire	316	258	342	327				
	Greater Manchester	689	597	714	736				
North-west region total		1,335	1,251	1,449	1,529	n/a	n/a	n/a	400
South-east region	Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	319	298	342	307				
	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	219	273	339	306				
	Kent	176	136	165	179				
	Surrey and Sussex	302	272	253	292				
	Thames Valley	269	166	164	133				
South-east region total		1,285	1,145	1,263	1,217	n/a	n/a	n/a	700
South-west region	Avon and Somerset	199	178	163	180				
	Devon and Cornwall	225	229	171	192				
	Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	126	111	152	90				
	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	176	143	162	174				
South-west region total		726	661	648	636	n/a	n/a	n/a	400
Wales region	Mid and West Wales	82	113	109	100				
	North Wales	106	84	92	167				
	South-east Wales	270	304	262	239				
Wales region total		458	501	463	506	n/a	n/a	n/a	300

Annual figures on matters affecting children under the Children Act 1989 are published in Judicial and Court Statistics, available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Number of public law care and supervision orders made[1] in family proceedings courts[2] and county and high courts in England and Wales

		County/high courts				Family proceedings courts			
Region	*Area*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[2]
Grand total		7,266	6,873	7,267	7,251				3,700

[1] Counted by child

[2] There have been data quality issues with figures for family proceedings courts (FPCs) in the past. A new method of collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data. Figures for FPCs are available at a regional level and have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

HMCS FamilyMan. Manual Returns.

Cemeteries

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on ensuring that lack of out-of-hours service for burials or cremations does not prevent prompt burials or cremations required for religious purposes, with particular reference to periods of closure of services; and if he will make a statement. [248534]

Bridget Prentice: Guidance published in 2006 encouraged burial ground managers to explore the local demand for out-of-hours working, especially where required for religious reasons, and to ensure that every effort was made to deal with individual applications.

We have not issued similar guidance to cremation authorities but understand from their representative bodies that authorities will provide for religious and cultural requirements wherever possible. Each authority should have local arrangements in place to cater for the needs of their particular community. We will, however, consult the representative bodies and members of our faith forum on whether it would be helpful to issue general guidance on this issue.

Courts: Fees and Charges

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of child care proceedings of the recent rise in court fees. [250161]

Bridget Prentice: Our assessment is that the new court fees have had no effect on local authorities fulfilling their statutory obligations to protect children at risk. There was a reduction in the number of applications for care orders issued by local authorities following introduction of the new statutory guidance to local authorities and Public Law Outline introduced on 1 April 2008, a month before the new fees were implemented. Since the initial drop in April and May 08, volumes have been increasing. We will continue to monitor the number of applications being issued.

Cremation

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has considered legalising the process of promession for the disposal of human remains; and if he will make a statement. [250302]

Bridget Prentice: We are aware that there is some interest in the disposal of bodies by promession, as an alternative to cremation. The process does not involve the burning of human remains, however, so falls outside the Cremation Act 1902. Making it lawful would thus need either a new Act or an amendment to the 1902 Act. There are no plans to amend the law at present.

Debt Collection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the use by bailiffs of powers under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and if he will make a statement. [251853]

Bridget Prentice: The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, provided bailiffs with powers of search and forced entry to premises when executing warrants to recover fines.

The contracts Her Majesty's Courts Service have with private bailiff companies requires these companies to report monthly on the use of search and forced entry powers to Her Majesty's Courts Service.

The report provides details on the execution rate of warrants, training undertaken by contractor staff and any complaints received by the contractor on action taken by their staff. A component of the report requires contractors to provide the number of warrants where search and entry was used under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

Additionally, a complaints section of the report records any complaints received by the contractor from defaulters on the use of forced entry. Specific entries include alleged damage to property, threats of violence and actual violence. The use of search and entry and its application would be detailed in these sections of the report.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to release the redacted parts of magistrates' court guidance to bailiffs on procedures for breaking in to properties as a last resort. [251854]

Bridget Prentice: The Information Commissioner agreed with the proposed redactions when the guidance was first released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 9 December 2008 and the Government have no plans to release the redacted parts.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 109W, on departmental databases, which policy areas the ACORN data have been used to inform. [250842]

Mr. Malik: ACORN data have been used by Ministry of Justice staff in analysis related to the means testing of criminal legal aid in the magistrates courts, and to the potential recovery of some criminal defence costs from defendants in the Crown court.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [illegible]

Mr. Straw: End of year bonus payments in the Ministry of Justice have been paid to high performing staff to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year.

For members of the senior civil service, bonuses have been allocated by the Departmental Pay Committees in accordance with guidelines issued by Cabinet Office each year following Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations. Within the overall policy agreed across Government, Ministers are not involved in anyway in the determination of bonuses to individual civil servants.

As pay determination is retrospective, 2008 was the first year in which the Ministry of Justice paid awards to SCS staff following the creation of the Ministry in 2007. In 2008, 159 bonuses were paid to members of the senior civil service in the Ministry of Justice at a total cost of £1,648,000.

In 2007, pay determination was undertaken by the Departments that existed prior to the creation of the Ministry. For the former Department of Constitutional Affairs, 116 bonuses were paid to members of the senior civil service at a cost of £866,500. Staff from the Home Office who transferred to the Ministry of Justice upon its creation in May 2007 will be included in the answer provided by the Home Office.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Wills: From the central records available, the following information is provided.

The Land Registry use fourteen 0844 telephone numbers for public access to their services. The Land Registry no longer operate revenue sharing numbers and since February 2008 customers are charged only the local call rate from land lines for using the 0844 numbers. However, calls from mobile phones may cost more as the Department cannot control charges levied by individual service providers to their customers.

Details of the revenue generated to Land Registry in earlier years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	0
2005-06	247,467
2006-07	221,543
2007-08	164,787
April to June 2008	[1]40,026

[1] This is a rebate figure from previous service providers which has been paid into this year's financial accounts.

In addition, the Department, and its service providers, but excluding Land Registry, operate forty-nine 0845 numbers to provide a range of services to the public, including customer service enquiries and IT online support. Eighteen of these numbers, which are used by Her Majesty's Courts Service Bulk Payment Centre, have generated some revenue. At the time the numbers were introduced, calls from anywhere in the UK were charged at a local rate, making it no more expensive for people to access the service using the 0845 rather than the exchange number. The Centre now publish alternative numbers on their web pages giving customers a choice, as depending on the enquirer's call plan, 0845 may not now be the cheapest option. Details of income generated from these 0845 numbers is available for the last four years, and is as follows:

	£
2004-05	745.91
2005-06	6543.76
2006-07	7684.14
2007-08	8075.97

Revenue sharing 0870 numbers have also been used for recruitment campaigns. However, it has been decided that these numbers will no longer be included in campaign advertising, and they are expected to be discontinued shortly when a new system is introduced. The income generated from these numbers, since their introduction in February 2004, is £25,503.69. There is no annual breakdown available.

03 prefix telephone numbers are charged in the same fashion as 01 and 02 prefix numbers, but the call receiver does not receive revenue sharing. The Department, and its service providers, are considering switching to 03 prefix numbers.

Driving Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 17 to 24, (ii) 25 to 30, (iii) 31 to 35, (iv) 36 to 40 and (v) over 40 years old were (A) prosecuted and (B) convicted for stopping in a box junction in (1) the Essex Police area, (2) the Metropolitan Police area and (3) England and Wales in each of the last three years; [250224]

(2) how much revenue has been raised from penalties issued for stopping in a box junction in *(a)* the Essex Police area, *(b)* the Metropolitan Police area and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last three years. [250225]

Maria Eagle: The offence of 'contravening a box junction', under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002, can be dealt with by way of court proceedings or the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

Centrally collected data held on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database, and by the Home Office on fixed penalty notices (FPNs), do not separately identify the number of prosecutions, convictions, or FPNs issued for the offence of 'contravening a box junction' from other offences of neglect of traffic directions.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 60W, on economic and monetary union, what the timetable for his Department's updating of its euro changeover plan is. [250045]

Mr. Malik: The former DCA had a detailed euro changeover plan in place by the end of 2004 and this was last revised in 2006.

Plans for the former Home Office activities (prisons and probation services; Office for Criminal Justice Reform), which transferred to the newly created Ministry of Justice in 2007, were included in the Home Office Plan.

There are no plans to place a copy of the MOJ plans in the Library.

Information Commissioner

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times the Information Commissioner's Office *(a)* has been requested to intervene and *(b)* has taken further action when a data controller has not met the 40-day deadline on a subject access request in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [250450]

(2) what sanctions the Information Commissioner's Office can impose when a data controller does not met the 40-day deadline for a subject access request; [250451]

(3) what guidance the Information Commissioner's Office provides to data controllers who are unable to meet the 40-day deadline for a subject access request; [250452]

(4) what representations he has received from members of the public who have been affected by a data controller's inability to meet the 40-day deadline for a subject access request under the Data Protection Act 1998. [250453]

Mr. Wills: The following table shows the number of requests received by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to intervene in connection with complaints about subject access requests that had allegedly not been completed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). It is not possible to separate out those cases where the reason for the request to intervene was as a direct result of failure to comply with the 40-day timescale for response.

Month	*Number of requests to intervene (subject access)*
January 2008	476
February 2008	406
March 2008	367
April 2008	328
May 2008	244
June 2008	298
July 2008	327
August 2008	273
September 2008	265
October 2008	507
November 2008	411
December 2008	293

If a data controller does not meet the 40-day deadline, the ICO can serve an Enforcement Notice under section 40 of the DPA. An Enforcement Notice requires a data controller to take the action specified in that notice to ensure full compliance with the DPA. Non-compliance with an Enforcement Notice is a criminal offence.

The DPA also provides the right to private redress and compensation through the court system for damage and/or distress caused as a result of non-compliance with any requirement of the DPA.

The advice offered by the ICO to data controllers unable to meet the 40-day deadline for a subject access request will depend on the reason for a data controller's breach of the DPA.

Common advice offered may include providing better training for employees; devoting greater resource to a data controller's DPA responsibilities; and contacting the ICO for advice earlier in the process if there is uncertainty about how to respond to a request concerning the DPA.

The ICO also produces and maintains good practice guidance on compliance with subject access requests. These good practice guidance notes are available on the ICO's website and via its customer service help-line.

The Ministry does not hold a central record of the representations it has received concerning failure to comply with the 40-day deadline for subject access requests.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners whose minimum terms have been completed are serving automatic life sentences pursuant to section 109 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 *(a)* in its original form and *(b)* as subsequently amended by the provisions of chapter 5 of Part 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; and for what offences each such prisoner was convicted. [252081]

Mr. Straw: The provisions for automatic life sentences for a second serious offence were introduced under the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 and came into force on 1 October 1997. The provisions were consolidated in section 109 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. 615 prisoners sentenced under these provisions are recorded as having completed their minimum term.

The following table gives a breakdown of the offences committed.

	Number
Robbery	75
Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	1

	Number
Aggravated Burglary	3
Armed Robbery	1
Arson	7
Assault	3
Attempted Murder	18
Attempted Rape	10
Attempt to Pervert Justice	1
Attempted Burglary	1
Attempted Robbery	2
Buggery	5
Burglary	2
Conspiracy to Commit Robbery	4
Conspiracy to Commit Murder	4
Conspiracy to Supply Drugs	1
False Imprisonment	5
Other Sexual Offences	1
Other Offences	4
GBH	97
Kidnapping	7
Manslaughter	23
Possession of a Weapon	1
Possession of a Firearm	68
Rape	105
Wounding	156
Sexual Assault	1

The automatic life sentence was repealed and replaced by the indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005.

This figure comes from the NOMS public protection unit database. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Magistrates: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to monitor the level of compliance of *(a)* magistrates, *(b)* HM Courts Service fines officers and *(c)* bailiff companies with the national standards for enforcement agents on vulnerable situations. [250926]

Bridget Prentice: The National Standards for Enforcement Agents are intended for use by enforcement agents rather than magistrates or Her Majesty's Courts Service fines officers. However both magistrates and Her Majesty's Courts Service fines officers routinely consider the circumstances of defendants and defaulters as part of their decision-making process. Where issues of vulnerability are made known to them, these will be taken into account.

Her Majesty's Court Service contracts place a specific obligation on its private enforcement agents in respect of vulnerable members of society. This requires them to adhere to and implement these standards while engaged on enforcement activities on behalf of Her Majesty's Courts Service. They are instructed not to take any action to levy distress without prior reference to the court where the individual falls into one of categories deemed as vulnerable. Complaints by members of the public about the conduct of the contractor must be reported to Her Majesty's Courts Service regional contract managers, together with details of how those complaints have been dealt with and resolved. These are reviewed as part of the contract management process.

The contract requires AEAs to provide a monthly management report to HMCS regional contractor managers on contractor performance. The report provides details on the execution rate of warrants, training undertaken by contractor staff and any complaints received by the contractor on action taken by their staff. Contractors must report any circumstances and situations where a complaint or issue is raised by defaulters who consider the enforcement of the warrant has been undertaken inappropriately or incorrectly. These will include any situations involving those in the vulnerable person categories.. Any complaints or correspondence received by contractors must be investigated. In addition Her Majesty's Court Service regional management will investigate the complaint to determine that the bailiff took the correct action or if the situation requires further investigation.

Further reporting protocols in new proposed contracts will strengthen the control and monitoring arrangements available to HMCS on contractor performance. This includes quarterly and six-month assurance reporting. There is also a requirement for each contractor to make an annual operation report reviewing their management of the contract. Combined, these reports form the basis for the HMCS Director of Enforcement to make an annual report covering the operation of all regional contracts.

The reports received as the six month and yearly stages of the contract would be reviewed and reported on to the HMCS Compliance and Enforcement and main HMCS Management Boards as part of this report. It is expected that the contractor will detail its procedures and processes and the agreed authorisation methods with each HMCS region and area within these reporting requirements.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 16 October and 4 December 2008 with regard to his constituent, Mr Terry Cooper. [251714]

Bridget Prentice: I will write to the hon. Member shortly. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Offenders: Learning Disability

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* community-based offender management programmes and *(b)* substance misuse programmes developed for use with offenders with (i) learning difficulties and (ii) learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [250940]

Mr. Hanson: Offending behaviour and substance misuse programmes can meet a broad range of offender needs and are successful in reducing reoffending. Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure programmes are accessible to all those who could potentially benefit. Participation will depend on the assessment and degree of capability. Further work may be possible to prepare an individual; however, there will be some offenders who are unable to participate due to the intensive nature and cognitive focus of the programmes. If a programme is not suitable then one to one work may be considered. If an individual is still unsuitable then other interventions or activities will be considered to meet their needs, including a range of less intensive drug treatment options.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of his Department's staff are employed in the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. [247820]

Mr. Straw: The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has 265 full-time equivalent staff currently in post and a headcount of 312. OCJR reports trilaterally to the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office and is hosted as an organisation by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). Most of its staff are employed by the MOJ, with 11 staff seconded or on loan from other Government Departments or organisations (including one from the Home Office), and 20 people from other organisations. This reflects the position as at 15 January 2009.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250140]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is shown in the following tables. They outline the number of owned and leased cars used by the Ministry of Justice, including the number of cars hired within the course of the last year.

Vehicles owned

	Cars		
	1000 to 1400 cc	*1401 to 1700 cc*	*1701 to2200 cc*
Prison Service	2	49	329
MOJ/Access to Justice	40	58	67

Vehicles leased

	Cars		
	1000 to 1400 cc	*1401 to 1700 cc*	*1701 to2200 cc*
Prison Service	—	—	35
MOJ/Access to Justice	74	262	245

Vehicles hired

	Cars		
	1000 to 1400 cc	*1401 to 1700 cc*	*1701 to2200 cc*
Prison Service	48	45	119
MOJ/Access to Justice	1,276	782	564

The level of usage of hired cars is necessitated by the size and structure of the Ministry of Justice. The decision to hire cars is taken locally by operational managers when faced with finding the most cost-effective means of delivering the Department and its agencies business.

Operational considerations within HMPS often require the movement of staff, equipment and prisoners over long distances. Vehicle specification has to take into account the need to accommodate both prisoners and escorts in the rear compartment, without discomfort. For this reason medium sized cars with diesel engines with a cubic capacity of 1701 to 2200 cc are frequently specified for pool and official use, including hire.

Parole Board: Referrals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many referrals to the Parole Board took place after the due date in each of the last five years; and what proportion of referrals were such late referrals in each of those years. [250586]

Mr. Malik: There is no single data collection system which can provide this information at the present time. Using the different systems in place which does record this information, we are able to collect most of the data requested. Once this work is completed, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of both Houses.

Political Impartiality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 948-9W, on Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2008, what the nature of the offence was that resulted in the individual being referred to a youth offender panel for a breach of the Act. [250545]

Mr. Straw: The data to which the hon. Member refers show that between 2000 and 2006 two people were referred to youth offender panels for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The information held centrally by the Department does not identify which specific offences under PPERA were involved.

Prisoners: Speech Therapy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many speech and language therapists have been employed in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution in each year since 2000. [251229]

Mr. Malik: There is no central information available on the number of language therapists engaged in the Prison Service. To gather the information would entail scrutinising a large number of individual records, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures he plans to adopt to ensure that public consultations on the location of proposed Titan prison facilities result in an accurate reflection of public views on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [250974]

Mr. Hanson: Once sites have been identified, we intend to follow the normal planning route and will make an application for planning permission to the appropriate local planning authority.

Before we submit any planning application, Department officials will hold pre-application consultations with planning officers, local councillors and other interested parties on the detail of the proposed prison development in the usual way. This will include a public exhibition to explain the proposals and give local people the opportunity to comment.

Repossessions: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in South East Cambridgeshire constituency for each of the last 12 months. [250240]

Bridget Prentice: Although figures for the South East Cambridgeshire constituency are not available, the following table shows the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in Cambridge county court from October 2007 to September 2008.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, Cambridge county court covers areas other than South East Cambridgeshire and therefore not all possession actions at this court relate to this constituency.

Figures from October 2008 are yet to be released by the Ministry of Justice as National Statistics on 20 February 2009.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Mortgage[1] and landlord[2] possession orders made[3] [4] in Cambridge county court, October 2007 to September 2008

	Cambridge	
	Mortgage possession	Landlord possession[5]
October 2007	31	56
November 2007	45	91
December 2007	21	69
January 2008	39	66
February 2008	25	81
March 2008	36	65
April 2008	32	57
May 2008	72	50
June 2008	37	56
July 2008[6]	44	71
August 2008[6]	23	41
September 2008[6]	39	74

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.

[2] Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether social or private.

[3] Includes outright and suspended orders, the later being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[5] Includes landlord orders made through both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence and shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[6] Provisional figures.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Residence Orders: Applications

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for residence orders have been applied for by extended family members since 1 April 2008. [248906]

Bridget Prentice: Figures on the number of applications, counted by child, by the applicant relationship to the child for private law residence orders since 1 April 2008 in county and high courts in England and Wales are given in the following table. Public law applications (few in number) are not included. Figures for family proceedings courts are also not provided as comprehensive information on applicant relationships is not available. Please note that the figures are provisional.

In 1,080 of 25,064 applications there was more than one applicant relationship specified for the application. This could happen for a number of reasons. It could be that the applicant has a different relationship with each of the children in the case, that the application is made by more than one person or there may be counter applications made by two or more people. Where this happens the application will be counted more than once within the total of 26,261 applicant relationships.

Applications made, counted by child, 1 April 2008 to 30 November 2008

	Applications
Father	11,231
Mother	10,828
Grandparent	2,744

Applications made, counted by child, 1 April 2008 to 30 November 2008

	Applications
Stepfather	116
Stepmother	118
Special Guardian	13
Other	1,211
Total applicant-to-child relationship	26,261
Total applications	25,064

Notes:
1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan system.
2. In 792 cases of 25,064 applications there were applications made in two different months. This may be because the case was transferred or because a second applicant made a counter application in a later month. Where this occurs the application will be counted twice within the 25,064 total.
3. The figures include transfers from other courts.

Suicide: Prosecutions

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the implementation of the Government's proposed amendments to the Suicide Act 1961 contained in the Coroners and Justice Bill on the number of prosecutions of people who *(a)* encourage suicide and *(b)* assist the suicide of a mentally competent terminally ill adult who travels abroad to have an assisted death in a jurisdiction where it is legal. [250342]

Maria Eagle: The decision to prosecute in individual cases for an offence under the Suicide Act 1961 is a matter for the Crown Prosecution Service. The proposed amendments to the Suicide Act will simplify and modernise the law in this area. They will not make liable to prosecution anyone who was not liable before.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of prosecuting suspected television licence fee evaders was in each of the last five years. [249831]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice has informed me that the estimated cost to Her Majesty's Courts Service based on the estimated time TV licence cases take to be heard in the magistrates court is as follows:

	£
2003	923,320
2004	1,046,611
2005	1,209,116
2006	1,279,612
2007	1,333,892

The BBC is independent of Government and prosecutions are a matter for TV Licensing, which is a trading name used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. Details of the prosecutor's costs are not gathered or held by my Department.

Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to make regulations under the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 in relation to the use of force by bailiffs. [250928]

Bridget Prentice: The enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Court and Enforcement Act 2007 are far reaching reforms. The provisions have recently undergone a comprehensive reassessment by Ministers to ensure that they remain appropriate. This assessment has now been concluded and a statement will be made shortly.

Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many young offenders held on the prison estate completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* gold level in each of the last five years; [251750]

(2) how many young offenders at Feltham Young Offender Institution completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* gold level in each of the last five years; [251751]

(3) how many young offenders at Portland Young Offender Institution completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* gold level in each of the last five years; [251752]

(4) how many young offenders at Glen Parva Young Offender Institution completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* gold level in each of the last five years; [251753]

(5) how many young offenders at Aylesbury Young Offender Institution completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at *(a)* bronze, *(b)* silver and *(c)* gold level in each of the last five years. [251754]

Mr. Hanson: Information provided by the establishments, which is not collected centrally, is that set out in the following table. All the awards in the table are at bronze level.

	Feltham	*Portland*[1]	*Glen Parva*	*Aylesbury*
2005	0	0	0	2
2006	0	0	0	8
2007	0	0	0	8
2008	1	0	0	2
2009	1	0	0	0

[1] Portland have enrolled six prisoners this year to undertake bronze level.

The information on the rest of the young offender estate is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member when this is complete.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to reduce re-offending among juvenile offenders. [250832]

Mr. Hanson: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1614W.

There has been an 18.7 per cent. reduction in the frequency rate of youth reoffending between 2000 and 2006. The Youth Crime Action Plan, published in July 2008 details the cross Government approach to reducing youth crime, including youth reoffending. It sets out a 'triple track' approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention. The Youth Justice Board leads on the target of a 10 per cent. reduction by 2011 of the frequency rate of youth reoffending against the 2005 baseline, and is working, with Departments, to influence the key services to ensure young people have access to mainstream, and specialist services before, during and after justice.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Pensioner Poverty

7. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of respective levels of poverty among female and male pensioners. [250982]

Maria Eagle: Through targeted support, and over £13 billion extra funding, the proportion of pensioners in relative low income has fallen by around a third from 29 per cent. in 1998-99 to 19 per cent. in 2006-07. Over this period the proportion of male pensioners in relative low income has fallen from 26 per cent. to 17 per cent. and the proportion of female pensioners from 30 per cent. to 20 per cent.

Violence Against Women

8. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether she plans to meet the Secretary of State for the Home Department to discuss a cross-Government strategy to tackle violence against women. [250983]

Maria Eagle: The Home Secretary confirmed to the Home Affairs Select Committee that the Government have accepted its recommendation to adopt a cross-government violence against women strategy on 13 November 2008.

A consultation on violence against women and women's safety will be launched later this year. Feedback from the public and stakeholders will be used to inform the strategy. This Government are proud of their achievements in dealing with violence against women, but we are not complacent—which is why we want to ask people about what more we should be doing to tackle violence against women.

Equality Bill

9. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the effect on businesses of proposals in the forthcoming Equality Bill; and if she will make a statement. [250984]

Maria Eagle: The Bill will help business by simplifying and harmonising discrimination law. This will make it easier for employers and employees to know their rights and responsibilities through clearer and simpler guidance. We continue to refine our impact estimates, working with stakeholders including business. Their views will be reflected when we publish the impact assessment that accompanies the Equality Bill.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Detainees

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Colombian Government on the extradition of Niall Connolly, James Monaghan and Martin McCauley. [251133]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* None.

Colombia: Political Prisoners

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Colombian Government on political prisoners being held for long periods in Colombian jails without having been convicted of any crime. [250088]

Gillian Merron: With the Colombian authorities in London and through our embassy in Bogota we have raised specific cases of concern of people who have been detained for long periods without trial on the charge of rebellion.

We are aware of serious allegations that people in Colombia are being imprisoned or charged with offences because of their political views or activities, and held for long periods.

It is for the Colombian judicial system to assess any such cases, including exercise of the right of habeas corpus. We are working to facilitate improvements in the Colombian criminal justice system by supporting a project with prominent civil society organisations and the UN development programme.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which places in the UK he visited in 2008 in connection with the Government's Preventing Violent Extremism strategy; on what dates he undertook the visits; what the estimated cost of such visits was for 2008; which towns or cities in the UK he plans to visit in 2009 in connection with Preventing Violent Extremism; what the cost is expected to be; and if he will make a statement. [249585]

Bill Rammell: During 2008 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited the following areas:

28 May, Tower Hamlets;

25 July, Birmingham;

8 September, Birmingham;

21 November, Bradford.

The cost of these visits was £24,802.78

In January the Foreign Secretary will visit Manchester. Further visits are being planned.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East, of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 220W, on departmental public relations, which firm provided the secondment; and to which division in his Department the secondee was assigned. [249381]

Gillian Merron: The member of staff referred to is seconded from Ofcom to the Communications Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East, of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1406W, on departmental public relations, to which external public relations and public affairs firms departmental staff are currently on secondment; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* duration is of each secondment. [250316]

Gillian Merron: Of the seven Foreign and Commonwealth Office members of staff referred to in the previous answer, six remain on secondment to the organisations and positions listed below for the periods indicated.

Programme Director, Wilton Park: August 2007 - February 2009

Growth Manager, Think London Ltd: August 2007 - February 2009

Business Director, Africa Matters Ltd: June 2005 - June 2009

Director Construction and Asia Pacific, British Expertise: June 2005 - March 2009

Senior Partner, International, at Ofcom: June 2008 - February 2009

Director Trade and Government Relations, The Middle East Association: October 2006 - October 2009

Eritrea: Djibouti

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to resolve the disputes between Eritrea and Djibouti. [249351]

Gillian Merron: Since June 2008, when the current border dispute between Eritrea and Djibouti arose, we have lobbied both in the UN and Eritrea and Djibouti bilaterally to seek to resolve their dispute peacefully through dialogue.

We supported the UN Security Council (UNSC) presidential statement of 12 June 2008 condemning Eritrea's incursion and urging both sides to show maximum restraint.

During a visit to the region in June, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Immigration, (Mr. McNulty) discussed the issue with President Guelleh of Djibouti and Foreign Minister Mahamud Ali Youssouf. On his return to the UK, the Minister also met with the Eritrean ambassador to express his concern over the dispute urging both parties to seek a peaceful resolution. In December my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, also met the Eritrean ambassador to discuss this. Foreign and Commonwealth officials have raised their concerns with the Eritrean ambassador in London and their interlocutors in Djibouti and Asmara.

We supported the UN Security Council 1862, adopted on 14 January 2009, which urged Djibouti and Eritrea to resolve their border dispute peacefully, quickly and in a manner consistent with international law.

Iran

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on recent incidences of *(a)* stonings, *(b)* public executions, *(c)* torture of political and other prisoners and *(d)* other human rights violations in Iran. [249293]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with EU counterparts on human rights issues in Iran. However, regular discussions take place at official level, and the EU fully shares the UK's concerns about the human rights situation in Iran, as can be seen by the large number of EU representations and declarations on this issue. The most recent EU declaration, made on 13 January 2009, condemned the stonings which took place in Mashhad on 21 December 2008, and urged the Iranian authorities to end the practice of execution by stoning and remove stoning from the Iranian penal code. On 19 December 2008, the EU made a declaration expressing concern about a mass execution on 26 November 2008, pressure on women's rights activists including Esha Momeni, and the situations of Hussein Derakhshan, an Iranian blogger, and the trade unionist Mansour Ossanlou.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Iranian counterpart on recent instances of *(a)* stoning, *(b)* public executions, *(c)* torture of political and other prisoners and *(d)* other human rights violations in Iran. [249294]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met or spoken with his Iranian counterpart since April 2008, and last met the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in September 2008.

In September 2008, the Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office raised the issue of the death penalty, including juvenile executions, with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister. On 20 November 2008 I met the Iranian ambassador, and raised our concerns about human rights issues including the death penalty, the continued execution of juveniles, and the draft penal code, which would impose a mandatory death sentence for apostasy. I followed up this meeting by writing to the Iranian ambassador on 5 December 2008 giving details of our concern about juvenile executions. The Iranian ambassador replied denying that any juvenile executions have taken place in Iran since the head of the judiciary issued a decree against the practice in early October 2008. However, we have heard reports of two juvenile executions since the decree—on 29 October 2008 and 30 December 2008.

The UK made 40 representations to the Iranian authorities about human rights in 2008, bilaterally and through the EU. The most recent EU declaration, made on 13 January 2009, condemned the stonings which took place in Mashhad on 21 December 2008, and urged the Iranian authorities to end the practice of execution by stoning and remove stoning from the Iranian penal code. On 19 December 2008, the EU made a declaration expressing concern about a mass execution on 26 November 2008, pressure on women's rights activists including Esha Momeni, and the situations of Hussein Derakhshan, an Iranian blogger, and the trade unionist Mansour Ossanlou.

Israel: EU External Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the human rights sub-committee set up under the EU-Israel Trade Association Agreement is next due to meet; and if he will request a special meeting of the sub-committee to consider Israel's recent human rights record in Gaza. [249636]

Bill Rammell: The proposed human rights sub-committee is part of a package of measures to be encompassed in next EU-Israel European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan which has not yet been finalised. There are therefore no immediate plans for a meeting.

The EU has raised its concerns relating to the situation in Gaza at the highest level with the Government of Israel.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the relevance of Article 2 of the EU Israel Trade Association Agreement to actions by Israel in Gaza. [248407]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: EU-Israel relations are an important part of our engagement with Israel which has at its core the goal of achieving lasting peace in the middle east. Current discussions on the EU-Israel relationship include enhancing discussion of human rights issues.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of the use of British-supplied military vehicles by Israel in its invasion of Palestinian territories in Gaza. [248785]

Bill Rammell: We have received no such reports.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the state of Israel concerning reports of Israel's alleged use of white phosphorus and cluster bombs in their military operation in Gaza. [249088]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: We are very concerned about reports of white phosphorus ammunition being used by the Israeli Defence Force in Gaza. We have made this clear directly to both the Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv.

I have also made clear to the House that Gaza is an exceptionally densely populated area where white phosphorus used as an air burst is liable to cause particularly horrific injuries to non-combatants. We consider such use in these circumstances unacceptable.

We are not aware of allegations that cluster bombs have been used in Gaza.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government had with the Governments of *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Lebanon, *(c)* Turkey, *(d)* Egypt, *(e)* Jordan and *(f)* Saudi Arabia on the situation in the Middle East between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009. [249172]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke at least once to his counterparts in all those countries between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government had with Quartet Middle East Envoy Tony Blair on the situation in the Middle East between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009; and on what date the first such discussion took place. [249174]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in regular contact with the Quartet Envoy throughout this crisis.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what common policy positions were taken by EU members in relation to Israel's military action against Gaza between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009. [249198]

Bill Rammell: European Union Foreign Ministers met on 30 December 2008 and agreed a statement setting out the EU's stance on the conflict. The EU presidency also issued a number of statements on behalf of the Union.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he was first informed of Israel's intention to launch *(a)* an aerial and *(b)* a ground attack on Gaza; and whether the Government of Israel provided such information. [249199]

Bill Rammell: The increasing tension between Israel and Hamas was very clear in early December 2008. With rocket attacks increasing and the Hamas declaration that it would not renew the ceasefire on 19 December 2008, there was clearly a risk of Israeli military action. We did not however have specific prior warning of Israel's intention to launch the aerial operation.

Similarly, while we were well aware of the likelihood of an Israeli ground operation to follow up the Israeli air operation, we were aware of preparations being made and we were discussing the conflict frequently with the Israeli authorities in our efforts to secure a ceasefire, we had no specific prior warning of Israel's intention to launch the ground operation.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what formal representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the proportionality of its use of force in Gaza between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009. [249202]

Bill Rammell: As I told the House on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 396: "the Israeli action has been disproportionate". We have consistently urged Israel to avoid civilian casualties and from the outset have called in public and private for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage the establishment of a Palestinian State. [249513]

Bill Rammell: We are at the forefront of international effort to support peace negotiations and build the institutions of a future Palestinian state. We have pledged £243 million over three years to support the Palestinian Authority and people.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many letters his Department has received from members of the public on the conflict in Gaza. [249520]

Bill Rammell: The number of letters received from members of the public increases constantly and is now approaching 1,000. We have already replied to over 600 letters of these letters.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the principles of the Quartet are; which countries in the Middle East have agreed to them; and if he will make a statement. [250221]

Bill Rammell: The Quartet Principles are recognition of Israel, acceptance of previous Palestinian Liberation Organisation agreements with Israel and rejection of violence. We support the Quartet in asking these things of Hamas as a basis for engagement.

Mustafa Abdel Dayem

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the trial of the Saharawi Mustafa Abdel Dayem in Morocco; and if he will make a statement. [249352]

Bill Rammell: The Government are aware of the trial of Mustafa Abdel Dayem, which was discussed during a European Union meeting in Rabat on 16 January. The trial will be discussed again at the European Union Heads of Mission meeting in Rabat on 28 January 2009. We will continue to monitor developments alongside our European Union colleagues.

People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the implications of the judgement of the European Court of First Instance annulling the proscription by the EU of the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran; if he will make it his policy to vote against the continued inclusion of the group on the EU list of proscribed groups at the next relevant meeting of the Council of Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [248860]

Bill Rammell: We have made clear that we believe the Council of Ministers should respect the judgment of the Court of First Instance annulling the listing of the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran when conducting its current review of the EU list of terrorist organisations.

We expect a decision on a new list by the end of January 2009.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [250457]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 126/7.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterpart on the humanitarian and security situation in northern Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [250411]

Bill Rammell: *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised these issues with President Rajapakse when they last met in September 2008. The Prime Minister also wrote to President Rajapakse in January 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out the UK's position on Sri Lanka in a written ministerial statement on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the security and humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [250412]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement on Sri Lanka, 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government following the killing of the chief editor of the Sunday Leader on 8 January 2009. [250413]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* We welcome the stated commitment of the Sri Lankan Government to investigate the killing of *The Sunday Leader's* chief editor on 8 January 2009. The UK has been clear that it is vital for the perpetrators of such reprehensible acts to be brought to justice following a thorough and independent investigation. Our high commission officials in Colombo have emphasised this to President Rajapakse.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the *(a)* UN, *(b)* EU and *(c)* Commonwealth to encourage the establishment of a ceasefire in northern Sri Lanka. [250414]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with the EU, Commonwealth and UN about the situation in Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear that the UK wants to see an end to the conflict.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka to call a ceasefire in its operations against Tamil forces in the north and east of the country. [249090]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear that we must see an end to the conflict and a new drive for a lasting political solution. He wrote to President Rajapakse in January to express our concerns. We continue to engage with all political parties across all communities in Sri Lanka to support progress in this direction. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary set out the UK's position on Sri Lanka in a written ministerial statement on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, on the Western Sahara, if he will make representations on Morocco's continued occupation of Western Sahara to the Moroccan Ambassador to the UK. [249643]

Bill Rammell: The Government continue to engage in regular discussions with all the parties to the western Sahara dispute, including Morocco.

We continue to urge the parties to make progress towards a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution providing for the self-determination of the people of western Sahara, negotiated under the auspices of the UN. We therefore welcome the recent appointment of Christopher Ross as the UN Secretary-General's new personal envoy to western Sahara and hope his appointment will lead to renewed engagement by all the parties.

Western Sahara: Exports

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports and *(b)* representations he has received on the purchase of goods from occupied Western Sahara by UK companies, with particular reference to the legality of such purchases. [248471]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any reports or representations from UK companies regarding the purchase of goods from Western Sahara or the legalities of such purchases.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Norfolk of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 866W, what recent discussions have been held *(a)* at the United Nations and *(b)* in the EU on direct intervention in Zimbabwe to secure the removal of Robert Mugabe and his regime. [250857]

Gillian Merron: We have not had discussions with any international organisations on direct intervention in Zimbabwe to remove Robert Mugabe from power. Those working for change and reform in Zimbabwe are not calling for military intervention. Their, and our, focus is foremost on the humanitarian situation and doing what can be done to alleviate suffering. We do, however, regularly discuss with the UN and EU non-military options for encouraging a resolution to the crisis. On 26 January 2009, my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary, met EU Foreign Ministers to discuss the extension of EU targeted sanctions.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospitals of *(a)* men and *(b)* women there have been in the London borough of Hillingdon in each year since 1997, broken down by age of patient. [250780]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The following table shows the number of alcohol-related finished emergency admissions for residents of the London borough of Hillingdon for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 has been placed in the Library. Data for earlier years are not available. 2006-07 is the latest year for which data are available.

Number of alcohol-related finished emergency admissions for residents of Hillingdon

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Males*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Under 16	*	*	6	9	13	22	8	10	18	9	13	22	8	10	18
16-24	*	*	79	103	83	186	99	77	176	103	83	186	99	77	176
25-34	81	56	137	113	96	209	112	99	211	113	96	209	112	99	211
35-44	143	50	193	187	149	336	228	122	350	187	149	336	228	122	350
45-54	157	65	222	266	94	361	317	111	429	266	94	361	317	111	429
55-64	166	57	223	251	97	348	284	104	388	251	97	348	284	104	388
65-74	157	76	233	239	113	352	278	124	402	239	113	352	278	124	402
75 or over	360	169	530	305	240	545	336	267	603	305	240	545	336	267	603
Total	911	514	1,425	1,472	885	2,357	1,663	915	2,578	1,472	885	2,357	1,663	915	2,578

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English national health service (NHS) hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Small numbers: To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

3. Alcohol-related admissions: The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) 'Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions'.

4. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol - that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

5. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

6. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

7. Emergency admissions: Includes all types of emergency admission (Method of admission codes 21-28).

8. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

9. Secondary diagnoses: As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

10. Data Quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Ambulance Services: Bridlington

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths of residents of Bridlington have occurred while they were in ambulances in each of the last 12 months. [251269]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. You may wish to contact your local NHS for further information.

Angelman Syndrome: Research

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken into Angleman's syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [250129]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Department's National Institute for Health Research nor the Medical Research Council (MRC) is currently supporting research on Angelman syndrome.

The MRC has a large portfolio of genetic research, some of which may have relevance to the condition. For example, the MRC funds research on the genetic factors related to learning disorders that has identified a number of candidate genes contributing to learning disability.

Angina

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to provide care to those with refractory angina. [250063]

Ann Keen: The national service framework for coronary heart disease (March 2000) sets a 10-year framework for action to prevent disease, tackle inequalities, save more lives, and improve the quality of life for people with heart disease. Chapter 4 of the CHD NSF covers stable angina. This chapter sets out how primary care teams and specialists can best help people with angina or suspected angina to relieve their symptoms and reduce their risk of suffering a major cardiovascular event.

When the CHD NSF was written, there was little high-quality evidence to guide practice for refractory angina and it was mentioned only briefly. However, since 1996, a national centre for the management of patients with refractory angina has been developing at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen university hospital trust. This is known as the National Refractory Angina Centre (NRAC). In November 2007, the Cheshire and Merseyside cardiac network published the second edition of its guideline on the management and treatment of stable angina. Although not a stable condition, the document contains a detailed section on refractory angina. This guideline is recognised nationally.

I am due to visit the NRAC in February 2009 and have asked for a national meeting to continue service development in this area.

Antidepressants

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Sefton have been prescribed anti-depressant drugs. [251454]

Phil Hope: The Department does not know the number of people prescribed a particular drug.

The following table provides the number of prescription items prescribed in the community in Sefton primary care trust and England as a whole, that were dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, for anti-depressant drugs listed in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3 for the latest available 12 month period.

Number of prescription items prescribed in the community in Sefton PCT and England as a whole, that were dispensed in the community in the UK, for anti-depressant drugs listed in BNF section 4.3.

November 2007 to October 2008	Number of items (Thousand)
England	35,199.7
Sefton PCT	238.5

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (ePACT) system.

Antidepressants: Costs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of prescriptions of anti-depressant drugs in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [250562]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested.

The British National Formulary classifies anti-depressant drugs within section 4.3. We are able to supply the prescribing costs for drugs within this section for health regions. The latest figures available are for November 2008.

As the areas requested are not health regions we have supplied information for the health regions that best fit those requested (West Hertfordshire primary care trust to represent Hemel Hempstead and West Hertfordshire and East and North Hertfordshire PCTs combined to represent Hertfordshire).

Net ingredient cost (NIC) of anti-depressant drugs (BNF section 4.3), December 2007-November 2008

	Net ingredient cost (£000)
Hemel Hempstead (West Hertfordshire PCT)	1,994.9
Hertfordshire (West Hertfordshire and East and North Hertfordshire PCTs combined)	4,355.3

Notes:
ePACT Data
This information was obtained from the Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioner, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data.
Net ingredient cost (NIC)
NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.
Source:
Figures for the answer were sourced from Prescribing Analysis and CosT Tool (ePACT).

Aphasia: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with aphasia in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [250557]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimates of the number of people with aphasia.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* anti-TNF medicines and *(b)* disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs have been (i) prescribed in hospital and (ii) dispensed in the community in each year since 2000-01. [249261]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of prescriptions for anti-TNF medicines and disease-modifying anti-rheumatic medicines in hospitals is not available.

Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic medicines, including anti-TNF medicines, are listed in the British National Formulary (BNF) "chapter 10.1.3—Drugs that suppress the rheumatic disease process". The following table shows the total number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England for this category and for anti-TNF medicines.

Prescription items of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic medicines dispensed in the community in England[1]

Thousand

	BNF chapter 10.1.3 including anti-TNF drugs	Anti-TNF drugs[2]	BNF chapter 10.1.3 excluding anti-TNF drugs
2000-01	2,222.6	0.1	2,222.5
2001-02	2,359.1	0.3	2,358.8
2002-03	2,489.4	0.5	2,488.9
2003-04	2,624.5	1.3	2,623.2
2004-05	2,759.0	2.7	2,756.3
2005-06	2,948.6	5.0	2,943.6
2006-07	3,119.4	5.1	3,114.3
2007-08	3,358.5	8.0	3,350.5

Prescription items of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic medicines dispensed in the community in England[1]

	BNF chapter 10.1.3 including anti-TNF drugs	*Anti-TNF drugs[2]*	*BNF chapter 10.1.3 excluding anti-TNF drugs*
			Thousand
2008-09 (April-September)	1,783.5	5.3	1,778.2

[1] Medicines can be used to treat more than one condition and it is not possible to identify the different conditions that a medicine was prescribed for. Therefore, some of the items included in this table may not have been used to treat rheumatic disease.

[2] Adalimumab (Humira), etanercept (Enbrel) and infliximab (Remicade)

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis system

Autism: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are available for adults with autism in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [250556]

Phil Hope: Information is not available in the format requested. There are 118 care homes in Hertfordshire that have at least one place registered to provide care for adults with learning disabilities.

There are 1,255 places available in these homes. However, it is should be noted that the homes do not register the actual number of places available for each client group, but indicate which groups they can provide at least one place for.

Brain Tumours

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided to external organisations to raise awareness of and provide for patient support for those with brain tumours; and if he will make a statement. [250693]

Ann Keen: The Department provided a total of £34,000 between 2004 and 2007 to Brain Tumour UK, then known as the UK Brain Tumour Society, through section 64 grants (now known as the Third Sector Investment Programme). The grants were provided to enable the charity to raise awareness and provide support for people with brain tumours.

Details of these and other grants to external organisations working to raise awareness and provide support for people with cancer, including brain tumours, is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Section64grants/index.htm

Cancer

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the percentage of newly diagnosed cancer patients who are provided with advice on the financial assistance for which they may be eligible. [250055]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Advice to patients on sources of financial help is one of the areas to be included in information prescriptions for patients, as proposed in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services". A system to enable health care professionals to generate tailored information prescriptions for cancer patients is expected to be rolled out later this year.

Cancer: Children

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training his Department has provided for health care professionals on paediatric brain tumour diagnosis in the last 12 months. [250694]

Ann Keen: The Department does not provide training for health care professionals, nor is it responsible for setting curricula for health professional training. However, we do share a commitment with statutory and professional bodies that all health professionals are trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal, whatever their condition.

Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each age group were fitted with a contraceptive implant of each type in each of the last 10 years. [250165]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available is shown in the tables.

The following table shows data on prescriptions dispensed in the community. Data on the number of women fitted with an implant by age are not available.

	Implanon Implant 68 mg	*Norplant Implant[1] 38 mg (6 Cap)*	*Total*
2007	52,057	—	52,057
2006	37,951	—	37,951
2005	23,469	—	23,469
2004	15,557	—	15,557
2003	12,747	—	12,747
2002	9,714	—	9,714
2001	7,084	1	7,085
2000	5,133	7	5,140
1999	441	1,034	1,475
1998	—	689	689
Total	164,153	1,731	165,884

[1] Norplant Implant is no longer available.

Source:

Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by NHS Prescription Services, part of the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals.

The following table shows first contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics showing the number of implants fitted by age and year.

First contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics in England with a recorded outcome in contraceptive implants

	All ages	*Under 16*	*16 to 19*	*20 to 24*	*25 to 34*	*35 and over*
						Thousand
2007-08	46.8	2.0	11.1	12.9	14.5	6.3
2006-07	35.7	1.4	8.1	9.9	11.0	5.3
2005-06[1]	25.5	0.8	5.5	7.2	8.1	3.9
2004-05	16.6	0.4	3.1	4.7	5.6	2.8
2003-04	12.4	0.3	2.2	3.6	4.2	2.1

First contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics in England with a recorded outcome in contraceptive implants

Thousand

	All ages	*Under 16*	*16 to 19*	*20 to 24*	*25 to 34*	*35 and over*
2002-03	7.8	0.2	1.2	2.4	2.7	1.4
2001-02	5.0	0.1	0.6	1.3	2.0	1.0
2000-01	3.4	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.4	0.7
1999-2000	2.4	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.6
1998-99	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3

[1] 2005-06 data has been revised.

Source:
The Information Centre KT31 return

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each age group and NHS trust area were *(a)* given prescriptions for the oral contraceptive and *(b)* given depot contraceptive injections in each of the last 10 years. [250166]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of prescription items dispensed in the community for oral and injectable contraceptives by primary care trust have been placed in the Library. Information is not held prior to 2003. Data on the number of patients receiving a prescription, and also data by age, are not available.

Data for oral and injectable contraceptives supplied by community contraceptive clinics for the seven years preceding 2005-06 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. 2005-06 data for first contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics by age and trust have already been placed in the Library. Data for 2006-07 and 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: Romsey

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Romsey constituency received treatment from an NHS dentist in each year from 1997 to 2008. [250169]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the number of patients registered with a national health service dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006'. Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). Annex C contains information by parliamentary constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09 report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA but is not available by constituency.

This report, published on 27 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1.

Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent to date on advertising campaigns relating to *(a)* smoking, *(b)* binge drinking and *(c)* drug awareness in financial year 2008-09. [247589]

Dawn Primarolo: In the 2008-09 financial year, the Department has spent the following amounts on advertising campaigns relating to smoking and drug awareness, year to date (April to December 2008):

	£ million
Smoking	14.3
Drug awareness	0.4

The drugs prevention campaign (FRANK) is paid for jointly by the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The figure quoted above relates to the Department of Health's advertising spend only. It does not include the rest of the FRANK campaign activity spend to which Department of Health's contributes a further £2.1 million towards the total cost of £6.6 million in 2008-09.

With regard to advertising campaigns relating to binge drinking, the Home Office now funds this campaign. The Department of Health funds the 'Units' campaign targeted at the 25 years plus age range.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each local health authority on rehabilitation following a heart attack in the last year for which figures are available, ranked from highest to lowest for each region. [250733]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Information about cardiac rehabilitation programmes in England is available in the annual national audit of cardiac rehabilitation's (NACR) 2008 annual report, which can be found on the NACR's website:

www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/dataset.htm.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts provide trans-catheter aortic valve treatment on the NHS. [251855]

Ann Keen: There is evidence that transcatheter aortic valve implants (TAVI) can be beneficial in a small number of high risk patients. Decisions on funding of interventions such as TAVI are the responsibility of Specialised Service Commissioners with agreement from their local primary care trusts.

This treatment is available at a number of hospitals throughout England.

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority took of funding provisions when it authorised research licence R0179 for the creation of animal-human hybrids to the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Newcastle; and if he will make a statement; [250429]

(2) what account the HFEA took of funding provisions when it authorised research licence R0180 for the creation of animal-human hybrids to King's College London; and if he will make a statement. [250430]

Dawn Primarolo: The HFEA does not take account of the availability of funding when it considers an application for a research licence. The HFEA must consider if the project meets the requirements of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, including that the research is necessary or desirable and the use of embryos is necessary.

Infant Mortality: Disadvantaged

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the progress towards the target of reduction of health inequalities as measured by infant mortality by 2010. [250170]

Dawn Primarolo: The infant mortality aspect of the national health inequalities public service agreement target is starting with children under one year, by 2010 to reduce by at least 10 per cent. the gap in mortality between the routine and manual group and the population as a whole.

Infant mortality rates have fallen since the 1997-99 target baseline, including for the routine and manual group, while the infant mortality gap has widened.

The most recent assessment of this aspect of the target shows a further slight narrowing in the gap between the routine and manual group and the whole population. The gap has fallen to 16 per cent. in 2005-07, compared with 19 per cent. higher in 2002-04. This compares with 13 per cent. higher than at baseline. The target is still challenging, but if the gap continues to narrow at the rate observed since 2002-04, the infant mortality aspect of the target will be met.

The 'Review of the Health Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA target'—together with the 'Implementation Plan for Reducing Health Inequalities in Infant Mortality'—was published by the Department of Health in 2007. The review identified the actions, interventions and 43 local authority areas most likely to help deliver the target. The recently established infant mortality national support team will provide tailored support to the 43 areas to address the target.

Copies of the documents have been placed in the Library.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to publicise availability of influenza vaccinations in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [250564]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W. The publicity for the seasonal flu campaign carried out by the Department is national, rather than regional.

Injuries: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 19 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1195W, on injuries: children, what the equivalent figures were in each of the last five years. [251852]

Ann Keen: The data for finished admission episodes for deliberate and unintended injuries (age 0-15 inclusive) are in the following table.

	Cause			
	Unintended	*Deliberate (intentional self-harm)*	*Deliberate (assaults)*	*Other*
2006-07	121,966	7,622	3,270	606
2005-06	120,292	7,851	3,315	551
2004-05	118,607	7,004	3,121	654
2003-04	119,369	7,469	3,178	671
2002-03	115,234	6,784	2,840	624
2001-02	120,233	6,332	3,025	651

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics

Learning Disability

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of mistreatment of NHS patients with learning disabilities have been recorded in each of the last five years; [250900]

(2) what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that the treatment of patients with learning disabilities by NHS staff meets the requirements of disability discrimination legislation; and if he will make it his policy to set standards of practice for staff of primary care trusts on treating patients with learning disabilities; [250901]

(3) what steps he is taking to establish the confidential inquiry into premature deaths of people with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [250902]

Phil Hope: We do not collect centrally data on cases of mistreatment of national health service patients with learning disabilities. However, the Healthcare Commission has provided some information on the total number of cases which they have received, both open and closed, involving either a complainant[1] or a patient with a learning disability[2].

[1] These might include cases where a carer complains on behalf of a patient who lacks capacity or where a patient has died and someone else complains about an aspect of their treatment.

[2] The Commission does not use the term 'mistreatment' specifically.

Year received	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Adult	[1]—	5	30	56	5	96
Child	[1]—	1	8	10	2	21
Age not recorded	1	8	4	3	0	16
Total cases	1	14	42	69	7	133

[1] The Healthcare Commission did not record separately complaints involving people with learning disabilities which is why the numbers in early years are low.

The Healthcare Commission has worked to improve its complaints process to make it accessible for people with learning disabilities. This may be part of the reason for the increase in the number of complaints.

We have launched a national awareness and education programme for the NHS about the disability equality duty. In addition, we are working with the professional regulatory bodies to ensure that the undergraduate curricula for health and social care professionals does include training on learning disabilities, together with wider training on equalities and human rights.

We have introduced a directed enhanced services for annual health checks for people with learning disabilities who are known to local authorities. To deliver the healthcheck, general practitioners and practice staff will receive training in meeting the needs of people with a learning disability

In relation to policy on NHS practice, the NHS operating framework for 2009-10 directs primary care trust to secure general health enquiries that make reasonable adjustments for people with learning disabilities. They should also ensure that there are wider communication and partnership working arrangements to improve the quality of healthcare provided to people with a learning disability. We will work with strategic health authority to review progress.

We will establish a time-limited confidential inquiry to investigate premature deaths of people with learning disabilities. We are currently developing a specification for the inquiry and we expect to invite proposals from potential organisations in the coming months.

Lighting: Health Hazards

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will commission research into the possible effects on health of the use of low-energy fluorescent bulbs; and what recent discussions he has had at EU level on the use of such bulbs. [250907]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Department on scientific matters concerning optical radiation including low energy light bulbs. The HPA tested a sample of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and found that some emitted ultraviolet (UV) radiation which could, under certain conditions, expose people above international guidelines. As a result of its findings the HPA issued precautionary advice on 9 October 2008 to the general public concerning the use of open CFLs in close-working situations. The HPA's advice can be found at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1223445516605?p=1153822623869

The HPA's research was considered alongside other available evidence to inform a report by the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR). SCENIHR's opinion on light sensitivity can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/scenihr_opinions_en.htm

During 2008, officials in the Department undertook a literature review on lighting and light sensitive and neurological conditions and made the scientific references available to SCENIHR. The Department is continuing to work with patient groups, clinicians and the lighting industry to keep the health issues under review.

In discussions with the European Commission throughout 2008, with regard to implementation of the domestic lighting part 1 of the eco-design of energy saving products Directive 2005/32/EC, the Government successfully pressed for consideration of health impacts to be fully considered and for limits to be set on UV emissions from CFLs.

Macular Degeneration: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people had non-age-related macular degeneration in Derbyshire in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [249975]

(2) how many people had diabetes-related macular degeneration in Derbyshire in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [249976]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on mental health care in *(a)* England and *(b)* Sefton in each of the last 10 years (i) in absolute terms and (ii) per head of population; and how much he estimates will be spent on such care in the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [251455]

Phil Hope: These data are not collected centrally in the format requested. However, the following table shows the expenditure per head of population under Mental Health in England and Sefton Primary Care Trust for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07:

Total expenditure and the expenditure per head of population under Mental Health in England and Sefton PCT for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07

	Expenditure[1] (£000)		*Expenditure per head population (£)*	
	England	*Sefton PCT[2]*	*England*	*Sefton PCT[2]*
2003-04	7,386,096	39,107	150	130
2004-05	7,905,131	50,962	161	170

Total expenditure and the expenditure per head of population under Mental Health in England and Sefton PCT for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07

	Expenditure[1] (£000)		Expenditure per head population (£)	
	England	Sefton PCT[2]	England	Sefton PCT[2]
2005-06	8,538,755	40,077	174	133
2006-07	9,125,740	49,632	183	166

[1] For consistency the expenditure figure include substance abuse. Data cannot be separated for earlier years. In 2006-07, £716,330 was spent on substance abuse, 7.8 per cent. of the total Mental Health expenditure.

[2] Values for financial years 2003-04 to 2005-06 are based on the programme budgeting and population data for South Sefton PCT and Southport and Formby PCT, which merged to form Sefton PCT in 2006-07.

Source:
Department of Health

Mental Health Services: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 961W, on mental health services: restraint techniques, (1) whether it will be mandatory for all staff engaged in physical restraint interventions to receive accredited training; [250580]

(2) when he expects accredited training in the therapeutic management of violence to be implemented; [250581]

(3) when he expects the guidance of the National Institute for Mental Health in England to be published; [250582]

(4) whether all responses to the National Institute for Mental Health in England consultation on The National Minimum Standards for the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings have now been considered. [250583]

(5) with reference to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 812W, on mental health services: training, whether all staff working in mental health and learning disability services have now received the Promoting Safer and Therapeutic Services syllabus training in line with his Department's March 2008 target. [250584]

Phil Hope: We remain committed to the principle of accreditation of training in the management of aggression in psychiatric settings and are discussing the detail and management of a proposal with key stakeholders. We hope to make a further announcement in the spring. The additional guidance will be published when the proposal is agreed.

Responses to the consultation on the national minimum standards for the safe and therapeutic management of aggression of aggression and violence in mental health inpatient settings have been considered.

Figures collected by the National Health Service Security Management Service in December 2007 show that 88 per cent. of frontline staff working in NHS mental health and learning disability bodies had received the Promoting Safer and Therapeutic Services syllabus training. NHS bodies reported that by March 2008 98 per cent. of frontline staff would have received this training.

Mental Health Services: Training

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training his Department will make available to independent mental health advocates before the statutory obligation to commission independent mental health advocates comes into force on 1 April 2009; and whether that training will be mandatory. [250741]

Phil Hope: To help prepare for the introduction of independent mental health advocates (IMHAs), the Department has commissioned the National Institute for Mental Health in England to run regional one-day training workshops for potential IMHAs, mental health advocates and health and social care professionals. These workshops will run prior to 1 April 2009 and attendance will be voluntary.

Midwives: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives were in post at *(a)* Gloucestershire Royal hospital, *(b)* Cheltenham General hospital and *(c)* Stroud maternity ward in each of the last two years. [250785]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally, below trust level. The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent midwives in post in Gloucestershire primary care trust and Gloucestershire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust under which the hospitals and ward in question fall.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

		Full-time equivalent	
		2006	2007
Total specified organisations		198	186
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	32	30
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RTE	166	155

Note:
Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the scoping study of the provision of NHS and social care rehabilitation services, as referred to on page 24 of his Department's Musculoskeletal Services Framework of July 2006; and what opportunities have been identified to improve such NHS-funded services. [249158]

Ann Keen: The scoping study of the provision of national health service and social care rehabilitation services has not been completed.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the critical mass of annual *(a)* shoulder replacement, *(b)* ankle replacement, *(c)* elbow replacement and *(d)* scoliosis correction procedures is, as referred to on page 40 of his Department's Musculoskeletal Services Framework of July 2006. [249159]

Ann Keen: The Department has not undertaken a review of the levels of critical mass required in the provision of shoulder replacement, ankle replacement and elbow replacement.

The National Specialist Commissioning Group are currently reviewing scoliosis treatment and will be working with specialist providers in developing this work.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways the community pharmacy contractual framework has enabled pharmacists to help people with musculoskeletal conditions since 2006 as referred to on page 22 of his Department's Musculoskeletal Services Framework of July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [249157]

Phil Hope: In addition to their traditional role of advising people on how to take their medicines to best effect, the community pharmacy contractual framework, introduced in April 2005 has improved the quality and range of services that pharmacists offer to patients and the public, including those with musculoskeletal conditions by:

including support for self care, providing healthy lifestyle advice and signposting people to other service providers as essential services provided by all community pharmacies;

introducing medicines use reviews by accredited pharmacists in accredited premises to review patients' current medicines in discussion with the patient to ensure they get the maximum benefit from them and resolve any problems the person may be encountering with them; and

offering a range of locally-commissioned services that can benefit those with musculoskeletal conditions, such as stopping smoking, home delivery and full clinical medication reviews.

The White Paper, Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—delivering the future proposes to extend the range of services provided by pharmacies especially for people with long-term conditions including introducing a support service for people newly prescribed medicines for a long term condition within the community pharmacy contractual framework. Discussions will be held with NHS Employers and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee to see how such a service can be incorporated into the framework.

NHS: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many severity *(a)* one and *(b)* two incidents have been reported to Connecting for Health in each month since 2006. [250754]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is in the following table.

	National application service providers (NASP)		*Local service providers (LSPs)*	
	Severity level 1	*Severity level 2*	*Severity level 1*	*Severity level 2*
2006				
January	4	17	35	73
February	1	7	46	92
March	58	218	19	101
April	59	220	16	105
May	57	216	55	92
June	46	123	31	108
July	52	137	21	92
August	54	451	26	99
September	32	119	28	98
October	48	183	29	93
November	35	259	27	65
December	42	136	16	88
2007				
January	28	453	16	87
February	28	83	23	82
March	11	12	28	111
April	59	136	20	90
May	67	118	28	89
June	85	143	20	64
July	56	135	32	76
August	72	285	26	82
September	77	190	23	77
October	80	174	59	125
November	58	144	33	76
December	48	116	46	100
2008				
January	54	142	31	113
February	48	155	32	86
March	50	157	27	80
April	51	144	32	76
May	55	163	17	66
June	66	169	10	73
July	64	180	21	80
August	63	151	23	66
September	71	181	21	89
October	165	141	28	88
November	67	150	9	91
December	66	117	11	165

These figures relate to incidents as they are reported. In practice and after investigation, many incidents are found to be local hardware, software or infrastructure problems, or they are re-categorised with the agreement of the user. The figures should therefore not be interpreted as being a reflection of system performance.

Performance figures are published on the NHS Connecting for Health website to show performance against service level agreements (SLAs). The actual performance against the SLAs shows a good service.

Some 91 per cent. of NASP severity 1 incidents, and some 94 per cent. of NASP severity 2 incidents in the table relate to reports relating to the NHS national broadband network (N3) where there are around 27,000 individual service connections against which incidents can be logged.

NICE: Weber-Shandwick

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made to Weber-Shandwick for public *(a)* affairs and *(b)* relations work since its inception. [250235]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally. Payments made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to external companies are a matter for NICE as an independent body.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions the Compensation Recovery Unit challenged the statements of insurers and their agents on medical treatment in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [250680]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the administration of the NHS injury cost recovery scheme, the compensation recovery unit (CRU) is required to conduct compliance checks. CRU uses risk based sampling to identify cases to be challenged. In 2007-08, 60,440 of these checks were completed.

Pharmacy

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Office of Fair Trading on follow-up work arising from the OFT's investigation of control of entry regulations in the pharmacy market. [250933]

Phil Hope: The OFT report "The control of entry regulations and retail pharmacy services in the UK", was published in January 2003. Since then, officials have had various meetings with the OFT to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The OFT gave evidence to a review led by Anne Galbraith, former chair of the Prescription Pricing Authority, in spring 2007. Her report "Review of NHS pharmaceutical contractual arrangements", was published in April 2008 alongside the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083815

OFT and departmental officials have also met recently to discuss issues arising from the 2008 pharmacy White Paper consultation "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative reform".

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to link primary care trusts' pharmaceutical needs assessments to strategic planning and commissioning processes; [250934]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that each primary care trust area has an up-to-date pharmaceutical needs assessment in place. [250935]

Phil Hope: The White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" highlighted that primary care trust pharmaceutical needs assessments should contribute to joint strategic needs assessments, which all PCTs and upper-tier local authorities have a duty to undertake. The support programme on pharmaceutical needs assessment being devised for PLTs, led by NHS Employers, is expected to include guidance on linking joint strategic needs assessment and pharmaceutical needs assessment.

Following publication of the White Paper, the Department asked NHS Employers to set up a short-term working group to review requirements for pharmaceutical needs assessments and to develop a support programme for primary care trusts. The first element of this programme—"Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) as part of world class commissioning—Guidance for primary care trusts", was published on 7 January 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library and it is also available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/PNAguidance.

More resources will follow later this spring. In addition, as part of the world class commissioning programme, the Department plans to publish further information for PCTs on how to commission pharmaceutical services.

The Department first advised primary care trusts to undertake pharmaceutical needs assessments in 2004-05. However, our White Paper stated that while many PCTs have reviewed these assessments or plan to do so, not all PCTs had yet considered the need to either update or review their assessments. The Health Bill 2009 introduced on 15 January 2009 contains proposals to require primary care trusts to assess pharmaceutical needs in their area and to publish a statement of those needs. Subject to parliamentary approval, new regulations, to be derived from powers in the Bill, will set out the requirements for how and when these assessments should be carried out.

Primary Care Trusts: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on administration by *(a)* Hampshire Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Southampton PCT and *(c)* their predecessor trusts (i) in total and (ii) per capita in each year since 1997. [250158]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following tables. Data have been provided for the period 2001-02 to 2007-08, which are the only years available by individual organisation.

Table 1: Administrative costs 2001-02 to 2007-08

£000

	Organisation	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
5QC	Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	16,444	15,968	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5G6	Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT[2,3]	n/a	n/a	2,597	2,150	2,111	2,269	n/a
5DF	North Hampshire PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	2,293	2,164	2,038	1,771	1,053
5E9	Mid-Hampshire PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	926	863	644	478	302
5FD	East Hampshire PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	2,998	2,633	2,397	2,266	1,038

Table 1: Administrative costs 2001-02 to 2007-08

£000

	Organisation	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
5LY	Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT[2,4]	n/a	n/a	2,808	2,444	2,334	1,522	n/a
5A1	New Forest PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	3,985	3,829	2,968	2,502	2,128
5LX	Fareham and Gosport PCT[2,5]	n/a	n/a	2,283	2,305	1,961	1,843	n/a
RN4	Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,201
5L1	Southampton City PCT[6]	9,957	8,536	8,236	6,077	5,118	4,135	3,233
RHS	Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust[8]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	712
	Health authorities (HAs)							
QEV	Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,441
QD1	North and Mid Hampshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,511
QD3	Southampton and South West Hampshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,913

[1] Hampshire PCT was formed on 1 October 2006.

[2] These PCTs merged on 1 October 2006 to become Hampshire PCT. The costs for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006 are included within the figures provided for Hampshire PCT for 2006-07.

[3] Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT was formed on 1 April 2002. Its predecessor organisation was Rushmore and Hart Primary Care Group (PCG). PCGs were not separate legal entities; Rushmore and Hart PCG was a sub-committee of North and Mid-Hampshire HA. It is not possible to separate the part of the HA's expenditure that relates to this PCG.

[4] Eastleigh and Test Valley PCT was formed on 1 April 2002. Its predecessor organisations were Eastleigh North PCG and part of West Southampton/Test Valley South PCG. PCGs were not separate legal entities; both Eastleigh North PCG and West Southampton/Test Valley South PCG were sub-committees of Southampton & South West Hampshire HA. It is not possible to separate the part of this HA's expenditure that relates to these PCGs.

[5] Fareham and Gosport PCT was formed on 1 April 2002. Its predecessor organisations were Fareham PCG, Gosport PCG and Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust. PCGs were not separate legal entities; both Fareham PCG and Gosport PCG were sub-committees of Portsmouth and South East Hampshire HA. It is not possible to separate the part of this HA's expenditure that relates to these PCGs.

[6] On 1 April 2002, Southampton City PCT absorbed part of West Southampton/Test Valley South PCG and Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust. PCGs were not separate legal entities; West Southampton/Test Valley South PCG was a sub-committees of Southampton and South West Hampshire HA. It is not possible to separate the part of the HA's expenditure that relates to this PCG.

[7] Part of Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust merged into Fareham and Gosport PCT on 1 April 2002. The figure provided is the cost for the whole Trust, as it is not possible to separate out the costs of the part of the Trust that merged with the PCT.

[8] Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust merged Into Southampton City PCT on 1 April 2002.

Source:

The financial returns of strategic health authorities, PCTs and NHS trusts. The financial returns data is not audited but is validated to the audited summarisation schedules.

Table 2: Administrative costs per head of population 2001-02 to 2007-08

£

	Organisation	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
5QC	Hampshire PCT[1]	13	13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5G6	Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT[2,3]	n/a	n/a	14	12	12	12	n/a
5DF	North Hampshire PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	12	12	11	10	6
5E9	Mid-Hampshire PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	5	5	4	3	2
5FD	East Hampshire PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	16	14	13	12	6
5LY	Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT[2,4]	n/a	n/a	19	16	16	10	n/a
5A1	New Forest PCT[2]	n/a	n/a	23	22	17	14	12
5LX	Fareham and Gosport PCT[2,5]	n/a	n/a	12	12	10	10	n/a
RN4	Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust[7,9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5L1	Southampton City PCT[6]	42	36	35	26	22	18	14
RHS	Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust[8,9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QEV	Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
QD1	North and Mid Hampshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3

Table 2: Administrative costs per head of population 2001-02 to 2007-08

£

	Organisation	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
QD3	Southampton and South West Hampshire HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3

[1] Hampshire PCT was formed on 1 October 2006.

[2] These PCTs merged on 1 October 2006 to become Hampshire PCT. The costs for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006 are included within the figures provided for Hampshire PCT for 2006-07.

[3] Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT was formed on 1 April 2002. Its predecessor organisation was Rushmore and Hart Primary Care Group (PCG). PCGs were not separate legal entities; Rushmore and Hart PCG was a sub-committee of North and Mid-Hampshire HA. It is not possible to separate the part of the HA's expenditure that relates to this PCG.

[4] Eastleigh and Test Valley PCT was formed on 1 April 2002. Its predecessor organisations were Eastleigh North PCG and part of West Southampton/Test Valley South PCG. PCGs were not separate legal entitles; both Eastleigh North PCG and West Southampton/Test Valley South PCG were sub-committees of Southampton & South West Hampshire HA. It is not possible to separate the part of this HA's expenditure that relates to these PCGs.

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[7] Part of Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust merged into Fareham and Gosport PCT on 1 April 2002. The figure provided is the cost for the whole Trust, as it is not possible to separate out the costs of the part of the Trust that merged with the PCT.

[8] Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust merged Into Southampton City PCT on 1 April 2002.

[9] Spend per head figures for NHS trusts cannot be provided as NHS trusts receive income from commissioners outside their geographical area.

[10] Population figures used are PCT responsible populations as used to inform PCT revenue allocations.

Source:

The financial returns of strategic health authorities, PCTs and NHS trusts. The financial returns data is not audited but is validated to the audited summarisation schedules.

Surgery: Waiting Lists

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time for a knee operation in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire was in the latest period for which figures are available; [250563]

(2) what the average waiting time for a hip operation in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire was in the latest period for which information is available. [250565]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the median and mean time waited for hip and knee replacements of residents in the of East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and West Hertfordshire PCT in 2006-07.

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Days

	Hip		*Knee*	
	Median waiting time	*Mean waiting time*	*Median waiting time*	*Mean waiting time*
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	163	146.3	167	151.6
West Hertfordshire PCT	141	134.2	147	144.1

Notes:

Main procedure

The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.

Hip replacement procedures: Total Hip Replacement

OPCS-4.2 codes

W37—Total prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cement
W38—Total prosthetic replacement of hip joint not using cement
W39—Other total prosthetic replacement of hip joint

Additions in OPCS-4.3

W37.4—Revision of one component of total prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cement
W38.4—Revision of one component of total prosthetic replacement of hip joint not using cement
W39.5—Revision of one component of total prosthetic replacement of hip joint NEC
W39.6—Closed reduction of dislocated total prosthetic replacement of hip joint
W93—Hybrid prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cemented acetabular component
W94—Hybrid prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cemented femoral component
W95—Hybrid prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cement

Hip replacement procedures: Total Prosthetic Replacement of Head of Femur

(These codes are included because they are for replacement of part of the hip joint.)

OPCS-4.2 codes

W46—Prosthetic replacement of head of femur using cement
W47—Prosthetic replacement of head of femur not using cement
W48—Other prosthetic replacement of head of femur

Additions in OPCS-4.3

W48.5—Closed reduction of dislocated prosthetic replacement of head of femur

Additions in OPCS-4.3

W40.4—Revision of one component of total prosthetic replacement of knee joint using cement
W41.4—Revision of one component of total prosthetic replacement of knee joint not using cement

W42.5—Revision of one component of total prosthetic replacement of knee joint NEC
Hemiarthroplasty, unicondylar or unicompartmental knee replacements
(These codes are included because they are for replacement of part of the knee joint.)

For the following codes (W52-W54) a site code is required in the secondary position. Both codes must be included in the search. The site codes are also listed as follows.

OPCS-4.2, 4.3

W52—Prosthetic replacement of articulation of other bone using cement
W53—Prosthetic replacement of articulation of other bone not using cement
W54—Other prosthetic replacement of articulation of other bone

The possible site codes, which would occur in a secondary procedure position (see footnote), are as follows:

Z76.5—Lower end of femur NEC
Z77.4—Upper end of tibia NEC
Z84.4—Patellofemoral joint
Z84.5—Tibiofemoral joint
Z84.6—Knee joint

Secondary procedure

As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 and 3 prior to 2002-03 secondary operative procedure fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

Time waited (days)

Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

PCT/strategic health authority (SHA) data quality

PCT and SHA data was added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

The PCTs used are as follows:
5P3—West Hertfordshire PCT
5P4—East and North Hertfordshire PCT

Method of admission

The method of admission is how the patient was admitted to hospital. When calculating time waited, admissions are elective so the following methods are used:
11 Elective—from waiting list
12 Elective—booked
Code '13 Elective—planned' is not included as it has been the patients choice to defer.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Tobacco: Sales

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will offer financial assistance to small businesses to cover the costs incurred in removing cigarette displays in shops. [250718]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government currently have no such plans.

Tuberculosis: AIDS

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people who presented with tuberculosis in 2008 were subsequently diagnosed with acquired immune deficiency syndrome. [250127]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for tuberculosis (TB) and HIV co-infection for 2008 are not yet available. The most recent data available are for 2005.

Data from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) indicates that, in 2005, the proportion of cases of tuberculosis in England aged 15 years and over co-infected with HIV was 7.9 per cent.

Notes:

1. This figure is based on the retrospective matching of the national Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance database (ETS) and the national HIV/AIDS reports database.

2. Matching is carried out retrospectively because there is often considerable delay in reporting of cases and data are, therefore, available for 2005 only at present.

3. This figure also includes HIV/AIDS patients with TB as an AIDS defining illness who were not identified in the national TB database.

4. The proportion provided is for all cases of co-infection with TB and HIV because we do not have information on which infection was acquired first.

5. This figure does not include cases of co-infection in children because HIV in children is reported separately.

Vaccination: Costs

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of a single dose of DTP vaccine was in each year since 2000. [251409]

Dawn Primarolo: A vaccine containing diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) only, has not been distributed since October 2004 because DTP has been combined with other vaccines. The individual cost of vaccine and the total cost to Government, is commercial-in-confidence.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding since it was established; and how much funding was provided to each. [247361]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am advised that this question can be answered only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Coal: Imports

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much coal from what countries of origin was imported in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [250054]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows how much coal has been imported by country of origin in 2007. Data for 2008 will be published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics in July 2009.

	Thousand tonnes
Russia	20,854
Republic of South Africa	7,742
Australia	4,260
Colombia	3,854
United States of America	2,523
Canada	1,771
Indonesia	1,455
People's Republic of China	265
European Union	495
Other countries	146
Total all countries	43,365

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008

Diesel: Prices

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government are taking to ensure that energy companies reduce diesel prices in line with both crude oil and petrol prices. [250305]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I recently met with the UK Petroleum Industry Association, which represents fuel retailers, to impress upon them the urgency in passing on any reductions in costs to consumers. Recent increases in the difference between petrol and diesel retail prices are due to a relative shortage of the availability of wholesale diesel due to constraints in refinery capacity.

The Office of Fair Trading is responsible for ensuring that UK markets are competitive.

Energy: Prices

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage energy suppliers to *(a)* publicise the availability of and *(b)* maximise take-up of social tariffs by eligible customers. [249200]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Suppliers agreed at the fuel poverty summit organised by Ofgem in April 2008, to provide greater visibility of their offers. Following this Ofgem has worked with the suppliers to ensure that information about their social tariffs and programmes and a contact phone number for consumers to check their eligibility, is available on all the suppliers' websites.

Energy suppliers have committed to collectively spend £100 million this year, rising to £125 million next year and £150 million by 2011 on social assistance. In order to meet this commitment to Government the suppliers need to inform their customers about the assistance available to vulnerable groups through their social tariff scheme.

Expenditure on suppliers' social assistance is monitored by Ofgem and they estimated, in a report published in December 2008, that over 800,000 customer accounts are now benefiting from a social tariff. This is a significant increase, almost doubling, since March 2008 which is a good indication of the level of awareness of the assistance suppliers offer.

Fuel Poverty

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of people *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley, *(c)* the North-East and *(d)* the UK who are living in fuel poverty; and what forecast he has made of the number of people in the North-East who will be living in fuel poverty in 10 years' time. [249566]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent year for which sub-regional estimates of fuel poverly are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the fuel poverty indicator dataset available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk

In 2003, there were around *(a)* 2,400 fuel poor households in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland; *(b)* 17,700 fuel poor households in the Tees Valley; *(c)* 95,000 fuel poor households in the North-East; and *(d)* two million fuel poor households in the UK.

No regional projections have been made of fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty is not measured at an individual level.

Nuclear Power: France

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the French Government on nuclear fuel recycling following the agreement between the UK and France to co-operate on nuclear energy. [248541]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No further discussions yet have taken place with the French Government on nuclear fuel recycling following the agreement between the UK and France to co-operate on nuclear energy.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the number of F16 jets used by the Israeli air force in the recent military operation over Gaza which contain British-made components; and what steps the Government have taken to ensure that none of the British-made heads up units were incorporated in Israeli F16 jets involved in bombing Gaza recently. [249635]

Ian Pearson: This Department does not hold any such information.

The UK operates a licensing system built around pre-licensing assessment whereby it assesses the risk of misuse of UK supplied equipment before deciding whether or not to grant a licence. All export licence applications are carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Judgments on export licence applications take account of the information and circumstances at the time of application. HMG seeks advice from its advisors in its diplomatic posts overseas in relation to all export licence applications, including for Israel.

Construction: Apprentices

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that construction companies undertaking public sector infrastructure works are required to employ apprentices. [244277]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

Over the last 10 years this Government have rescued the apprenticeships programme, more than doubling the number of starts to over 180,000 in 2006/07.

To support apprenticeships in construction, Government Departments and agencies have now committed that when they let a new construction contract, they will consider making it a requirement that successful contractors employ apprentices as a proportion of the project work force. We estimate that this will support some 7,000 apprenticeships over the next three years.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff. [249067]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not directly operate any catering facilities. Catering in our main BERR buildings in central London is provided by our contracted service provider, Baxter Storey. This includes a staff restaurant and a coffee shop in 1 Victoria Street and a cafe area in Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 January 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question (2008/566) what (a) directly-operated and (b) franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff.

The Insolvency Service does not provide catering outlets for its staff. However, we do provide free tea and coffee for customers and staff.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question, reference 249067, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has two staff canteens operated by a third party contractor.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245319]

Mr. McFadden: BERR's Information Asset Owners work with their service delivery partners to ensure adherence with the operating principles and standards set out in the Government's report on Data Handling Procedures in Government.

I have asked the chief executives of Companies House and the Insolvency Service to respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 January 2008:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2008/346) asking what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum action, June 2008.

The Insolvency Service wrote to its contractors and suppliers in November 2008 regarding compliance with 'Data Handling Procedures in Government'. To date we have had 34 replies confirming positive compliance, representing 47% of the total issued.

Letter from Gareth Jones dated 26 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

We identified seven suppliers as part of the Cabinet Office Data Handling Review and have asked them to complete a questionnaire showing their status with regard to the Data Handling Procedures. Of those, four have returned the questionnaire. Subject to minor clarifications, we are content that all four are generally compliant with the procedures and working toward full compliance where applicable. We are actively chasing the remaining three suppliers for their returns.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245336]

Mr. McFadden: BERR is not aware of any jurisdictions other than the UK where any personal data are held.

I have asked the chief executives of Companies House and the Insolvency Service to respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 January 2009:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2008/347) asking how many contracts (a) his Department and (b) its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in each case of each such contract.

The Insolvency Service supplies personal information to two contractors based outside the UK.

The first is to a company based in the United States. The data supplied comprises details of unclaimed monies; name of estate from which the payment was made; amount and date of payment; name and address of payee. The company's role is to trace the creditors who are owed the unclaimed monies and report this information back to the Insolvency Service. Approximately 2,500 records are provided to the company each year.

The second is a company based in France. This company is used to process Insolvency Service staff claims and is only provided with a limited amount personal information, being: staff name, pay number, grade and payment amount. Sensitive personal information, such as the bank account details are not shared with this company and is only amalgamated when the claims are back in the UK on The Insolvency Service IT System. Approximately 3,500 staff have their names and other limited personal data stores on this system.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House does have any contracts that allow storage of personal data overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245300]

Mr. McFadden: All IT systems in BERR are fully accredited to the Government's Security Standards.

BERR agency chief executives will be responding separately regarding IT systems in their organisations.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 January 2009:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2008/349) what percentage of the IT systems in (a) his Department and (b) its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards.

I would like to answer the second part of your question in relation to the Insolvency Service. Its legacy infrastructure was accredited to Government standards when first introduced but it cannot meet current standards. However, the service is some way through a major overhaul of its core IT system which will then be subject to the accreditation process.

Our principal case management systems are many years old and did not go through a separate accreditation process. However these systems are due to be replaced in the next 6 months by new systems which will be accredited as they are introduced.

A recent review has identified a small number of applications which have a medium term life and are not adequately accredited. These will be put through a retrospective accreditation.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House is certified to ISO/IEC 27001:2005. This effectively covers all IT systems provided in-house.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Minister of State for Trade plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 24 October 2008 on the findings of the Community Pubs Inquiry report. [242434]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

I wrote to the hon. Member on 21 January and am sorry for the delay in doing so. I hope to respond to the findings in the Community Pubs Inquiry report shortly. The recommendations cover the policy interests of several Government Departments and DCMS is collating a Government response.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with trade unions in Wales about the economic difficulties facing the car industry. [247557]

Ian Pearson: BERR Ministers and officials regularly have discussions with business and trade unions on issues relating to the car industry.

Small Businesses: Bank Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government have taken to assist small businesses to obtain lending from high street banks. [248318]

Ian Pearson: In the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a package of Government support for small and medium sized businesses to help them through the current economic difficulties.

Since then the Government have been working alongside the banks, business organisations and financial organisations to ensure that we speedily transform this announcement into real help for business.

On 14 January 2009, as part of the Government's Real Help for Business, my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, announced that businesses can now access the full range of support.

Information on the range of schemes that are available can be found at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Small Businesses: Procurement

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many contracts were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises through the supply2.gov.uk website in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; how many he expects to be so awarded in 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such contracts. [246771]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The supply2.gov.uk site offers consolidated access to public sector opportunities and allows businesses to search and view open lower-value contract opportunities in a single place. It does not measure contract awards. No estimate is available for the number or value of contracts won through the site.

Small Businesses: VAT

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the effect on small businesses of administering the temporary change to the rate of value added tax. [249649]

Ian Pearson: The Department is in regular contact with small businesses and their representatives on a range of issues, including VAT. HMRC provides advice and guidance to all VAT registered businesses, and is the primary contact point for any issues arising.

Textiles: Imports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the importation of fur from Canadian black seals for use in making hats; and if he will make a statement. [248340]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Government's opposition to the annual Canadian seal hunt is well known and remains unchanged. We have lobbied to promote EU-wide action and we are pleased that on 23 July 2008, the European Commission proposed an EU-wide ban on the import, export and sale of seal products from a range of species where it cannot be proved that the seals were killed without suffering avoidable pain or distress. The Government welcome this proposal and is working with the European Commission to introduce effective legislation as quickly as possible. Our aim is for a complete ban on the commercial trade in all pinniped products (i.e. seals, sea lions and walrus).

Whitehall and Industry Group

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* functions are of the Whitehall and Industry Group. [250470]

Ian Pearson: The objective of the Whitehall and Industry Group (WIG), which is an independent, neutral, not-for-profit organisation, is to provide a bridge between the private sector and Government for mutual learning and benefit.

It does this through various means, including by arranging people exchanges between organisations; by organising events on particular issues to promote engagement between business and Government, and by running cross-sector leadership programmes.

Further information about WIG can be found on its website:

www.wig.co.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has authorised the Child Support Agency's implementation of its agency steer under its Operational Improvement Plan. [244000]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has authorised the Child Support Agency's implementation of its agency steer under its Operational Improvement Plan.[244000]

The Child Support Agency's three year Operational Improvement Plan, was announced by the then Secretary of State John Hutton in February 2006. He endorsed the measures set out in the plan designed to increase the amount of maintenance flowing to children. Ministers continue to be briefed regularly on the Agency's progress in implementing the plan. I understand however that your question refers in particular to the Agency's efforts to collect arrears of child maintenance.

It may be helpful if I explain that it is the Commission's position that child maintenance arrears should be paid immediately. Where this is not possible the Child Support Agency will attempt to negotiate the payment of a lump sum, by reference to the available information about the non-resident parent's current financial commitments to support them in negotiating the maximum amount possible. The Agency may also enter an agreement with the non-resident parent to recover all arrears as quickly as possible. In the absence of any exceptional circumstances this will normally be within two years.

The Agency has been given the power under regulation 11 of the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 to impose a deduction from earnings order to collect an amount of money which does not exceed 40% of a liable person's net earnings. Similarly, sections 35, 36 39a and 40 of the Child Support Act 1991 set out the other main enforcement powers the Agency can employ when seeking the payment of child maintenance arrears. The commitment set out in the Operational Improvement Plan was to consistently and effectively apply these powers to ensure that maintenance flows to children when they need it most.

As a result, the Agency is collecting more child maintenance arrears than it has ever done before and in September 2008 collected £14.6 million in maintenance arrears alone, more than twice the average amount collected each month before the introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan. Between 1 April and 30 September 2008, the Agency has collected £80.3 million in arrears, bringing to almost £297 million the total collected in maintenance arrears since April 2006.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 will strengthen the range of enforcement and debt management powers available to the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. The Commission will bring these powers into force as soon as practicable in order to build on the Agency's improvements and will continue to focus on collection of outstanding arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of outstanding child maintenance arrears were recovered in each month since May 1997. [242178]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much and what proportion of outstanding child maintenance arrears were recovered in each month since May 1997. [242178]

This information is available in Table 19.5 of the September 2008 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest version is available in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_sep08.asp.

The amount of arrears collected in each month from April 2003 to September 2008 is provided in the attached table. Levels of arrears are not recorded in the format you requested prior to the introduction of the current computer system (CS2) in 2003.

The information you requested on the proportion of outstanding child maintenance arrears recovered is not available. Since June 2006, the Child Support Agency has been contracting out the collection of some arrears to debt collection agencies. For cases managed by debt collection agencies, the agreement to pay back the maintenance arrears and in particular, the amount to be paid each month is a matter between the debt collection agency and the non-resident parent. As such, the Agency no longer has the information to assess cash compliance for all cases. Whilst the total amount of debt is known, the monthly amount of arrears the non-resident parent is expected to pay the debt collection agency is not.

In September 2008, the Agency collected or arranged £98.7 million in maintenance of which £14.6 million was arrears. This is the highest level of maintenance and arrears collected or arranged by the Agency in one month ever.

Child maintenance arrears collected each month from April 2003 to September 2008

	Arrears collected (£million)
April 2003	5.1
May 2003	5.3
June 2003	5.3
July 2003	5.6
August 2003	5.0
September 2003	5.4
October 2003	5.7
November 2003	4.9
December 2003	5.2
January 2004	5.6
February 2004	4.9
March 2004	5.8
April 2004	5.3
May 2004	5.1
June 2004	6.3
July 2004	5.6
August 2004	5.8
September 2004	5.4
October 2004	5.5
November 2004	6.0
December 2004	5.6
January 2005	5.6
February 2005	5.6
March 2005	6.3
April 2005	5.9
May 2005	6.5
June 2005	7.0
July 2005	7.5
August 2005	6.7
September 2005	6.2
October 2005	6.7
November 2005	7.2
December 2005	6.4
January 2006	6.9
February 2006	6.2
March 2006	7.5
April 2006	6.4
May 2006	7.9
June 2006	7.3
July 2006	7.4
August 2006	7.0
September 2006	6.7
October 2006	8.0
November 2006	7.8
December 2006	7.0
January 2007	7.9
February 2007	8.0
March 2007	9.2
April 2007	8.6
May 2007	8.9
June 2007	10.1
July 2007	10.3
August 2007	10.3
September 2007	9.8
October 2007	11.5
November 2007	10.8
December 2007	10.3
January 2008	12.2
February 2008	12.0
March 2008	11.6
April 2008	13.2
May 2008	12.0
June 2008	13.6
July 2008	14.6
August 2008	12.3
September 2008	14.6

Notes:

1. Amounts of maintenance collected for recent months are subject to minor revisions.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.

3. The amount of arrears received was previously being under counted due to the omission of up to £2 million worth of payments to the Agency. DWP have completed work to correct this. More detail can be found on the contents page.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount of maintenance recovered by the Child Support Agency was from all cases *(a)* with maintenance outstanding and *(b)* in which maintenance has been recovered in each month since May 1997. [242193]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average amount of maintenance recovered by the Child Support Agency was from all cases (a) with maintenance outstanding and (b) in which maintenance has been recovered in each month since May 1997. [242193]

The attached table sets out the average amount of maintenance arrears collected in all cases including those cases where payments have not been received. It also sets out the average amount of child maintenance arrears collected in those cases where a payment has been received. This information, which is only available for cases from March 2003, shows the significant increase in the amount of arrears collected by the Agency in the last three years.

The Agency's three year Operational Improvement Plan, launched in April 2006 focused on improving compliance and enforcement, to increase the amount of money flowing to children. In the twelve months to September 2008, the Agency collected or arranged almost £1.1 billion in child maintenance, of which £149 million was arrears. This is an 84% increase in arrears collected compared to the year to March 2006.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Average monthly arrears collected per case

£

Month	*Average monthly arrears collected all cases*[1]	*Average monthly arrears collected per compliant case*[2]
2003		
March	26	45
April	24	43
May	25	45
June	25	45
July	27	47
August	24	44
September	26	47
October	27	49
November	24	43
December	25	46
2004		
January	27	49
February	24	45
March	27	48
April	24	47
May	23	45
June	28	52
July	25	47
August	25	50
September	24	47
October	24	47
November	26	52
December	25	49
2005		
January	25	49
February	25	49
March	28	53
April	26	50
May	29	56
June	31	59
July	33	65
August	30	58
September	27	55
October	29	58
November	32	62
December	28	56
2006		
January	30	59
February	27	57
March	33	62
April	28	57
May	34	66
June	32	61
July	32	61
August	30	60
September	29	59
October	34	68
November	33	66
December	30	64
2007		
January	34	69
February	34	71
March	39	77
April	36	76
May	37	76
June	42	86
July	43	84
August	42	83
September	41	84
October	48	94
November	45	88
December	43	88
2008		
January	52	98
February	51	99
March	49	99
April	57	109
May	51	107
June	59	116
July	64	123
August	55	111
September	66	126

[1] Average monthly arrears per charging case calculated by dividing the monthly arrears collected each month by the number of cases that either made an arrears payment in the month or where arrears were requested in the month.

[2] Average monthly arrears per compliant case calculated by dividing the monthly arrears collected each month by the number of cases that made an arrears payment in the month.

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest whole pound.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons some Child Support Agency cases are processed clerically; and how procedures differ between those cases processed clerically and those processed electronically. [246578]

Kitty Usher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reasons some Child Support Agency cases are processed clerically; and how procedures differ between those cases processed clerically and those processed electronically. [246578]

Cases are processed clerically when for technical reasons it is not possible for them to be progressed using the CS2 computer system.

All cases, including those being managed clerically at the Bolton office, are subject to the same legislative and procedural rules.

This arrangement has been beneficial to clients as it ensures the efficient processing of their case through to successful maintenance outcome. By the end of September 2008, almost £60 million in child maintenance had been passed to parents with care whose cases are processed clerically. Clerical cases represent less than 3% of the Agency's total caseload.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of non-resident parents in receipt of benefit are subject to deductions from earnings orders which specify the payment of £5 per week. [249023]

Kitty Usher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is now responsible for the child maintenance system.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of non-resident parents in receipt of benefit are subject to Deduction from Earnings Orders which specify the payment of £5 per week. [249023]

The Commission contacted you to clarify your question. It was confirmed that the answer requested was for the proportion of non-resident parents on benefit and working part-time who are subject to a Deduction from Earnings Order with a weekly liability of £5.

At the end of February 2008, the latest date for which information is available, there were 306,400 cases with a calculation where the status of the non-resident parent is recorded as being on benefit. Around 500 of these cases, under 0.2%, are subject to a Deduction from Earnings Order, or Deduction from Earnings Request, where the weekly liability is £5.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly child maintenance payment to parents with care in receipt of means-tested benefits was in the latest period for which information is available. [249625]

Kitty Usher *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the Hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner, as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average weekly child maintenance payment to parents with care in receipt of means-tested benefits was in the latest period for which information is available. [249625]

The latest benefits data available is from the quarter ending February 2008. This shows that the Agency collected or arranged child maintenance on behalf of 161,000 parents with care who were also in receipt of Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance. The information available is recorded monthly. The average monthly amount of maintenance collected or arranged in February 2008 on these cases was £113. This includes both regular maintenance and maintenance arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what factors his Department has identified as the main causes of child poverty. [250438]

Kitty Usher: We published 'Ending Child Poverty: Everybody's Business' in March 2008, which highlights the main causes and outcomes of child poverty. The report identified that children raised in workless households are at far greater risk of poverty than those in working households. Other causes of child poverty are a lack of skills and educational qualifications, parents or children with a disability or poor health, low aspirations and living in deprived communities and communities with higher crime rates.

For those who can, work remains the surest and most sustainable route out of poverty. Our policies on welfare reform, childcare, back to work help, skills development and in-work support will further increase parental employment and family income.

Legislation, planned for this session, will ensure all levels of Government play their part in delivering these policies and meeting our target to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 58W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, what distance of air travel was offset by his Department and its participating agencies in 2007-08; and what proportion of such travel was *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul. [250038]

Jonathan Shaw: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1018-19W.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248059]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has an estates private finance initiative contract with Trillium for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation and for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. This unitary charge includes a risk price element for all aspects of building maintenance, repair, routine decoration and refurbishment, known as Life Cycle Works. These separate elements cannot be disaggregated from the overall expenditure on Life Cycle Works. The Department has made no expenditure on wallpaper since 2001. Any future expenditure on decoration will be provided for within the unitary charge.

Some "improvements" are not covered by the unitary charge and are funded separately as capital expenditure. Capital expenditure includes major projects, and the fit-out of new buildings, such as the rollout of the new Jobcentre Plus network and other departmental initiatives in the Pension Service and Debt Management. The Department's capital expenditure on these major projects in the last five years is provided in the following table. Separate costs for "decorating" and "otherwise improving" could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DWP capital expenditure on major projects 2003-04 to 2007-08

	£ million
2003-04	282.3
2004-05	117.3
2005-06	278.9
2006-07	162.2
2007-08	48.2

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff. [249086]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a Private Finance Initiative contract with Trillium for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation, which includes catering. Trillium delivers the catering service through its service partner, Eurest.

Catering is provided in 133 Department for Work and Pensions locations. All of these catering outlets are directly operated by Eurest and there are no franchised outlets. A list of all 133 locations which have catering outlets has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1303-4W, on departmental databases, if he will list each of the identified postcode sectors in the 50 local authorities that ACORN analysis was used to target the Central Office of Information marketing and advertising. [250298]

Jonathan Shaw: We have placed in the House Library the list of postcode sectors identified through ACORN analysis for the No Ifs, No Buts Targeting Benefit Fraud campaign.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248702]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

End of year performance bonuses

DWP employees in pay bands below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a "top", "higher" or "majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The amount of bonus awarded is differentiated on the basis of an employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service end of year bonuses are determined on an individual basis by the relevant DWP SCS Pay Committee.

Performance awards are payable in July and are attributable to performance in the previous financial year. In the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years a total of £40.68 million, £36.61 million and £23.32 million has been paid respectively. This is broken down as follows:

Table 1: Department total

Financial year	Total paid (£ million)	Total number of recipients
2006-07	40.68	116,096
2007-08	36.61	111,943
2008-09	23.32	107,726

Table 2: Total below SCS

Financial year	Total paid (£ million)	Total number of recipients
2006-07	39.01	115,896
2007-08	34.88	111,741
2008-09	21.50	107,518

Table 3: Total SCS

Financial year	Total paid (£ million)	Total number of recipients
2006-07	1.67	200
2007-08	1.73	202
2008-09	1.82	208

Notes:

1. The information in tables 1 and 2 is based on the numbers of employees recorded on the DWP payroll systems as having received a qualifying performance mark. These are headcount.
2. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in the year, which is why the information has been presented separately and not as an aggregated total.
3. The performance bonus is paid in the financial year following the performance year of 1 April to 31 March.
4. The total amount paid includes Employers National Insurance Contribution (ERNIC).
5. In-year cash bonus data was previously held on a separate IT system. Data from this system can be obtained only from a third party and there would be a cost ascribed to this provision. This would bring the cost of answering this PQ to above the threshold considered proportionate.
6. These figures are the best available.

Special bonus and voucher payments

Individuals may also be entitled to special bonus payments either as cash or retail vouchers. Vouchers, as an alternative to cash payments, were introduced in May 2006 These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award.

It is not possible to provide separate data for in-year cash bonuses across three years. However, the cost in a typical year for cash bonuses is around £2.7 million with payments made to approximately 11,250 individuals (based on 2007-08 payments).

The cost for voucher payments was £0.9 million in 2006-07, £1.77 million in 2007-08 and £1.03 million in 2008-09.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved for disability living allowance for children below the age of (i) 18, (ii) 16 and (iii) 10 years in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [248617]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Disability Living Allowance cases in payment by age for those aged less than 18

	All	*Under 10*	*10-15*	*16-17*
August 1992	103,100	61,500	34,100	7,500
May 1993	130,700	77,600	43,200	9,900
May 1994	149,000	87,200	49,600	12,200
May 1995	171,100	99,600	57,600	13,900
May 1996	189,200	108,700	65,100	15,400
May 1997	207,600	117,200	73,800	16,600
May 1998	222,200	123,000	80,800	18,400
May 1999	233,300	124,000	88,800	20,500
May 2000	242,000	124,400	96,600	21,000
May 2001	256,600	126,700	107,000	22,900
May 2002	279,540	136,840	116,310	26,400
May 2003	295,710	139,490	126,790	29,430
May 2004	307,210	140,060	134,540	32,610
May 2005	319,580	140,960	142,780	35,840
May 2006	328,200	140,530	149,160	38,520
May 2007	338,100	140,170	155,940	42,000
May 2008	351,970	143,150	162,960	45,860

Notes:

1. May 2002-08 figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. August 1992 - May 2001 figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. August 1992 is the earliest data available.

Sources:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (May 2002-08)
DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample. (August 1992 to May 2001)

The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 percent data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5 per cent. sample data, the proportions derived should be applied to the overall 100 percent total for the benefit. Users should refer to the Guidance for Users at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/guidance.pdf

Disability Living Allowance: Fuels

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of disability living allowance likely to be spent on the recipient's fuel bills. [251109]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimate has been made. Recipients of disability living allowance are free to spend their benefit according to their own priorities.

Discrimination: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to extend the consultation period for "Improving Protection From Disability Discrimination" in line with criterion 2 of the Government's Code of Practice, as set out by the Cabinet Office; and if he will make a statement. [249474]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 January 2009]:* The Government have no plans to extend the consultation period on "Improving Protection From Disability Discrimination".

I explained in my foreword to the consultation document that it was necessary to have a short consultation period to ensure that proper consideration could be given to how any legislative proposal would fit with the provisions in the forthcoming Equality Bill.

In order to obtain an appropriately broad range of input to the consultation, the written consultation was supplemented by a range of discussions with key stakeholders including representatives from the fields of disability, equality, business, advice and the voluntary sector.

Employment and Support Allowance: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average length of contract offered to temporary staff employed specifically to support the introduction of employment support allowance was; [241453]

(2) at which locations those staff appointed by Jobcentre Plus specifically to support the introduction of employment support allowance worked; and how many worked at each such location; [241454]

(3) how many of the 2000 staff originally appointed to support the introduction of employment support allowance are *(a)* still working in their original role, *(b)* employed on temporary contracts elsewhere in Jobcentre Plus and *(c)* employed on permanent contracts elsewhere in Jobcentre Plus. [241455]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions in relation to the temporary staff recruited to support the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus recruited 2125 people, including temporary staff, to support the introduction of Employment Support Allowance, as part of our workforce plans for the whole business requirement. They were deployed specifically to backfill other core delivery areas, to release our existing staff to deliver Employment Support Allowance. Temporary contracts are usually offered on the start of employment for a period of up to 26 weeks, although due to recent operational needs, some contracts have now been extended beyond this date. Our Resource Management reporting system does not allow us to identify the average contract length, contract status or by location for someone who has been recruited to work on Employment and Support Allowance backfill. This is because these staff resources are accounted for as part of our wider business resource.

From the recruits brought in over the summer 2008, there have been some conversions from temporary to permanent/fixed term contracts, although numbers are small. Unfortunately, we are not able to identify on a cost effective basis where these individuals are still working on the original role they were employed to undertake or if they are now undertaking a new role.

Employment Schemes

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people expected to gain access to the scheme announced for people unemployed for six months or more in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [248468]

Mr. McNulty: The £500 million package of further support that we announced on 12 January 2009 includes four options: a job with a recruitment subsidy; support to start a business; volunteering opportunities, and work-related training. We expect to help a total of about 500,000 people through these options over the next two years, starting from April.

The recruitment subsidies, support to start a business and volunteering opportunities will be available in England, Wales and Scotland and we would expect them to be spread proportionately between them. The work-related training option will apply just to England.

In Northern Ireland, the provision of employment and skills services is the responsibility of the devolved Administration, who will continue to determine their own priorities for supporting jobseekers.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what terms and conditions will be set for employers in relation to *(a)* applying for and *(b)* using an Employers' Golden Hello; [248469]

(2) whether he plans to set a limit on the number of Employers' Golden Hello incentives available to each employer. [248470]

Mr. McNulty: On 12 January, the Government announced a package of additional support worth £500 million for people who are still unemployed after six months. This additional support will be available from April 2009 and includes making available an expanded range of work and training options that a Jobcentre Plus adviser would be able to offer customers.

One of these options will be jobs supported by recruitment subsidies. Eligible customers will attract a £1,000 recruitment subsidy and Train to Gain funding worth on average £1,500.

The recruitment subsidy will be offered to employers who are committed to working with us to recruit jobless people, primarily through local employment partnerships. The subsidy will be targeted—employers will not be able to claim it by right and we will not make any payments if the employer has dismissed or made redundant any existing employees in order to recruit someone under this option.

Further details of how the subsidies will be delivered are still under discussion, and we will involve businesses and trade unions in those discussions. Subject to these discussions, and in line with current practice in the new deals, we do not intend to set a limit on the number of incentives available to each employer.

Employment Services: Redundancy

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on providing a rapid response service for employees in Scotland threatened with redundancy. [248545]

Mr. McNulty: I met with Fiona Hyslop MSP, Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning on 27 November 2008 to discuss what action would be taken in Scotland to address issues arising from the current economic situation. One of the matters for discussion at the meeting was an agreement that officials work closely together to respond to the economic downturn.

We agreed to address a conference in Glasgow on 9 February that will bring together all those involved in dealing with redundancies at a local level to consider how we can further improve the service. This will include discussion about Jobcentre Plus's Rapid Response Service.

Within Scotland, Jobcentre Plus is an active participant in a long-standing Scottish Government initiative called Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE), which provides a consistent and co-ordinated public sector response to redundancy.

European Social Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the European Social Fund spending announced on 15 October 2008 and 4 November 2008 has been assigned to employment projects; what those projects are; and how much in total has been *(a)* assigned and *(b)* spent to date. [244800]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2008]*: The £50 million of European Social Fund money announced on 15 October 2008 will support retraining and skills for people who are currently facing redundancy and those looking for work, so that they can quickly move back into sustainable employment. Provision will be delivered through the Learning and Skills Council, which plans to invite tenders in January 2009, with a view to projects being in place in spring 2009.

The £27 million of European Social Fund money announced on 4 November 2008 will support innovative projects both to extend employment opportunities and to develop workforce skills. Of the £27 million, about £17 million will support projects to extend employment opportunities, although a precise figure cannot be provided until the application process is completed. The deadline for applications is 16 January 2009, and projects are expected to start in spring 2009. Information on successful projects will be available at that stage.

Housing Benefit: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much it cost to establish the telephone hotline for reporting suspected cases of housing benefit fraud; and what annual expenditure his Department incurs in operating the service; [249020]

(2) how many of the cases of suspected housing benefit fraud reported via the online form or telephone hotline have led to a conviction in each month of the last two years; [249022]

(3) how many and what proportion of reports submitted by telephone and online have correctly identified individuals committing housing benefit fraud in each month of the last two years; [249040]

(4) how many people have used the telephone hotline for reporting housing benefit fraud in each month of the last two years; [249041]

(5) how many people have used the online form for reporting individuals committing housing benefit fraud in each month of the last two years. [249042]

Mr. McNulty: The National Benefit Fraud Hotline was set up in August 1996. It was extended to include housing benefit fraud referrals in September 2003, information on the costs of extending the service for housing benefit fraud are not available.

The annual expenditure incurred in operating the National Benefit Fraud Hotline for 2007-08 is in the following table.

2007-08 spend

	£000
Staff costs	904
Non staff costs	345
Vertex call centre[1]	338
Total	1,587

[1] The Preston contact centre is dedicated to handling National Benefit Fraud Hotline calls with additional support from Vertex. Vertex is the outsourced provider of the out of hours telephone contact centre service. Vertex costs are included in the figures.

Notes:

1. The operational costs of administering the National Benefit Fraud Hotline include the costs of administering the housing benefit fraud service. These costs cannot be separated.

2. The table contains directly attributable costs of the National Benefit Fraud Hotline; however there are further costs across DWP that cannot be separately identified, namely:

Actual telephone call costs that cannot be separated from overall DWP Corporate IT costs

Overflow work taken on by other sites at Grimsby Europarc and Telford Plaza

Follow on costs such as the cost of pursuing prosecutions.

3. The National Benefit Fraud Hotline started to do tax evasion work in November/December 2007 and tax evasion costs are included for four months of 2007-08.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Finance Directorate using DWP financial systems

Information regarding referrals made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline or online is not available by benefit type. Therefore, it is not possible to provide specific information on the outcomes of housing benefit fraud referrals received from either the hotline or online.

Information on the total number of housing benefit referrals from all sources accepted for investigation, prosecutions and convictions for the last two financial years is in the following table.

	2005-06	*2006-07*
Referrals accepted for investigation	190,898	166,979
Prosecutions	7,717	5,885
Convictions	6,234	5,734

Source:

Local authority Housing Benefit administrative returns

Jobcentre Plus: Breastfeeding

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 914W, on Jobcentre Plus: breastfeeding, what the outcome was of the review of the policy on breastfeeding in Jobcentre Plus offices. [248189]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 27 January 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question, pursuant to the Answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 914W, on Jobcentre Plus: breastfeeding, what the outcome was of the review of the policy on breastfeeding in Jobcentre Plus offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can confirm that this review has now been completed and operational guidance was updated on 19 December 2008 to include a paragraph ensuring that all Jobcentre staff are made aware that, wherever possible, every effort must be made to provide a mother wishing to breastfeed her baby with a suitable area to do so.

Jobcentre Plus: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many extra people will be employed by Jobcentre Plus in Oxfordshire on the Rapid Response Service, with reference to the Pre-Budget Report; [240398]

(2) how many of the extra 2,000 staff at jobcentres proposed in the Pre-Budget Report will be employed in Oxfordshire. [240399]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many extra people will be employed by Jobcentre Plus in Oxfordshire on the Rapid Response Service, with reference to the Pre-Budget Report and how many of the extra 2,000 staff at jobcentres proposed in the Pre-Budget Report will be employed in Oxfordshire. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

No additional staff have been specifically recruited to be employed on the Rapid Response Service in Oxfordshire. Each District has appointed a Rapid Response Manager and we have a pool of 10 Rapid Response volunteer staff from Oxfordshire District who can be deployed where additional help is required.

Whilst it is not possible at this stage to say how many of the extra staff proposed in the Pre-Budget Report will be employed in Oxfordshire, under our existing plans between December 2008 and January 2009 we are recruiting 99 permanent staff within the Jobcentre Plus District of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Of these 99 recruits, 21 will be based in offices in Oxfordshire. Further recruitment is planned into 2009 but it is too early to state which District or County they will be allocated.

I have asked Lynn Conolly, the District Manager for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, to meet with you to discuss workforce plans for Oxfordshire and to explain how Jobcentre Plus is responding locally to the economic downturn.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records Jobcentre Plus keeps of the *(a)* number, *(b)* direction, *(c)* content and *(d)* outcome of telephone calls to Jobcentre Plus helplines from members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [245660]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what records Jobcentre Plus keeps of the *(a)* number, *(b)* direction, *(c)* content and *(d)* outcome of telephone calls to Jobcentre Plus helplines from members of the public; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus keeps a record of volumes of calls made to each of the service lines we operate. We do not however keep a detailed record of the content of each call made. We operate over 10 different service lines ranging from benefit claims to job matching and the National Benefit Fraud hotline. Jobcentre Plus does not keep a record of the outcome of each call. However, a recording is taken and retained of all calls received with the exception of those made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline and the Tax Evasion Hotline. Calls made to these services are not recorded as we aim to protect anonymity.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were received by Jobcentre Plus call centres in each of the last 24 months; what the average waiting time was for such calls to be dealt with in each month; and how many dropped calls there were in each month. [249279]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 27 January 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many calls were received by Jobcentre Plus call centres in each of the last 24 months; what the average waiting time was for such calls to be dealt with in each month; and how many dropped calls there were in each month. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus currently has 31 contact centres offering telephony services to our customers.

The attached table provides information on:

the number of calls offered and answered by Jobcentre Plus contact centres for the past 24 months.

the number of 'abandoned' calls each month for the past 24 months. This is the number of callers who hang up (terminate the call) whilst waiting in the queue for their call to be answered.

average speed of answer times. This is the average length of time it takes for a call to be answered.

Jobcentre Plus contact centres have only been able to collate information on speed of answer times centrally since July 2008, following the introduction of a new telephony platform which enabled this information to be recorded.

	January 2007	*February 2007*	*March 2007*
Calls offered (Number)	1,627,416	1,527,087	1,710,681
Calls answered (Number)	1,553,087	1,454,007	1,647,370
Percentage of calls answered	95.4	95.2	96.3
Calls abandoned (Number)	74,329	73,080	63,311

	April 2007	*May 2007*	*June 2007*	*July 2007*	*August 2007*	*September 2007*
Calls offered (Number)	1,267,502	1,490,654	1,381,732	1,486,522	1,770,187	1,460,400
Calls answered (Number)	1,191,101	1,429,822	1,300,032	1,350,761	1,622,580	1,362,994
Percentage of calls answered	94	95.9	94.1	90.9	91.7	93.3
Calls abandoned (Number)	76,401	60,832	81,700	135,761	147,607	97,406

	October 2007	*November 2007*	*December 2007*	*January 2008*	*February 2008*	*March 2008*
Calls offered (Number)	1,348,901	1,618,436	851,229	1,987,101	1,441,739	1,340,837
Calls answered (Number)	1,285,827	1,516,795	797,772	1,862,192	1,374,644	1,118,666
Percentage of calls answered	95.3	93.7	93.7	93.7	95.3	83.4
Calls abandoned (Number)	63,074	101,641	53,457	124,909	67,095	222,171

	April 2008	*May 2008*	*June 2008*	*July 2008*	*August 2008*	*September 2008*
Calls offered (Number)	1,373,527	1,599,042	1,558,995	1,881,447	1,392,754	1,514,106
Calls answered (Number)	1,258,862	1,482,936	1,195,905	1,622,186	1,304,201	1,360,135
Percentage of calls answered	91.7	92.7	76.7	86.2	93.6	89.8
Calls abandoned	114,665	116,106	363,090	259,261	88,553	153,971
Average speed of answer	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 min 30s	1 min 17s	1 min 45s

	October 2008	*November 2008*	*December 2008*
Calls offered (Number)	1,933,282	1,732,608	940,345
Calls answered (Number)	1,729,942	1,404,695	845,350
Percentage of calls answered	89.5%	81.1%	89.9%
Calls abandoned (Number)	203,340	327,913	94,995
Average speed of answer	1 min 40s	2 min 52s	1 min 58s

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets have been set for Jobcentre Plus offices in relation to *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [246131]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus has six national targets; these apply to its whole range of activities including the administration of Jobseeker's Allowance. Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008 for new customers claiming on the grounds of disability or ill health. Employment and support allowance will be woven into the existing performance framework for Jobcentre Plus.

The six national targets are:

> Job Outcome Target—This is the measure of our success in helping people in to work. It is based on an automated reporting system, which reports movements into work and off benefit by matching Jobcentre Plus and HMRC data.
>
> Customer Service Target—This measures Jobcentre Plus' performance in meeting the standards and commitments set out in the organisation's customer and employer charters.
>
> Monetary Value of Fraud and Error—Contact Centre Directorate has a direct impact on this target by taking appropriate action when fraud is suspected during interaction with the customer and more specifically through the referrals that are generated from calls to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline .
>
> Average Actual Clearance Times—This is measured through the processing of claims within specified average actual clearance times, for Incapacity Benefit, Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance—18 days, 11 days and 12 days respectively.
>
> Employer Engagement Target—This is measured by "mystery shopper" calls made by an independent organisation and is a measure for professionalism and information provided over the phone.
>
> Interventions Delivery Target—This is a measure of the efficiency of Jobcentre Plus in booking customers in for work-focused interviews within set timescales to provide effective employment support and advice.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether contractors delivering back-to-work services for jobseeker's allowance claimants will refer non-compliant claimants to Jobcentre Plus before or after a decision is made on whether to impose sanctions on the client. [246270]

Mr. McNulty: The provider will raise entitlement and sanction doubts and refer the relevant information to Jobcentre Plus before any decisions on sanctions are made. The provider will be required to try to contact the customer to give them the opportunity to explain the reason for their non-compliance, before passing all relevant information to Jobcentre Plus. Jobcentre Plus will be responsible for handling all subsequent decisions on benefit sanctions and will notify the customer of the outcome. The provider will continue to be responsible for supporting the customer back to work for the balance of their time on Flexible New Deal."

Local Employment Partnerships

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average public expenditure per job provided under the local employment partnerships programme has been since the programme's inception. [248430]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not yet available. The In Work Better Off Impact Assessment (DWP, July 2007) estimated a cost of £400 for each person finding work through this initiative. Actual costs to public expenditure may be lower. People on benefit who find work will gain financially as their in-work income from earnings and tax credits will be higher than their out-of-work income from benefits and tax credits. A full evaluation of local employment partnerships is planned. Reports will be published 2009-11 using a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employers in each region have signed-up to local employment partnerships in each quarter since local employment partnerships were established. [248441]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following table.

Numbers of employers signed up to local employment partnerships

Jobcentre Plus region	*Number of employers'[1] signed up to local employment partnerships: by September 2008*	*Number of employers'[1] signed up to local employment partnerships: during quarter ended December 2008*	*Total employers signed up to local employment partnerships*
East Midlands	2,189	1,185	3,374
East of England	4,016	2,195	6,211
London	4,285	2,060	6,345
North East	3,073	1,849	4,922
North West	5,426	3,809	9,235
South East	4,063	3,788	7,851
South West	4,254	2,423	6,677
West Midlands	4,412	3,762	8,174
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,577	1,349	3,926
Scotland	6,327	2,120	8,447
Wales	3,479	1,966	5,445
National totals	44,101	26,506	70,607

[1] These figures represent workplaces including different branches/outlets of some larger organisations.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

New Deal for Disabled People

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on supporting people with a learning disability through the New Deal for Disabled People Programme in each year since its establishment. [247182]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* New deal for disabled people is a pan-disability programme open to incapacity benefit (and now employment and support allowance) customers, on a voluntary basis, with a range of health conditions or disabilities. Details of expenditure specifically related to people with a learning disability are not held.

We are working across Government to give people with learning disabilities the support they need to access work. The Getting A Life project, which is being trialled in 10 areas, is working to identify what needs to happen to ensure that young people with severe learning disabilities leave education and go on to achieve paid employment and full lives. The Government have also made a commitment in the New Opportunities White Paper to produce an employment strategy for people with learning disabilities. The strategy will be published in the spring.

Pension Credit: Fraud

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of fraud and error in the pension credit system in each of the last three years. [248835]

Mr. McNulty: DWP estimates for fraud and error in Pension Credit for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are contained in the DWP publications "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System April 2005 to March 2006: Spending Review 2004 target baseline", "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2006 to March 2007" and "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2007 to March 2008", copies of which are available in the Library.

Poverty

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's definition of poverty is. [250440]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2419W.

Remploy: Consultants

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external consultants Remploy engaged between April 2005 and April 2008; and at what total cost. [247868]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

Consultants engaged by Remploy

	2005-2006	*2006-2007*	*2007-2008*
Number of consultancy companies	28	30	67
Cost (£)	180,400	411,600	983,000

Source:
Remploy

Sabbatical Leave

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether employees on extended periods of sabbatical leave on part pay are deemed to be available for work during the sabbatical period. [251114]

Jonathan Shaw: Under jobseeker's allowance legislation employees on periods of sabbatical leave on are not deemed to be available for work.

Social Security Benefits

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number of EU nationals who continue to receive UK benefits on their return from the UK to their country of origin; [246067]

(2) if he will make it his policy to collect information on expenditure on payment of benefits to people who are *(a)* not UK nationals and *(b)* not resident in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [246068]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* There are no current plans to collect the information in the format requested.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking *(a)* to tackle benefit fraud and *(b)* to ensure that information about benefit fraudsters provided via public helplines is acted upon. [249301]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The Government are committed to paying the right benefits to the right people at the right time. As part of that commitment we have specific strategies in place to tackle both fraud and error.

We have a well defined and successful strategy for tackling benefit fraud based on preventing, detecting and deterring fraud. Our current estimate for fraud across all benefits remains at its lowest ever level at 0.6 per cent. of benefit expenditure. This is down from 2 per cent. in 2000-01.

Our strategy initiatives include a hard hitting media campaign, cross checking information on benefit claims against other data sources as well as professionally qualified investigators. The Fraud Investigation Service ensures that the quality and professionalism of investigation is maintained to consistently high standards providing operational direction on all fraud related matters within the Department. Although the Fraud Investigation Service is managed under Jobcentre Plus, it provides fraud investigation for all the Departments benefits.

We also continue to develop innovative new measures such as data matching with credit reference agencies.

We are also toughening our sanctions regime by introducing a first-offence benefit penalty as part of the Welfare Reform Bill.

Every call to the national benefit fraud hotline is examined by the Department and where appropriate the case is then passed to either the Fraud Investigation Service for investigation or to compliance teams in Jobcentres, who will scrutinise the relevant benefit claim, interview the customer and make appropriate adjustments to entitlements.

In 2007-08 there were almost 250,000 referrals to the benefit fraud hotline by phone, via the internet and in writing, as a result of which nearly £18 million worth of recoverable overpayments were identified.

Take-up Task Force

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his Department's press release of 5 January 2009 on the Take-up Taskforce, what steps he expects the Taskforce to take consequent upon the responses it received from local authorities. [249506]

Kitty Ussher: The Take Up Taskforce has issued a Call for Evidence of examples of good practice across the UK relating to increasing take-up of benefits and tax credits by parents. The deadline for local authorities and their partners to submit evidence is 20 February 2009.

The evidence will help to inform the Taskforce's recommendations to Government on ways to help local services support parents to take up their benefit and tax credit entitlements, in order to contribute to tackling child poverty. Recommendations will be reported in spring 2009.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the adult Learning and Skills Council budget for *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England was in the latest year for which figures are available. [249861]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) budget for adult learning was set out in the latest grant letter to the LSC issued on 18 November 2008. For 2008-09 the budget is £4,275 million rising to £4,525 million in 2009-10.

The LSC makes decisions about allocations of funding to specific areas based on strategic discussions with FE Colleges and providers, partners and other organisations. This ensures that the needs of the local communities are met and that the activity delivered supports the council's key priorities and targets. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with further information including the most up-to-date figures available for Hertfordshire. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic climate on the number of employers taking on new apprentices; [247551]

(2) how many apprentices have had their apprenticeships terminated by their employer in each *(a)* year from 1997 to 2002 and *(b)* month since January 2003. [247552]

Mr. Simon: Last year a record number of people started an apprenticeship: 225,000 in 2007/08. We recognise that the economic downturn means that some employers will recruit fewer apprentices but others expect to take on more than they do now. Last week the Prime Minster announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 apprenticeship places over the coming year. I am confident that by expanding the number of apprentices in new areas and increasing provision in the public sector we will continue to offer a high quality training opportunity for young people and adults. We do not hold data centrally about the number of apprentices who have had their apprenticeships terminated by their employer.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students entering *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships were already in employment in each year since 1997. [249995]

Mr. Simon: Information on what route apprentices have come from is not currently available. However, a national apprenticeships vacancy matching service is being developed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to provide a high quality service to employers wishing to recruit apprentices, and to young people and adults considering an apprenticeship. This service will help deliver the objective outlined in World-class Apprenticeships to expand and improve the quality of our apprenticeships programme. The service will be available across England by April 2009. Part of the future role of the service will be to provide the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) with management information on apprenticeships.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage people to take up apprenticeships. [249842]

Mr. Simon: We are taking a wide range of steps to encourage more people to take up apprenticeships and to encourage more employers to offer high quality places. In 2007/08 we saw a record high 225,000 people starting an apprenticeship. We also believe apprenticeships can play a key role in our response to the current economic downturn. The Prime Minister recently announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 apprenticeship places over the coming year in both the public and private sectors to help strengthen the country's competitiveness.

On 12 January 2009 the new online National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service went live. The first chief executive of the new National Apprenticeship Service takes up post on 2 February 2009 and our National Apprenticeship Service will be fully functional from 1 April 2009 with a remit to expand apprenticeships and provide a single point of contact for employers and apprentices. To raise awareness and encourage more employers to take on or offer more apprenticeships a new national advertising campaign will commence in February fronted by Sir Alan Sugar.

Our New Opportunities White Paper published 13 January 2009 announced the Government's commitment to extending group training associations; ensuring all apprentices have clear progression routes; and commitment to work towards an entitlement to an apprenticeship for all young people leaving care. Looking to the future, we have set ambitious targets for the growth of the apprenticeships programme. Apprenticeships provisions will be taken forward as part of the forthcoming Children, Skills and Learning Bill, including provisions to ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013. The Education and Skills Act 2008 requires schools to provide impartial careers information, advice and guidance. The National Apprenticeship Service will support schools in providing advice on apprenticeships.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding since it was established; and how much funding was provided to each. [247376]

Mr. Simon: The Department makes payments to charities and voluntary bodies. However, to provide details on all of these would incur disproportionate cost.

Funding provided to charities that received over £100,000 is as follows:

			£000
Name of body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Royal Anniversary Trust[1]	166	167	[2]—
National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)[3]	250	95	32
Social Mobility Foundation	—	121	100
UK Council for International Student Affairs	444	515	525

[1] Royal Anniversary Trust funding will be confirmed at year end

[2] Tbc

[3] NFER funding is year to date only

In addition there are several charitable bodies that are contracted to provide services for the Department, which makes the following payments:

			£000
Name of body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Lifelong Learning UK	1,299	13,081	19,500
NIACE[1]	2,574	10,004	5,099
SKILL[2]	100	160	100
PET[3]	256	255	268

[1] National Institute for Adult Continuing Education

[2] National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

[3] Prisoners Education Trust

Higher education institutions have charitable status and are funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (a non-departmental public body of DIUS).

Some of the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are registered charities. These NDPBs are contracted to provide agreed outcomes. The funding provided to these bodies by the Department and predecessor Departments are as follows:

			£000
Name of body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Design Council	6,179	6,069	6,035
Quality Improvement Agency (QIA)	82,775	109,764	
Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)	—	—	100,000

Note:

QIA was part of the merger to form LSIS in October 2008, hence there are no figures for QIA in 2008-09

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many official journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by plane since his Department was established. [247507]

Mr. Simon: Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code and the civil service management code respectively.

From the period July 2007 to date the Secretary of State for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills undertook 12 official journeys by air and his civil servants undertook 1836 official journeys by air. These figures have been provided by our service provider; however there could potentially be a low number of official air journeys undertaken by the Department's

Secretary of State and his civil servants that were booked outside of our service provider route where an official expenses claim was raised; this information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings since his Department's inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248058]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Therefore, any details prior to this date are not available.

In 2007-08 the Department spent £4.874 million on leasehold improvements. This was mainly in respect of its building at Kingsgate House. In 2008-09 it is planned to spend some £103,000 on its leasehold improvements.

The Department pays rent for its occupancy of Kingsgate House to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. It also pays a smaller amount for its occupancy in Moorfoot, Sheffield, to the Department for Children Schools and Families. This charge also includes facilities management charges which comprise, among other things, charges for routine maintenance, utilities, security, waste disposals and insurance.

No money has been spent, or is planned to be spent, on wallpaper.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department since it was established; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier. [248365]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not manage the buildings that it occupies. Accordingly, food and drink purchased for events at DIUS offices is generally provided by the catering contractors of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Catering at events held elsewhere is generally provided by the venue.

Further details, including expenditure on food and drink, are available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provide for staff. [248077]

Mr. Simon: Almost all of the Department's staff are based in buildings managed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (in London) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (in Sheffield, Runcorn and Darlington). The catering facilities provided by these Departments for their own staff are also available to DIUS staff. A small number of DIUS staff are based at Polaris House, Swindon, and have access to the catering facilities provided by the Research Councils for their own staff. Staff of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the small number of DIUS staff based in Teddington can use the catering facilities at the National Physical Laboratory. The Intellectual Property Office staff can use the on-site catering facilities provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since its inception. [248249]

Mr. Simon: None, in all categories.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [248062]

Mr. Simon: The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills published its first Single Equality scheme in December 2008. It sets out the Departments commitments and plans for reporting on progress on all equality issues, including disability. Copies are available on the DIUS website at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/index.html

Departmental Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much it cost to establish his Department. [248088]

Mr. Simon: The costs of setting up the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in June 2007 were met within the existing departmental budgets of the former Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families) and the former Department for Trade and Industry (now Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.)

Further information on all departmental expenditure is available in the Department's Resource Accounts:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc08/0864/0864.pdf

and departmental Annual Report:

- http://www.dius.gov.uk/docs/about/21076_DIUS%20AR&A_Web_NEW.pdf

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1126-27W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost of each of the projects was at their outset. [242167]

Mr. Simon: According to our records, the following lists the projects currently being undertaken by DIUS and its agencies. Also shown are the originally expected dates and costs and the latest forecasts dates and total costs at completion.

Projects	Expected completion date	Estimated cost when complete (£000)	Original expected due date	Original expected cost (£000)
Directory Services—DIUS	March 2009	80	January 2009	80
Website Re-Design—Intellectual Property Office (IPO)	December 2008	664	November 2008	664
Office/Exchange 2007—IPO	December 2008	960	December 2008	960
Register Maintenance—IPO	April 2010	1,600	January 2010	1,600
Enforcement Database Rebuild—National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)	November 2008	40.5	August 2008	40.53
Time recording system—NWML	April 2009	24.9	October 2008	24.9
Website Development—NWML	December 2008	19.9	December 2008	19.9
Intranet Development—NWML	January 2009	9.3-14.1	December 2008	[1]—

[1] Full scope and cost not yet signed off

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 503W, on departmental personnel, how many *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* priority movers there are in his Department; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [250104]

Mr. Simon: There are currently nine staff in the Department who are classed as priority movers, none of whom returned directly from maternity leave. All nine priority movers have been without a permanent post for six months and four staff for 12 months.

The Department has introduced a new brokerage service in January 2009 in support of active matching of staff into posts in the Department and wider Civil Service. All staff are engaged in project work and short-term business priority posts until a permanent position is secured.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246652]

Mr. Simon: The Advertising Standards Authority received seven complaints about seven cases between 1 January 1997-21 December 2008, and none of these were upheld.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since its inception; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246971]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department sponsors a number of advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which provide independent expert advice on a number of issues. Appointments to NDPBs are governed by the principles set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. Summary information is published in 'Public Bodies' which can be accessed online at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies

or copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Summary information on the political activity of individuals appointed to posts regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice is published each year in the Commissioner's Annual Report.

In addition, the Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248415]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 December, *Official Report*, column 1057W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248709]

Mr. Simon: Since its inception, the Department has spent a total of £566,000.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249857]

Mr. Simon: Annual performance bonuses are paid to staff in the SCS in line with central guidance from Cabinet Office. The percentage of the SCS pay bill to be spent on SCS performance bonuses is determined each year by the senior salaries review body. The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Since then 63 bonuses have been awarded for the performance year 2007-08 worth a total of £449,994.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243355]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Therefore, any details prior to this date are not available.

The information is not available in the format requested as the Department does not separately identify its suppliers as small or medium-sized businesses. The Department does not discriminate by size because many small or medium-sized businesses can be found within larger supply chains.

Until October 2008, the Department was required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30-day payment target and does not therefore currently publish information about payment within 10 days. However, following the Prime Minister's commitment of 8 October that central Government Departments will make payment within 10 days, the Department will additionally report 10-day payment performance from the period January to March 2009.

The Department does hold information on the proportions of valid invoices for all goods and services procured and paid within 30 days of receipt by the Department and its agencies in 2007-08. These are as follows:

	Percentage
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	99.4
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	97.0
UK Intellectual Property Office	98.2

Source:
Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 for each of these bodies

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department's central media and communication unit has spent on public surveys since its inception. [248026]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed in June 2007, following the machinery of government changes.

Since its inception, DIUS central communications unit is estimated to have spent £680,000 on qualitative research and omnibus or other quantitative surveys of the public. Of this total an estimated £275,000 has been spent on qualitative research (primarily campaign development) and £405,000 on quantitative or omnibus research (primarily campaign evaluation).

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247345]

Mr. Simon: Comprehensive information about 0845 and similar numbers is not readily available centrally and to respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. However, using a variety of information and data sources, I can confirm that the following numbers are in use:

Access services	*Telephone numbers*
The UK Intellectual Property Office—Staff incident number	0845 603 4599
The UK Intellectual Property Office—(Minicom)	0845 922 2250
The UK Intellectual Property Office	0845 950 0505
Biotech Support	0870 191 0111
Information Society Support	0870 191 0112
NMP Helpline	0870 191 0113
IST in Manufacturing	0870 191 0114
SME Helpline	0870 191 0115
Beta Technology (Research and Innovation Support). No longer promoted and routes to 0870 600 6080	0870 191 0116
National IST Programme Helpline. No longer promoted and routes to 0870 600 6080	0870 606 1515
FP7UK Generic Helpline	0870 600 6080
Transport (including Aeronautics) Helpline	0870 191 0117
Space Helpline	0870 191 0118
Health	0870 191 0111
Information and Communication Technologies	0870 191 0112
Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies	0870 191 0113
Regions of knowledge	0870 191 0114
SMEs	0870 191 0115
DIUS Order Line	0845 602 8032

The service for the separate numbers for specific National Contact Points within the FP7UK consortium are run not by DIUS but by external contractors managed by the Technology Strategy Board. The average number of calls to all of these helplines is 240 per month. We do not have data on revenue generated.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many graduate interns his Department currently employs. [249121]

Mr. Simon: The Department took two interns on the Summer Development Programme and one intern on the Summer Placement Scheme in 2008 through bids to Cabinet Office for their Summer Diversity Internship programmes which aim to attract high calibre people from diverse backgrounds.

The Department and Department for Children, Schools and Families have made a combined bid for 15 Summer Development Interns and 15 Summer Placement Interns for 2009.

Educational Institutions: Expenditure

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on college buildings in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [250560]

Mr. Lammy: In 1997-98, the total capital expenditure in Further Education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Library.

Further Education: Offenders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether there are any restrictions on people on the sex offenders register being able to enrol at further education and sixth form colleges; whether colleges are entitled to know if any of their students are on the sex offenders register; and whether the police are expected to inform colleges if they believe a student on the sex offenders register may pose a threat to other students, including those aged under 18 years. [250219]

Mr. Simon: There are no specific restrictions on sex offenders being able to enrol at further education or sixth form colleges. Nor is there any general entitlement for colleges or sixth form colleges to know whether any of their students are sexual offenders subject to current notification requirements or who have been subject to such requirements in the past. However, under the terms of the national multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) guidance, the police, and other MAPPA agencies, are required to consider whether to disclose information to third parties (including schools and colleges) in all MAPPA eligible cases. This includes all offenders subject to the notification requirements.

We expect in relevant cases that the police will provide information about an individual where a college needs to be aware of that individual's previous convictions if they affect the safety of other learners, young or old. The detail of that information would depend on the particular individual and the nature of the offence and would be provided following a proper assessment of risk of harm to others.

Further Education: Standards

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the projected expenditure on the further education improvement body is in each of the next five years. [247544]

Mr. Simon: In 2008-09 the combined total projected expenditure by all Government Departments on the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) is expected to be £145,285,000; in 2009-10 DIUS' contribution to LSIS' total projected expenditure is expected to be £96,470,000; and in 2010-11 total DIUS expenditure is expected to be £87,470,000. Projected expenditure beyond 2010-11 is not available.

Learning and Skills Council for England

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many capital projects were approved under the Learning and Skills Council capital project funding in *(a)* February, *(b)* March, *(c)* April, *(d)* May, *(e)* June, *(f)* July, *(g)* August, *(h)* September, *(i)* October, *(j)* November and *(k)* December 2008. [248610]

Mr. Simon: It is thanks to this Government's commitment to colleges that investment in college capital projects will amount to £2.3 billion between 2007 and 2011.

As a result of this and past spending under this Government nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed by the Learning and Skills Council.

The following table describes all capital projects approved by the Learning and Skills Council for the requested period. This includes all capital proposals approved in principle and in detail, for all proposals seeking capital support from the Further Education, Adult Safeguarded Learning, and 16-19 capital funds.

	Number of capital proposal approved (FE, Adult Safeguarded Learning, and 16-19)		
Month of approval	*In detail*	*In principle*	*In total*
February 2008	8	3	11
March 2008	14	2	16
April 2008	34	9	43
May 2008	17	4	21
June 2008	24	10	34
July 2008	27	10	37
August 2008	5	2	7
September 2008	11	5	16
October 2008	7	2	9
November 2008	7	7	14
December 2008	10	1	11
Total	—	—	219

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250142]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1434W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Details of other official vehicles used by the Department are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to provide.

Research: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to increase funding for research at new universities. [251922]

Mr. Lammy: On 22 January, the Department's grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) was published. This outlines the broad principles on which we expect HEFCE to base their funding allocations. This letter states that we expect HEFCE

> "to continue to recognise and reward the highest levels of research excellence wherever it is found."

It also made reference to the importance of both rewarding pockets of excellence, and of adequately supporting the institutions with the largest volumes of world-class research:

> "I know that you will need to maintain high levels of funding for those institutions with the largest volumes of world-class research whilst rewarding and nurturing pockets of excellence elsewhere."

Research: Leukaemia

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Medical Research Council's expenditure was on *(a)* leukaemia and *(b)* brain tumour research in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [250689]

Mr. Lammy: The Medical Research Council is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research.

The MRC is currently funding a large portfolio of site-specific and general underpinning cancer research. In 2007/08, the MRC's expenditure on cancer research amounted to £89.5 million.

The MRC's expenditure on research related to leukaemia and brain tumours in 2005/06 to 2007/08 is as follows:

	Spend		
Area	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Research related to leukaemia (£ million)	13.8	13.5	14.0
Research related to brain tumours (£)	900,000	940,000	970,000

The aforementioned brain tumour figures include core funding to the MRC Clinical Trials Unit in London for various clinical trials in brain cancer.

The MRC, Cancer Research UK, Leukaemia Research and Children with Leukaemias have each committed £100,000 per annum for three years (from 1 April 2007) to the UK Children Cancer and Leukaemia Group in Leicester. Further information can be found at:

http://www.ukccsg.org/public/about_us/introduction/activities.html

Sector Skills Councils: Qualifications

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what advice he has received from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills on the funding and management of the cross-sector standard setting bodies; [247542]

(2) what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and the UK Commission for Employment and Skills on the future of cross-sector standard setting bodies. [247543]

Mr. Simon: The UK Commission for Employment and Skills has undertaken mapping work on the coverage of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and qualifications development by Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and Standard Setting Bodies (SSBs). This recognises the need for a co-ordinated approach for national occupational standards that are commonly found across all sectors of the workforce. The UK Commission will progress arrangements for ensuring consistency across SSCs and SSBs on cross-sector standards. Proposals were put to the UK Vocational Qualification Reform Programme Board in November setting out how the UK Commission intends to ensure comprehensive occupational coverage. The proposals recognise the expertise and importance of cross-sector standard setting bodies, and are currently the subject of consultation in the Devolved Administrations. In the meantime funding and management of cross-sector standard setting bodies will continue in line with current arrangements.

Skilled Workers

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 employment sectors have the greatest acknowledged skills excess; and what the current level of unemployment in each sector is. [249097]

Mr. Simon: The National Employer Skills Survey is a key source of data for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in order to understand the skills shortages across industry sectors. These surveys are undertaken by an independent research organisation.

The following table is taken from the National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) 2007 (published May 2008) and shows the number of skills shortage vacancies (SSVs) occurring in each SSC sector, and the density of these SSVs in comparison to total vacancies and employment.

Table 3.11: Number and density of vacancies by SSC (p. 56)

	Vacancies	*SSVs (Skills shortage vacancies)*	*% of vacancies that are SSVs*	*SSVs per 1000 employees*
Unweighted base	*52,067*	*10,500*	—	—
All England	*629,675*	*130,000*	21	6
Lantra	*8,450*	*2,475*	29	8
Cogent	*6,650*	*1,400*	21	4
Proskills UK	*3,975*	*950*	24	3
Improve Ltd	*5,300*	*550*	10	2
Skillfast UK	*3,875*	*975*	25	6
Semta	*23,200*	*7,150*	31	6
Energy and Utility Skills	*6,100*	*500*	8	2

Table 3.11: Number and density of vacancies by SSC (p. 56)

	Vacancies	*SSVs (Skills shortage vacancies)*	*% of vacancies that are SSVs*	*SSVs per 1000 employees*
Construction Skills	*36,700*	*14,625*	40	14
SummitSkills	*8,075*	*2,000*	25	9
Automotive Skills	*11,200*	*2,975*	27	6
Skillsmart Retail	*52,675*	*7,250*	14	3
People 1st	*67,725*	*12,675*	19	8
Go Skills	*10,825*	*2,475*	23	6
Skills for Logistics	*11,000*	*2,075*	19	3
Financial Services Skills Council	*30,450*	*4,725*	16	5
Asset Skills	*24,725*	*5,125*	21	6
e-Skills UK	*22,650*	*6,275*	28	10
Government Skills	*9,750*	*1,475*	15	4
Skills for Justice	*3,900*	*275*	7	1
Lifelong Learning UK	*19,500*	*2,625*	13	3
Skills for Health	*30,500*	*3,850*	13	2
Skills for Care and Development	*29,800*	*4,700*	16	5
Skillset	*7,075*	*2,900*	41	23
Creative and Cultural Skills	*7,325*	*1,650*	23	8
Skills Active	*7,000*	*1,375*	20	5
Non-SSC employers	*171,275*	*36,875*	22	6

Notes:
Figures rounded to the nearest 25.
* is used where the base size was less than 25. Figures in italics denote base sizes of 25 to 49 and should be treated with caution.

It is evident from the table that there are no sectors which have an excess of skilled workers. All sectors have, to a varying degree, skills shortage vacancies.

Students: Bankruptcy

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students were declared bankrupt in each of the last 15 years; [249895]

(2) how many students have entered into individual voluntary arrangements since such agreements were introduced. [249896]

Mr. Lammy: Provisions were included in the Higher Education Act 2004 to prevent student loans from being written off on bankruptcy. The numbers of students notifying the Student Loans Company of their bankruptcy declined from 2004 after the legislation came into effect. Currently student loans are not exempt from IVAs.

Borrowers who notified the Student Loans Company of their bankruptcy or IVA while studying[1] England

Financial year	*Bankruptcy*	*IVA[2]*
1993-94	5	0
1994-95	0	0
1995-96	5	0
1996-97	0	0
1997-98	5	0
1998-99	10	0
1999-2000	15	0
2000-01	5	0
2001-02	15	0
2002-03	20	0
2003-04	70	0
2004-05[3]	60	5
2005-06[3]	30	0
2006-07[3]	15	5
2007-08[3]	15	0

[1] Publicly-owned loans. Figures rounded to nearest 5.
[2] IVA includes Trust Deed for students who moved to Scotland.
[3] Since 2004 student loans are not written-off due to bankruptcy. From that time the number of students notifying the SLC of their bankruptcy has declined.

The Government's student finance package is designed to ensure that finance should not be a barrier to a higher education course. Student loans from the Government are not like commercial loans: interest is paid at the rate of inflation, so in real terms students only pay back what they borrowed. For income contingent loans available since 1998, repayment is linked to earnings and borrowers only repay if their earnings are over £15,000 and those taking out a student loan from 2006 have their debt cancelled after 25 years.

Students: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the average childcare grant payment to students was in the most recent period for which figures are available; [250973]

(2) how much his Department allocated for childcare grant awards to students in each year since 1997; [251886]

(3) how many and what proportion of students attending *(a)* higher education institutions and *(b)* foundation education colleges were women with children under the age of three in each year since 1997; [251989]

(4) how many and what proportion of women with children under the age of three years were classified as *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students in each year since 1997; [251990]

(5) how many and what proportion of students in *(a)* higher education and *(b)* foundation education institutions received at least one childcare grant payment in each year since 1997; [251991]

(6) how much on average *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time students receiving a childcare grant received in grant payments in each year since 1997; [251992]

(7) for how many weeks a year students eligible for a childcare grant receive the grant. [251993]

Mr. Lammy: The childcare grant is available for full-time, higher education students with dependent children in registered or approved child care; it is not available to part-time students. For 2008/09, the childcare grant meets 85 per cent. of actual costs up to a maximum of £148.75 per week for one child (85 per cent. of the actual costs of up to £175 a week) or up to £255 per week for two or more children (85 per cent. of the actual costs of up to £300 a week) throughout the year.

The following table shows the number of higher education students receiving childcare grant in England in each year since 2004/05[1]; consistent information is not available before 2004/05. The table also shows the average payment and the total expenditure in each year.

[1] Student numbers are rounded to the nearest 100, average amounts are rounded to the nearest £10.

Academic year	*Students*	*Amount (£ million)*	*Average (£)*
2004/05	6,700	18.5	2,760
2005/06	7,300	22.1	3,040
2006/07	8,300	27.2	3,270
2007/08	8,900	31.2	3,[illegible]0

Students receiving childcare grant make up around 1 per cent. of higher education students applying for some form of student finance support.

While information is available on students who receive a childcare grant, information is not held centrally which identifies students with children under three, who do not apply for a childcare grant. Therefore the numbers in the table do not necessarily cover all full-time students with children under the age of three. No information is held centrally which identifies part-time students with children under the age of three.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in each subject area received funding from the Learning and Skills Council in each year since 2003-04. [247134]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of learner enrolments/starts by sector subject area which were funded by the Learning and Skills Council, from 2004/05 to 2007/08 academic year. Data cannot be provided on a comparable basis for 2003/04.

Table 1: Number of learner enrolments/starts by sector subject area which were funded by the Learning and Skills Council, 2004/05 to 2007/08

2004/05

Sector subject area	*Adult and community learning enrolments*	*Further education enrolments*	*University for industry enrolments*	*Work based learning starts*	*Train to gain starts*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	22,500	103,300	800	4,800	*
Arts, Media and Publishing	400,600	552,000	11,000	500	*
Business, Administration and Law	12,500	396,900	74,200	40,400	*
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	15,800	158,200	2,000	25,800	*
Education and Training	1,100	97,000	400	100	*
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	5,200	201,900	42,600	35,400	*
Health, Public Services and Care	63,700	1,039,100	25,400	25,700	*
History, Philosophy and Theology	*	143,800	800	*	*
Information and Communication Technology	111,800	907,600	430,900	6,100	*
Languages, Literature and Culture	117,300	410,000	27,200	*	*
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	303,200	277,800	1,200	6,800	*
Preparation for Life and Work	176,000	2,294,100	392,000	300	*
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	36,100	291,900	700	45,800	*
Science and Mathematics	4,700	345,900	800	*	*
Social Sciences	29,900	132,900	100	*	*
Not Known	1,300	649,500	300	58,100	*
Total	1,301,900	8,012,000	1,010,500	249,800	*

2005/06

Sector subject area	*Adult and community learning enrolments*	*Further education enrolments*	*University for industry enrolments*	*Work based learning starts*	*Train to gain starts*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	18,400	92,600	500	4,200	500
Arts, Media and Publishing	367,100	495,800	5,000	300	*
Business, Administration and Law	8,100	331,800	53,200	38,500	4,800
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	8,600	150,200	*	21,700	4,100
Education and Training	8,500	107,200	900	100	300
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	7,900	200,600	18,200	31,100	5,400
Health, Public Services and Care	72,800	862,200	15,700	22,700	8,000
History, Philosophy and Theology	17,800	138,400	700	*	—
Information and Communication Technology	125,900	716,300	264,000	7,500	600
Languages, Literature and Culture	99,800	353,300	12,300	*	*
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	207,800	226,700	1,100	5,900	500
Preparation for Life and Work	190,100	2,321,800	563,300	*	3,600
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	40,000	276,000	1,400	40,200	4,600
Science and Mathematics	3,700	308,100	1,000	*	*
Social Sciences	4,700	92,900	100	*	—
Not Known	1,300	596,800	*	55,800	*
Total	1,182,600	7,270,700	937,100	228,200	32,400

2006/07

Sector subject area	*Adult and community learning enrolments*	*Further education enrolments*	*University for industry enrolments*	*Work based learning starts*	*Train to gain starts*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	15,500	79,900	100	3,900	2,800
Arts, Media and Publishing	325,600	449,200	1,700	200	100
Business, Administration and Law	9,200	311,600	10,200	37,400	32,900
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	6,800	139,000	*	27,500	32,400
Education and Training	8,900	94,600	100	100	2,000
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	6,500	164,900	5,100	34,700	24,600
Health, Public Services and Care	69,900	590,700	3,800	23,700	47,000
History, Philosophy and Theology	15,500	131,800	200	*	—
Information and Communication Technology	129,100	513,600	103,700	6,400	5,900
Languages, Literature and Culture	102,600	304,500	3,100	*	*
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	166,200	212,900	200	5,600	5,000
Preparation for Life and Work	213,300	1,868,600	466,700	*	19,300
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	34,600	230,700	300	43,000	34,200
Science and Mathematics	4,600	302,600	700	*	100
Social Sciences	1,900	86,400	*	*	—
Not Known	*	564,800	29,700	53,300	*
Total	1,110,200	6,045,800	625,900	235,900	206,300

2007/08

Sector subject area	*Adult and community learning enrolments*	*Further education enrolments*	*University for industry enrolments*	*Work based learning starts*	*Train to gain starts*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	15,400	75,800	*	4,500	5,700
Arts, Media and Publishing	300,800	428,200	100	100	100
Business, Administration and Law	6,800	322,300	7,700	51,800	49,700
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	5,400	142,800	*	27,800	49,100
Education and Training	10,100	93,700	1,300	300	3,400
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	5,200	163,100	6,800	43,100	39,200
Health, Public Services and Care	74,300	535,400	3,800	31,100	73,100
History, Philosophy and Theology	14,600	106,100	100	*	—
Information and Communication Technology	127,200	402,500	44,400	8,000	8,400
Languages, Literature and Culture	100,100	276,200	900	*	*
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	137,300	219,400	200	6,300	9,400
Preparation for Life and Work	199,400	1,763,600	499,700	*	37,600
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	35,900	209,500	*	49,300	56,000
Science and Mathematics	3,800	300,200	1,100	*	100
Social Sciences	1,900	85,800	*	*	—
Not Known	*	595,700	165,100	58,200	*
Total	1,038,200	5,720,200	731,200	280,600	331,800

'*' = Indicates a figure of less than 50.

Notes:

1. Data for ACL, Further Education and UFI are based on learner enrolments. One learner may enrol on more than one course e.g. 2 A-levels and will be counted for each learning aim they are recorded on.
2. Data for Work-based learning and Train to Gain are based on learner starts, by year in which the programme of learning was started.
3. Data for Work-based learning include apprenticeships (all levels) and Entry to Employment.
4. Data do not exist on a comparable basis prior to 2004/05.
5. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
7. Train to gain was launched in April 2006, so comparable data do not exist for 2004/05.

Source:

Individualised Learner records

Vocational Training

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what studies his Department has made into giving Government funding to firms to move staff on to part-time working and to use the remaining time to retrain them. [250836]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has not conducted research specifically on the issue of Government funding to businesses to move on to part-time working and provide training part-time.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the retail prices of *(a)* oven gloves, *(b)* aprons, *(c)* teddy bears, *(d)* photo frames and *(e)* fruit drops were in the Downing Street gift shop (i) before and (ii) after the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. [249952]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 581-82W.

10 Downing Street: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 625W, on Downing Street: cost effectiveness, what Gershon savings have been made by 10 Downing Street in each year since the requirements for such savings were set. [249904]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. Details of the Cabinet Office's Gershon Efficiency Programme in relation to SR 2004 were reported in full for the final time in Cabinet Office Autumn Performance Report 2008 which is available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the internal works to No. 10 Downing Street associated with the planning application with Westminster City Council reference 08/00696/1884 have been completed; and what expenditure has been incurred on them. [250337]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent from the public purse in connection with work in 10 Downing Street associated with Westminster city council planning application reference 08/00696/1884; and on what date the work was completed. [252475]

Kevin Brennan: The work has been completed. Expenditure figures for 2008-09 will be available after the end of the financial year, once the Cabinet Office accounts have been audited and laid before Parliament.

Carers: Vocational Training

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will bring forward proposals for extended periods of work experience, training and mentoring for care leavers as part of development of policy under the New Opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future White Paper. [249543]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Our White Paper "New Opportunities: Fair chances for the Future" includes a commitment to improve the support given to care leavers. The Government will fund the National Care Advisory Service for the next two years to work with local authorities and national employers to develop and test models of support into employment. These models will be extended to half of all local authorities in 2010-11 as part of a phased national roll-out. They will include ensuring that care leavers are able to have the opportunity to benefit from apprenticeships, work experience and career mentoring to put them on the path to success.

We will also be taking steps so that from September 2009 all suitably qualified care leavers will be offered an apprenticeship place, with a view to making this a legal entitlement from 2013.

Census

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will re-assess the merits of the 100-year rule prohibiting publication of census details in the light of the early release of the 1911 census information. [249612]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question asking whether the merits of the 100 year rule will be re-assessed. I am replying in her absence. (249612)

There are no plans to change the policy of closure of census records. Censuses from 1921 onwards were taken under the authority of the Census Act 1920 and are retained in the custody of the National Statistician with the approval of the Lord Chancellor by virtue of Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act. The 1921 Census records are scheduled to be released to the public in January 2022.

We know from experience that there are public concerns about the confidentiality of the Census and the uses to which the information is put. At the time of a Census explicit assurances are given about the confidentiality of information supplied. If the period of closure for census records were changed now, we would be concerned that this would impact negatively on the public's response. Censuses are conducted for statistical purposes and the later use of them by genealogists is a secondary benefit that should never be allowed to jeopardise the coverage and quality of future Censuses.

This policy has recently been re-stated in the 2011 Census White Paper which was published on 11 December 2008.

Please note that the 1911 Census will not be fully open to the public until January 2012. On 13 January the National Archives began releasing a set of information from the 1911 Census. This does not include sensitive personal information, which is currently withheld.

Central Government: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the Office for National Statistics' Public Sector Employment figures for *(a)* Q2 2008 and *(b)* Q3 2008, what increases in the employee headcount of which Government (a) Departments and (b) agencies account for the overall increase in central Government employment; and by how much the headcount increased in each case. [249905]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, with reference to the Office for National Statistics' Public Sector Employment figures for (a) Q2 2008 and (b) Q3 2008, what increase in the employee headcount of which Government (a) departments and (b) agencies account for the overall increase in central government employment; and by how much the headcount increased in each case. (249905)

In Q2 2008, employment in central government increased by 10,000. This increase was driven by a growth in employment in the NHS (12,000 increase). In the same period, the number of employees in the Civil Service decreased by 3,000 (Annex A). A full breakdown of government department and agencies for Q2 2008 is presented in Annex B.

In Q3 2008, employment in central government increased by 15,000, primarily because of growth in employment in the NHS (21,000 increase). The number of employees in the Civil Service remained the same as the previous quarter (Annex A). A full breakdown of government departments and agencies for Q3 2008 is presented in Annex B.

Annex A: Public sector employment 2008, United Kingdom

Headcount, seasonally adjusted (Thousand)

	Central Government[1] [2, 3, 4]	*National health service[1]*	*Civil service[1]*	*Total public sector*
Q1	2,480	1,507	525	5,737
Q2	2,490	1,519	522	5,750
Q3	2,505	1,540	522	5,764

[1] NHS based on projections.

[2] National probation service (England and Wales) re-classified from local government to central Government from April 2005.

[3] Magistrates Court Service transferred from local government to central Government (and civil service) from April 2005.

[4] Central Government includes all administrative departments of government, other central agencies and non-departmental public bodies. It also includes HM forces, the national health service and education academies.

Source:

(Unpublished) Public Sector Employment.

Annex B: Change in civil service employment Q2 and Q3 2008[1], Great Britain

Headcount, not seasonally adjusted

	Change on quarter	
	Q2 2008	*Q3 2008*
Attorney-General's departments		
Crown Prosecution Service	10	100
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	0	10
Attorney-General's Office	-10	*
Serious Fraud Office	0	10
Treasury Solicitor	20	30
Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office	10	10
Cabinet Office		
Cabinet Office excluding agencies	30	-20
Other Cabinet Office agencies		
Central Office of Information	-70	20
National School of Government	10	20
Parliamentary Counsel Office	*	*
HM Treasury		
HM Treasury	-10	50
Chancellor's other departments		
Debt Management Office	0	*
Government Actuary's Department	*	*
National Savings and Investments	0	10
Office of Government Commerce	*	*
OGC Buying Solutions	0	*
Office for National Statistics[2]	-3,350	—
Royal Mint	50	0
UK Statistics Authority		
UK Statistics Authority[2, 3, 4]	3,850	-30
Charity Commission		
Charity Commission	-10	*
Communities and Local Government		
Department for Communities and Local Government	-40	-60
Fire Service College	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	20
Planning Inspectorate	*	20
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0	*
Culture, Media and Sport		
Department for Culture Media and Sport	10	-20
Royal Parks	*	0
Defence		
Ministry of Defence	700	-550
Defence Support Group	-30	180
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	30	30
Meteorological Office	30	30
UK Hydrographic Office	-10	-10
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills		
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	30	-60
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	0	*
UK Intellectual Property Office	-20	10
Department for Children, Schools and Families		
Department for Children, Schools and Families	-120	*
Ofsted		
Ofsted	-60	120
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs		
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	-20	20
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	20	10
Central Science Laboratory	40	-40
Government Decontamination Services	0	0
Marine Fisheries Agency	0	10
Ofwat	10	0
Pesticides Safety Directorate[5]	-180	—
Rural Payments Agency	-70	60
State Veterinary Service	-10	*
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	-40	0
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	*	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department		
Export Credit Guarantee Department	0	-10
Foreign and Commonwealth Office		
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excluding agencies)	-20	-10
Wilton Park Executive Agency	*	0

Annex B: Change in civil service employment Q2 and Q3 2008[1], Great Britain

	Headcount, not seasonally adjusted	
	Change on quarter	
	Q2 2008	*Q3 2008*
Health		
Department of Health (excluding agencies)	•	-10
Food Standards Agency	-10	0
Meat Hygiene Service	-90	-50
Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	10	•
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies	•	0
NHS Business Services Authority	-10	0
HM Revenue and Customs		
HM Revenue and Customs	-1,350	-1,380
Valuation Office	-180	-40
Home Office		
Home Office (excluding agencies)	-150	-50
Assets Recovery Agency[6]	-180	-
Criminal Records Bureau	0	-60
Identity and Passport Service[5]	680	-60
UK Border Agency	-240	•
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism	30	-40
International Development		
Department for International Development	-10	-10
Justice		
Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	-60	-260
HM Courts Service	270	30
Land Registry	-10	-30
National Archives	20	-10
Public Guardianship Office	-10	20
Tribunals Service	-80	40
Scotland Office	•	0
Wales Office	0	0
Public Sector Prison Service	110	270
Northern Ireland Office		
Northern Ireland Office	0	0
Security and Intelligence Services		
Security and Intelligence Services	50	150
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform		
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	40	60
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	0	30
Companies House	30	-10
Insolvency Service	30	-40
Office of Fair Trading	-20	10
Office of Gas and Electricity Market	-20	20
Postal Services Commission	10	-10
Transport		
Department for Transport	40	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	270	-70
Driving Standards Agency	40	10
Government Car and Despatch Agency	•	10
Highways Agency	30	-20
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	-30	-60
Office of Rail Regulation	-10	-10
Vehicle Certification Agency	•	•
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	40	50
Work and Pensions		
DWP Corporate and Shared Services	90	1,130
Child Support Agency	10	-170
Job Centre Plus	80	450
Disability and Carers[7]	-6,270	—
Pensions and Disability Carers Service[7]	6,340	-580
Health and Safety Executive	180	-50
Rent Service	0	-70
Scottish Government		
Scottish Government (excluding agencies)[8]	400	40
Communities Scotland[8]	-350	—
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	30	50
Courts Group	•	•
Fisheries Research Services	10	0
General Register Scotland	10	10
HM Inspectorate of Education	10	0
Historic Scotland	80	-110
National Archive for Scotland	10	-10
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy	10	10
Registers of Scotland	50	0
Scottish Agricultural Scientific Agency[8]	-130	—
Scottish Buildings Standards Agency[8]	-30	—
Scottish Court Service	50	10
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	0	•
Scottish Prison Service Headquarters	-20	0
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	10	•
Social Work Inspection Agency	0	0
Student Awards Agency	20	-10
Transport Scotland	20	20
Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator	•	0
Mental Health Tribunal Scotland	0	•
Scottish Housing Regulator[8]	60	0
Welsh Assembly		
Welsh Assembly Government	-80	0
ESTYN	0	•

Annex B: Change in civil service employment Q2 and Q3 2008[1], Great Britain

Headcount, not seasonally adjusted

	Change on quarter	
	Q2 2008	*Q3 2008*
Total employment	-800	-700

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by "*". Data not available is represented by "—".
[2] The UK Statistics Authority (the Authority) was established on 1 April 2008, when the 'Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007' came into effect. One of the functions of the Authority is to oversee the Office for National Statistics (ONS)—its Executive office. As such, one departmental return has been made for the Authority incorporating ONS.
[3] On 1 April 2008, employees of the General Register Office were transferred from the UK Statistics Authority to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS).
[4] As of 1 April 2008, field interviewers are now classified as civil servants and are included as UK Statistics Authority employees.
[5] On 1 April, the Pesticides Safety Directorate became an Executive agency of the Health and Safety Executive.
[6] As of 1 April 2008, the Assets Recovery Agency merged with the UK's Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).
[7] The Disability and Carers Service and the Pension Service are now called the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.
[8] Communities Scotland, Scottish Agricultural Science Agency and Scottish Building Standards Agency were abolished on 1 April 2008. Staff moved into the Scottish Government.
[9] Scottish Housing Regulator was set-up on 1 April 2008.

Charities

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many charities were removed from the Register of Charities, broken down by reason for removal, in the last three years for which figures are available. [249554]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 21 January 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the number of charities removed from the Register of Charities in the last three years for which figures are available and to give the reasons for such removals.

The table below provides details of the charities removed from the Register of Charities in the last three financial years.

Reason for removal	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Ceased to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds	1,592	1,725	1,436	4,753
Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons	3,344	2,691	3,270	9,305
Voluntary removal of charities below the minimum registration threshold	28	8	245	281
Duplicate registrations and other corrections	174	152	122	448
Total	5,138	4,576	5,073	14,787

During the current financial year the Commission has introduced new measures to identify charities that have ceased to operate and where appropriate remove them from the Register. This is expected to result in an increase in the number of charities removed from the Register in the current year and several thereafter.

Children: Disadvantaged

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of working age households had no one in work in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [249371]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question how many and what percentage of working age households had no one in work in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. (249371)

The available information is provided in the attached table. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

The information requested has been answered using annual estimates derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset, which are only available from 2004. Estimates before 2004 are derived from the Labour Force Survey and are of insufficient quality for answering this question due to the detail requested. It is vital to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

Estimates that are deemed unreliable for practical purposes are presented in italics. These estimates are based on small sample sizes and are subject to large variability. Estimates that are reliable are shaded.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Cabinet Office's definition of avoidable contact as referred to in its Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 4 (Key Progress Measure 1) is; and whether the Cabinet Office has sole responsibility for delivery against the targets associated with DSO 4. [249967]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office defines avoidable contact as

> "contact that adds no value to the outcome. It includes contact that is nugatory, duplicative or caused by failures in business processes".

This is the definition as set out in the 2007 Service Transformation Agreement Progress Measure 1.

The targets associated with DS04 were derived from the two progress measures set out in the 2007 Service Transformation Agreement. These relate to avoidable contact reduction and rationalisation of Government websites. Responsibility for delivering these targets lies with the Departments responsible for delivering the relevant services. Responsibility for tracking progress, encouraging changes that will enable these targets to be met and fostering sharing of best practice lies with the Cabinet Office.

Futurebuilders Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 835W, on Futurebuilders: Catz Club, which body scrutinises and evaluates the activities of the Futurebuilders Fund in place of the Futurebuilders Advisory Panel. [249968]

Kevin Brennan: The Futurebuilders programme is delivered by Futurebuilders England Ltd. under contract to the Cabinet Office. Oversight is provided by the following mechanisms:

internal and external audit, as part of the Cabinet Office, including the Cabinet Office Audit and Risk Committee

through reporting to Cabinet Committees, where appropriate.

Sheffield Hallam university is carrying out an independent evaluation of the Futurebuilders programme.

In addition, the new Third Sector Advisory Body is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Third Sector Review commitments and priorities and advising on Office of the Third Sector programmes, including Futurebuilders.

Government Departments: Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many joint avoidable contact workshops were held in November and December 2008; and which Government Departments were represented at such workshops. [249962]

Mr. Watson: Four avoidable contact workshops were held in November and December 2008—two for local government on 11 November and 25 November, and two for central Government Departments on 26 November and 8 December. The following Departments and agencies attended the central Government workshops:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Transport (DfT), the Department of Health (DH), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), NHS Direct, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), the National Archives, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS), UK Borders Agency (UKBA) and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

Income: Families

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of families in England have a gross income of less than £58,000 per year. [247547]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

24.2 million families, 91 per cent. of all families, have a gross income of less than £58,000 per year.

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households.

2. Data for 2006-07 were collected between April 2006 and March 2007.

3. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

4. Weekly income is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to misreporting.

5. Income data on the Family Resource Survey are not equivalised. Equivalisation is the process in which household income is adjusted to account for variation in household size and composition.

6. Family has been interpreted to mean benefit unit, which is defined as a single adult or a couple living as married and any dependent children. Same-sex partners (and cohabitees) are also included in the same benefit unit.

7. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, 2006-07

Lobbying

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to respond to the First Report from the Public Administration Committee on Lobbying: access and influence at Westminster (HC 36-I). [249965]

Kevin Brennan: The Report from the Public Administration Select Committee was published on 5 January. The Government aim to respond within two months of publication.

Lone Parents: Income

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the average wage of working lone parents *(a)* in England, *(b)* in Wales, *(c)* in Scotland, *(d)* in Northern Ireland and *(e)* nationwide in each of the last 10 years. [249194]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the average wage of working lone parents (a) in England, (b) in Wales, (c) in Scotland, (d) in Northern Ireland and (e) nationwide in each of the last 10 years. (249194)

The information requested is not available. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principal source of statistics on employees' earnings but the survey does not collect details of employees' family circumstances. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects information about each member of participating households and can therefore be used to estimate how many lone parents there are in work. However, the LFS cannot be used to estimate their average earnings.

Office of the Third Sector: Consultants

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which external consultants the Office of the Third Sector hired in 2007-08. [250322]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has engaged outside consultants for specialist recruitment exercises for senior public appointments, for procurement exercises and for the development and/or review of data sources, policies and programmes. The following external consultants were used during 2007-08:

Hedra;

Odgers Ray and Berndtson Ltd.;

ECOTEC Research and Consulting;

Community Development Foundation;

Tribal Consulting;

Get 2 the Point;

Professor Steve Wilcox;

CL Ideas;

Third Sector Prospect;

St. Chad's College;

BMG Research; and

Clive Jones.

Pay: Private Sector

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the median wage of a full-time *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector worker was in each year since 1996-97. [249955]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the median wage of a full-time *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector worker was in each year since 1996-97. (249955)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

The attached table shows the Median Gross Weekly Earnings for United Kingdom full time employees by private and public sector from 1997 to 2008. Results prior to 1997 are not available for the United Kingdom.

Median weekly pay - Gross (£) - For full-time employee jobs[1]: United Kingdom

	Private sector	Public sector
1997	309	349
1998	322	358
1999	335	375
2000	345	384
2001	365	402
2002	381	418
2003	392	431
2004[2]	400	452
2004[3]	403	455
2005	411	475
2006[4]	429	486
2006[5]	436	493
2007	459	501
2008	480	522

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[3] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk
[4] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005
[5] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2007
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Unemployment: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were unemployed in South East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last 12 months. [250241]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were unemployed in South East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last 12 months. (250241)

Estimates are not available at this level of geographical detail due to the small sample sizes.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many apprenticeships there were in each of the last five years. [247479]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts and completions in England for 2003/04 to 2007/08.

Apprenticeship starts and completions in England, 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Starts	156,000	189,000	175,000	184,000	225,000
Completions	49,000	67,000	99,000	112,000	113,000

Source:
Work Based Learning ILRs.

Castle View Secondary School: Playing Fields

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Essex county council and *(b)* Castle Point borough council on the disposal of Castle View secondary school playing fields for housing development; and if he will make a statement. [249779]

Jim Knight: As part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and its delivery agents—Partnerships for Schools (PfS), have not engaged in any discussions with Essex county council or Castle Point borough council regarding the disposal of Castle View secondary school playing fields for housing development.

Child Minding: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the minimum age at which a child may be left alone is; [247822]

(2) what the legal minimum age is for a child to act as a babysitter. [249163]

Beverley Hughes: The minimum age at which a child may be left alone is not prescribed in law. If anyone has concerns about the welfare of a child who is left alone, irrespective of their age, they should follow the procedures set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" for making a referral to either the local authority children's social care services or the police. These statutory agencies will then follow their normal processes for assessing whether the child is a child in need or at risk of suffering harm and for deciding what action should be taken to safeguard the child's welfare.

The law does not prescribe a minimum age below which a child may not act as a babysitter.

Children in Care: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made towards meeting its 2004 public service agreement target to narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked-after children and their peers. [247365]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on progress on 2004 public service agreements can be found in the DCSF's Autumn Performance Report 2008: progress against public service agreements. This document is published on the DCSF website.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/#apr.

Children: Abuse

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were abused whilst subject to a child protection plan in each of the last five years in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [248827]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The available figures cover children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan and include information on category of abuse which led to the plan being put in place and re-referrals. These are available in the annual statistical first release "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England". The latest figures can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

Children: Poverty

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the Government's policy is on tackling non-financial aspects of child poverty; and if he will make a statement. [250430]

Beverley Hughes: Polices on early years, education, health and communities set out in our "Children's Plan" together with those in our "New Opportunities" White Paper will help to break the cycles of inter-generational poverty for the future while ensuring that all children get the best start in life now.

For those who can, work remains the surest and most sustainable route out of poverty. Our policies on welfare reform, childcare, back to work help, skills development and in-work support will further increase parental employment and family income.

Legislation, planned for this Session, will ensure all levels of Government play their part in delivering these policies and meeting our target to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Children: Protection

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation in each children's services area in the last year for which figures are available. [250603]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not hold this information.

Children's Centres

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres are in operation. [251120]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently 2,920 Sure Start children's centres in England providing access to services to over 2.3 million children and their families.

By 2010 there will be at least 3,500 centres, one for every community, offering permanent and universal provision to help ensure that every child gets the best start in life.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in each year since the Department's inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper in that time; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248012]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007.

Information since this time on the amount of expenditure broken down into *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings; wallpaper and plans for further spending on departmental decoration could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department since it was established; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier. [248779]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold this information as we do not contract directly with suppliers of food and drink. The Department's catering and hospitality service is provided through an external commercial contract catering provider who manage their own supply chain for food and drink suppliers and are only able to provide this information at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on press officers in each of the last 10 years. [247308]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The figures requested are outlined in the following table.

	Spend (£000)
1998-99	869
1999-2000	887
2000-01	1307

	Spend (£000)
2001-02	1097
2002-03	1314
2003-04	1352
2004-05	1200
2005-06	994
2006-07	1156
2007-08	1173

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246661]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department sponsors a number of advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which provide independent expert advice on a number of issues. Appointments to NDPBs are governed by the principles set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. Summary information is published in 'Public Bodies' which can be accessed online at

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies

or copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Summary information on the political activity of individuals appointed to posts regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice is published each year in the Commissioner's annual report.

In addition, the Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248404]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 December, *Official Report*, column 1115W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes since its inception. [248718]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its inception, the Department has spent a total of £2.1 million which includes bonus payments and other rewards.

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 405W, on departmental manpower, how many priority movers there are in his Department; how many of them were classified as such after returning from maternity leave; and how many staff have been classified as such for at least *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [250191]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department currently has eight priority movers, none of whom are returning from maternity leave as these staff return to their previous work areas.

All staff are actively engaged in work during this transition period, on either key projects or short-term business priority posts.

There are currently no priority movers over six months.

Departmental Responsibilities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department's three-year skills strategy has been finalised. [247190]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's Skills Strategy for its staff has been finalised and will be communicated to staff in early 2009 as part of a wider People Strategy.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions his Department's *(a)* External Scrutiny Group, *(b)* Implementation Review Unit, *(c)* Primary Heads Reference Group and *(d)* Secondary Heads Reference Group met in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [247275]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(a) The External Scrutiny Group met on 11 occasions in 2007, and on 12 occasions in 2008.

(b) The Implementation Review Unit met on seven occasions in 2007, and on nine occasions in 2008.

(c) The Secondary Heads Reference Group met on three occasions in 2007, and on six occasions in 2008.

(d) The Primary Heads Reference Group met on three occasions in 2007, and on three occasions in 2008.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 22 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 10W, on education maintenance allowance, what meetings he has had with the Learning and Skills Council to monitor the administration of education maintenance allowance payments. [248570]

Jim Knight: During October and November 2008, DCSF Ministers met with the Learning and Skills Council on nine occasions specifically to discuss the administration of EMA payments.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applicants for education maintenance allowance for 2008-09 are due outstanding payments; and what estimate he has made of the sum of such arrears. [250777]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claimed education maintenance allowance in each parliamentary constituency in the South West in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [250776]

Jim Knight: Eligibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is based on household income. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not hold information on the household income of all households with a 16 to 19-year-old who participate in a course that meets the EMA valid provision criteria. Therefore it is not possible to calculate the precise number of young people who were eligible for EMA.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) operate EMA on behalf of DCSF. Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested on how many young people claimed education maintenance allowance in each parliamentary constituency in the South West in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. A copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what qualifications are considered equivalent to *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level by his Department. [240619]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All level 2 qualifications approved under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000) contribute towards the reported performance at key stage 4.

Similarly, all level 3 qualifications approved under the Act contribute to reported performance at post-16.

An exhaustive list of equivalent qualifications and the size of their contributions can be found at QCA's National Database of Accredited Qualifications website:

http://www.ndaq.org.uk

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each local authority area (i) were entitled to free school meals in (A) 2006, (B) 2007 and (C) 2008 and (ii) are so entitled in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [249889]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number and percentage of children nationally and in each local authority area that were entitled to free school meals are shown in the following Statistical First Releases. Figures for 2009 are not yet available:

Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional) (Figures for nursery and primary schools are available in table 16 and table 17 for secondary schools):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/SFR_09_2008_LA_Tables.xls

Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2007 (Provisional) (Figures for nursery and primary schools are available in table 16 and table 17 for secondary schools):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000726/AdditionalTables1.xls

Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2006 (Provisional) (Figures for nursery and primary schools are available in table 2(a) and table 2(b) for secondary schools):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000654/Addition1.xls

Free School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children accessing Sure Start are eligible for free school meals. [249103]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Further Education: Buildings

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on college buildings *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [249561]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

As the following table shows, in 1997-98 the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested a massive £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Library.

Capital funding in FE (including ILT): 1997-98 to 2007-2008

	FE capital funding (£ million)[1]
1997-1998	Nil
1998-1999	Nil
1999-2000	40

Capital funding in FE (including ILT): 1997-98 to 2007-2008

	FE capital funding (£ million)[1]
2000-01	55
2001-02	147
2002-03	233
2003-04	299
2004-05	372
2005-06	377
2006-07	412
2007-08	507
Total FE capital	2,442

[1] FE Capital funding including Information and Learning Technology

GCSE

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the GCSE and equivalent results were for pupils attending *(a)* maintained and *(b)* all schools at the end of key stage 4 in each local authority in each of the last five years. [248864]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The GCSE and equivalent results for pupils attending maintained schools at the end of key stage 4 in each local authority area are shown in the following Statistical First Releases. Figures for part *(b)* are not published.

GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml (table 18).

GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml (table 18).

GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2005/06 (Revised):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml (table 18).

GCSE and Equivalent Results and Associated Value Added Measures in England 2004/05 (Revised):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000631/index.shtml (table 29c).

GCSE and Equivalent Results and Associated Value Added Measures for Young People in England 2003/04 (Revised):

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000549/index.shtml (table A-C).

Note that figures for 2003/04 are for 15-year-old candidates as figures for pupils at the end of key stage 4 are not published.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [251084]

Jim Knight: The proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more GCSEs and equivalents at grades A* to C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language was 24.1 per cent. in 2007 and 23.7 per cent. in 2008.

GCSE and A-level: Foreign Languages

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many candidates sat modern languages examinations at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level in each of the last five years, broken down by language studied. [250803]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be found in the following tables. The latest GCSE figures are taken from the Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised)" and can be found in table 10 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml.

GCSE attempts and achievements in selected subjects of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in schools (number). Coverage: England

Thousand

	French	*German*	*Spanish*	*Italian*	*Other foreign languages*[2]
2004[1]	289.8	116.3	53.5	n/a	21.9
2005	244.9	99.2	52.2	3.1	18.3
2006	209.8	84.8	52.1	3.1	18.2
2007	189.7	75.8	53.8	3.2	18.5
2008	176.4	71.1	57.0	3.5	19.1

n/a = Not available

[1] The 2004 figure includes Italian.

[2] Number of GCSE entries by pupils aged 15.

The A-level figures are taken from the Statistical First Release "GCE/VCE/Applied A/AS and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised)" and can be found in table 11 at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000827/index.shtml.

Number of A-level entries 2004-08

Thousand

	French	*German*	*Spanish*	*Other foreign languages*
2004	12.5	5.6	4.7	4.3
2005	12.0	5.2	4.9	4.5
2006	12.2	5.5	5.2	5.1
2007	12.2	5.6	5.5	5.1
2008	12.6	5.6	5.7	5.5

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what foreign languages are offered for study at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level. [250804]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following modern languages are offered both at GCSE and A-Level: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Modern Greek, Bengali, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Dutch, Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese, Turkish, French, German, Spanish, Irish, Italian, Urdu, Russian. Latin and Ancient Greek are also offered at GCSE and A-Level.

GCSE: Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of young people in year 11 who had spent at least one year in care gained five or more GCSEs graded A* to C in the most recent year for which figures are available. [251782]

Jim Knight: The information requested shows that in 2007 (the most recent year) that 12.6 per cent. of young people in year 11 who had spent at least one year in care gained five or more GCSEs graded A* to C.

This can be found in Table C in the Statistical First Release 'Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000795/index.shtml

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible for free school meals who took GCSEs were not entered for mathematics GCSE in 2008; [251988]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible for free school meals achieved a pass at mathematics GCSE in 2008, broken down by grade. [252074]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008, of all pupils in maintained schools who were at the end of their key stage 4 studies, 22,123 (3.7 per cent.) had not been entered for mathematics at GCSE. For pupils eligible for free school meals, 6,324 (8.5 per cent.) had not been entered for mathematics at GCSE.

In 2008, of all pupils in maintained schools who were at the end of their key stage 4 studies, the numbers and percentages achieving a pass in GCSE mathematics by grade for all pupils, and pupils with FSM, is given in the following table:

	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*U*
Numbers									
FSM pupils	719	2,593	6,401	14,286	12,580	11,570	10,433	6,209	3,560
All pupils	36,152	58,751	99,293	150,474	95,547	65,000	49,251	22,241	11,017
Percentage									
FSM pupils	1	3	9	19	17	16	14	8	5
All pupils	6	10	17	25	16	11	8	4	2

Note:
Figures relate to pupils at the end of KS4 in maintained schools only.

Gifted Children: Primary Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided for the Young, Gifted and Talented programme in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [247403]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no separate budget for schools to spend on their gifted and talented learners but the Department identified some £1 billion, last financial year and this (i.e. 2007-09), to support personalised education for all pupils, including tailored support for gifted and talented learners.

The CfBT Education Trust is the Department's national managing contractor for the Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy. The National Strategies also support gifted and talented education as part of their work contracts. The value of these contracts is commercial in confidence.

The Department has historically spent between £10-20 million annually on such central support for delivering gifted and talented education.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the steps taken under the Young, Gifted and Talented programme to target those schools which in 2007 did not identify any gifted or talented pupils. [247404]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The January 2008 school census shows that 94.4 per cent. of all secondary schools and 76.3 per cent. of primary schools were identifying some 780,250 gifted and talented learners. This represents annual increases of 4.1 per cent. and 15.2 per cent. respectively in the proportion of secondary and primary schools identifying learners and an overall increase of over 81,000 in the numbers of learners identified as gifted and talented. The provisional figures from the summer 2008 census show further increases in the proportion of secondary and primary schools identifying and a total figure of 802,170 of gifted and talented learners. This represents solid progress towards our target of 100 per cent. of schools and colleges identifying up to one million gifted and talented learners by 2010.

Languages: Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether children are able to meet the assessment areas in the early years foundation stage in a language other than English. [251334]

Beverley Hughes: The early years foundation stage profile sums up and describes each child's development and learning achievements at the end of the early years foundation stage. It is based on ongoing observation and assessment in six areas of learning.

Personal, social and emotional development
Communications, language and literacy
Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
Knowledge and understanding of the world
Physical development
Creative development

All of the assessment scales in each area of learning can be assessed in the home language, for those learning English as an additional language. However, scale points 4-9 of the communication, language and literacy scales should be assessed in English.

Mathematics: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of mathematics teachers in primary schools have qualified teacher status in mathematics. [251047]

Jim Knight: The information required is not available in the format requested.

Teachers in primary schools are qualified to teach all subjects of the national curriculum including mathematics.

National Curriculum Tests: Contracts

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 848W, on national curriculum tests: contracts, on what date each risk assessment referred to in the answer was reported to Ministers. [251050]

Jim Knight: As a matter of course, officials regularly provided Ministers with briefing and updates on test cycle progress, covering current issues, risks and remedial action taken. Officials reported their assessment of key risks to National Curriculum test delivery to Ministers in submissions on 7 February 2008, 2 April 2008 and 10 June 2008. Ministers responded to these assessments by seeking reassurance from QCA and NAA that they had suitable action in hand to secure delivery of their contractors' obligations.

Play

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance his Department has issued to early years settings on children learning through free play. [250968]

Beverley Hughes: The early years foundation stage is based on facilitating development and learning through play. Alongside the "Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage" published in March 2007, we issued a package of materials comprising "Practice Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage". This guidance contains advice and additional information for practitioners on how to implement the learning and development requirements of the early years foundation stage through play. The guidance includes a CD-ROM which directs providers to a range of additional information and provides examples of effective practice.

The National Strategies have also published a range of additional guidance on the areas of learning within the EYFS which must be delivered through planned and purposeful play.

Play: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Government have released to local authorities within the Tyne and Wear area for the maintenance of existing children's play areas and the establishment of new ones in the last 12 months. [241098]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our public consultations have shown a consistent and strong demand from children and families for better outdoor play spaces near to where they live. In the Children's Plan we committed to invest an additional £235 million to fund up to 3,500 new and refurbished public play areas nationally, to transform local provision.

As part of this programme of investment from 2008-09 to 2010-11, all local authorities will be designated as play Pathfinders or Playbuilders. On average all play Pathfinder authorities will receive £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding over the course of the programme and Playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding. Play Pathfinder authorities will develop a minimum of 28 play areas and a new staffed adventure playground, while Playbuilder authorities will develop a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. This includes both new play areas and significant refurbishment of existing play areas.

There are currently two play Pathfinder authorities (North Tyneside and Sunderland) and two Playbuilder authorities (Gateshead and Newcastle) in the Tyne and Wear area. The following tables show the capital and revenue funding allocations each of these four authorities will receive for 2008-09.

As part of the launch of the Play Strategy on 10 August we announced the next wave of our capital programme roll-out. For the Tyne and Wear area this means that from April 2009 one of the existing Playbuilders, Newcastle, will become a play Pathfinder and the fifth authority in the area not currently receiving funding, South Tyneside, will become a Playbuilder.

Pathfinders

		£
	2008-09	
Local authority	*Capital funding*	*Revenue funding*
North Tyneside	588,223	136,839
Sunderland	596,450	138,839

Playbuilders

		£
	2008-09	
	Capital Funding	*Revenue Funding*
Newcastle Upon Tyne	307,407	12,730
Gateshead	300,619	12,553

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children aged *(a)* below one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four were in the care of a (i) maintained nursery, (ii) Sure Start children's centre, (iii) private, voluntary or independent nursery and (iv) childminder in each of the last four quarters. [251039]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ages of children in child care and early years providers in England in the form given in tables 1 and 2. The survey does not collect data quarterly, therefore annual figures have been provided.

Table 1: Age breakdown for number of children attending child care and early years providers: 2007

Type of provider	Under 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Full day care	167,900	203,100	249,700	144,400
Full day care in children's centres	14,300	18,800	19,700	11,000
Sessional care	5,200	63,500	158,600	93,700
After school	2,800	4,100	11,300	32,000
Holiday clubs	4,200	5,800	10,600	19,200
Childminder	53,300	39,700	33,600	26,500
Nursery schools[1]	—	—	17,600	20,600
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes[1]	—	—	119,200	214,000
Primary schools with reception but no nursery[1]	—	—	—	83,800

[1] These providers were only asked for the number of children in the age groups where figures are presented.

Notes:

1. Children may attend more than one provider and therefore may be included in the figures for more than one of the provider types in the table.
2. Sessional care: defined as "facilities where children under eight attend day care for no more than five sessions a week, each session being less than a continuous period of four hours in any day. Where two sessions are offered in any one day, there is a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider."

Table 2: Proportion of children in England attending child care and early years providers by age group: 2007

Percentage

Type of provider	Under 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Full day care	13	34	42	25
Full day care in children's centres	1	3	3	2
Sessional care	0	10	27	16
After school	0	1	2	6
Holiday clubs	0	1	2	3
Childminder	4	7	6	5
Nursery schools	—	—	3	4
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	—	—	20	37
Primary schools with reception but no nursery	—	—	—	15

Notes:

1. These providers were only asked to provide data on the age groups where proportions are presented.
2. Children may attend more than one provider and therefore will be included in the proportions for more than one of the provider types in the table. For this reason some columns total more than 100 per cent.
3. Sessional care: defined as "facilities where children under eight attend day care for no more than five sessions a week, each session being less than a continuous period of four hours in any day. Where two sessions are offered in any one day, there is a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider."

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children aged *(a)* below one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four attended a formal childcare setting in each of the last four quarters. [251040]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents collects information on the types of childcare used by families. Table 1 as following shows the figures from the 2007 Parents Childcare Survey on use of formal childcare by the age of the child.

Table 1: Use of formal childcare in the last week, by age of child

Age of child	Percentage
0-2	38
3-4	85
5-7	34
8-11	22
12-14	7

The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents is a sample survey therefore absolute numbers of children cannot be provided.

Quarterly figures are not available.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1498W, on pre-school education: finance, when he expects the child care strategy to be published. [251231]

Beverley Hughes: The child care strategy document will be published on 28 January 2009.

Pre-school Education: Inspections

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has been informed of any complaints made to Ofsted of alleged maladministration by Ofsted relating to inspections of nursery schools in Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency. [250684]

Beverley Hughes: We have not been informed of any such complaints made to Ofsted. As an independent non-ministerial Government department, Ofsted has its own internal complaints procedure. There is also an independent complaints adjudicator for Ofsted which handles around 30 complaints a year. These are cases which have exhausted the internal complaints process and where the complainant remains dissatisfied. The complaints adjudicator publishes an annual report which is presented to Ministers; this does not provide details of individual cases. The latest report can be found at

http://www.ofstedadjudicator.co.uk/pages/publications/2007_ara.pdf.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils temporarily excluded from school in the last 12 months were placed on a part-time curriculum; and how long on average the period of part-time attendance was; [248599]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils excluded temporarily from school received assessment and support from their local authority's educational psychology service in the last 12 months; [248600]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils temporarily excluded from school were subsequently assessed by an educational psychiatrist who advised the school on how to support their needs in the last 12 months. [248601]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals were permanently excluded in the last year for which data are available. [251295]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is provided in the table. The figures in the table provide the number of exclusions and not the number of pupils excluded.

In a small number of cases, individual pupils might have more than one permanent exclusion.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1 2 3]: number of permanent exclusions by free school meal eligibility—England 2006/07 (estimates)[4]

	Maintained primary schools		*State funded secondary Schools[2]*		*Special schools*		*Total*	
	No. of exclusions	*Percentage of school population[5]*	*No. of exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[5]*	*No. of exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[5]*	*No. of exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[5]*
Permanent exclusions								
Pupils eligible for free school meals	450	0.07	2,710	0.61	50	0.16	3,210	0.28
Other pupils	470	0.01	4,750	0.17	110	0.17	5,330	0.08
All pupils[6]	980	0.02	7,520	0.23	180	0.20	8,680	0.12

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes both CTCs and Academies. Information is as reported by schools. See Notes to Editors 5.

[3] Includes both maintained special and non-maintained special schools.

[4] Permanent exclusion figures are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data. See Notes to Editors 4.

[5] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.

[6] Totals include 145 permanent exclusions with unclassified free school meal eligibility.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Bath

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided *(a)* per primary school pupil and *(b)* per secondary school pupil in Bath and North East Somerset in 2007-08. [251844]

Jim Knight: The per pupil revenue funding figures for Bath and North East Somerset for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are shown in the following table. Since 2006-07 the dedicated schools grant (DSG) is the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding and is distributed from central to local government, a primary/secondary split is not available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are provided in cash terms:

	DSG + grants per pupil—Bath and North East Somerset
	£
2007-08	4,270
2008-09	4,430

Notes:

1. Price Base: Cash.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

Schools: Construction

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools constructed under the Building Schools for the Future programme have opened; and which opened *(a)* on time and *(b)* on budget. [251089]

Jim Knight: 50 new schools have opened under the Building Schools for the Future programme to date, including eight in January 2009. The following table illustrates the delivery record for each school against the baseline targets for school openings that were agreed once the programme had started. All projects have been completed within budget.

Local authority	*School*	*Opened*	*Expected opening date after programme launch*	*Completed on time*	*Completed on budget*
Bradford	Titus Salt School	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes
Bradford	Tong High School	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes
Bradford	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes

Local authority	School	Opened	Expected opening date after programme launch	Completed on time	Completed on budget
Bristol	Bristol Metropolitan College	April 2008	April 2008	Yes	Yes
Bristol	Brislington Enterprise College	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Bristol	The Bridge Learning Campus	January 2009	April 2008	No	Yes
Bristol	Bristol Brunel Academy	September 2007	September 2007	Yes	Yes
Haringey	Haringey Sixth Form Centre (Early Win)	September 2007	September 2007	Yes	Yes
Kent	Ifield School (Early Win)	March 2008	March 2008	Yes	Yes
Knowsley	Christ the King Catholic and Church of England Centre for Learning	January 2009	September 2008	No	Yes
Lambeth	Elmgreen School (temporary accommodation)	September 2007	September 2007	Yes	Yes
Lambeth	The Michael Tippett School	February 2008	February 2008	Yes	Yes
Lambeth	Park Campus	November 2008	November 2008	Yes	Yes
Lancashire	Burnley Campus (Thomas Whitham Sixth Form)	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Lancashire	Pendle Vale College (Pendle Vale Campus)	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Lancashire	Pendle Community High School (Pendle Vale Campus)	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Lancashire	Shuttleworth College	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Leeds	Cockburn College of Arts	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Leeds	Allerton High School	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Leeds	Pudsey Grangefield School	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Leeds	Rodillian School	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Leeds	Temple Moor High School	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Leicester	Fullhurst Community College	January 2009	September 2008	No	Yes
Lewisham	Sedgehill	January 2009	January 2008	No	Yes
Manchester	Newall Green High School	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes
Manchester	Gorton Education Village (Cedar Mount High School)	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes
Manchester	St. Paul's	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes
Manchester	St. Matthews RC High School	January 2009	January 2008	No	Yes
Manchester	Gorton Education Village (Melland High School)	September 2008	September 2007	No	Yes
Newcastle	Benfield School (phase 1 of refurb)	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Newcastle	Walbottle Campus Technology College	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Newcastle	Walkergate Primary School	September 2008	n/a	n/a[1]	n/a[1]
Newcastle	Stocksfield Avenue Primary School	September 2008	n/a	n/a[1]	n/a[1]
Newcastle	Kenton School	November 2008	November 2008	Yes	Yes
Newcastle	All Saints College (Early Win)	September 2006	September 2006	Yes	Yes
Sheffield	Chaucer Business and Enterprise College (Early Win)	October 2006	October 2006	Yes	Yes
Sheffield	Yewlands Technology College	October 2008	October 2008	Yes	Yes
Sheffield	Talbot Specialist School	January 2009	January 2009	Yes	Yes
Sheffield	Newfield Secondary School	January 2009	January 2009	Yes	Yes
Sheffield	Silverdale Secondary School	January 2009	January 2009	Yes	Yes
Solihull	Lanchester School	September 2008	January 2008	No	Yes
Solihull	Park Hall School	October 2008	January 2008	No	Yes
Solihull	Archbishop Grimshaw Catholic School	October 2008	January 2008	No	Yes
Solihull	Forest Oak and Merstone Schools (Early Win)	May 2006	May 2006	Yes	Yes
STaG	Bamburgh School (Horsley Hill Community Campus) (Early Win)	October 2008	October 2006	Yes	Yes
Stoke	Birches Head (Early Win)	November 2007	November 2007	Yes	Yes
Stoke	Sandon High School (Early Win)	February 2008	February 2008	Yes	Yes
Sunderland	Oxclose Community School (Early Win)	June 2007	June 2007	Yes	Yes
Waltham	Frederick Bremer	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes
Waltham	Kelmscott School	September 2008	September 2008	Yes	Yes

[1] These primary schools were delivered as part of Newcastle's BSF Local Education Partnership, but were not originally included in the programme.

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in the National Challenge initiative reported a budget surplus in the last year for which data are available; and how much the surplus was in each case. [249147]

Jim Knight: I have placed the information requested in the Library. It sets out the value of the budget surplus as at 31 March 2008, for those maintained schools which are being supported with National Challenge funding. Please note that all the figures provided here for 2007-08 exclude schools in Cumbria as that local authority has yet to make a 2007-08 Section 52 Outturn submission.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to each category of possible expenditure under the National Strategies programme in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [250550]

Jim Knight: The National Strategies is a key mechanism for supporting schools and local authorities to improve teaching and learning of core subjects. £469 million was allocated for the delivery of the National Strategies programmes in 2007-08. This included:

£377 million support via the Standards Fund for local authority delivery and for schools and settings to access the National Strategies' training and support programmes

£92 million for the central delivery of the National Strategies programmes. This included the provision of an education field force, as well as substantial free Continuing Professional Development (CPD) resources provided through the web and in hard copy for teachers and practitioners.

The expected spend in 2008-09 will be in the region of £471 million.

£306 million support via the Standards Fund for schools and settings to access the National Strategies' training and support programmes.

£60 million for local authority delivery and support to schools which is now a component part of the Area Based Grant paid to local authorities and which allows them to allocate resources according to local needs.

Approximately £105 million for the central delivery of the National Strategies programmes, including increased support for the Functional Skills pilot and the introduction of the National Challenge programme at secondary.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid to each national challenge school since June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [248633]

Jim Knight: I have placed the information in both Libraries. It shows the amount of funding which has been agreed through national challenge funding plans. It excludes maintained schools below the floor in city challenge areas (which are funded on a different basis).

Special Educational Needs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils had special educational needs without statements in January 2008. [247236]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There were 1,390,670 pupils that had special educational needs that did not have statements; this represents 17.2 per cent. of pupils on roll across all schools. The figures are taken from the 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008' Statistical First Release, the latest of which can be found online at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many maintained special schools *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in 2007-08, broken down by local authority; and how many of those which opened were new builds; [247860]

(2) how many representations his Department has received on the closure of special schools since its inception. [247855]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's records, based on the available information provided by local authorities for the number of maintained special schools opened and closed in the academic year 2007-08, is given in the following tables. Information on the number of maintained special schools opened in 2007-08 which were newly built is not available.

Local authority maintained special schools openings by local authority academic year 2007-08

Local authority	*Total*
Barnsley	1
Bromley	1
Coventry	1
Derby	1
Doncaster	5
Lancashire	3
Peterborough	1
Portsmouth	1
Rochdale	3
Sheffield	1
Walsall	2
Wigan	1
Worcestershire	2
Total	23

Local authority maintained special schools closures by local authority academic year 2007-08

Local authority	*Total*
Bedfordshire	1
Bristol City of	1
Coventry	2
Doncaster	7
Lancashire	3
Sheffield	2
Stockton-on-Tees	1
Walsall	1
Wigan	2
Total	20

Source:
Edubase

The Department receives a number of representations on special educational needs issues. Representations on the closure of special schools are not recorded separately.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what funding he plans to provide to local authorities to enable them to implement the speech, language and communication needs action plan; [250434]

(2) which local authorities have been selected as local area pathfinders under the speech, language and communication needs action plan. [250435]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities already have substantial funding to support children with special educational needs (SEN), including SLCN. Local authorities' planned expenditure to support children with SEN—including speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)—is approximately £5.1 billion in 2008-09 (up from £2.1 billion in 2001-02). The pathfinder programme announced in "Better Communication", the SLCN action plan published in December 2008, will demonstrate how local authorities and primary care trusts can prioritise and commission services for children with SLCN more efficiently and effectively within existing overall resources.

Details of how we will select the pathfinders and details of the funding available will be announced in due course.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to local authorities was of residential school placements for children with statements of special educational needs in England in the last year for which figures are available. [250572]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally by the Department. However, during the 2008-09 financial year local authorities in England budgeted net expenditure of over £5.1 billion for the provision of education for children with special educational needs. It is not possible to identify how much of this £5.1 billion was for the total cost of residential school placements for children with statements of special educational needs as the data are not collected in that way.

Teachers: Recruitment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions Ofsted has had with the Training and Development Agency on the relationship between teacher recruitment and systemic school failure in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [247457]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in both Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In the last 12 months, there were three informal discussions between Ofsted's staff and those of the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). These focused on the connection between staff recruitment and retention, and low performing schools. They involved discussion of Ofsted's evidence on staffing issues—for example, the relationship between staff turnover and school performance.

Additionally, Ofsted inspects the quality of teacher training. Its judgements are used by the TDA in its decisions about arrangements for teacher training.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which young offender institutions have been found by inspectors to be providing too narrow a curriculum; and what steps he is taking to remedy the issue. [242006]

Beverley Hughes: Inspection reports on individual young offender institutions (YOIs) are public documents and available on-line and contain specific assessments of the education provision. The annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2007/08 reported that the range of vocational provision for children and young people in secure settings is often too narrow. However, the current re-tendering process for the Offender Learning and Skills Service contracts for the provision of education and training in YOIs has set clear requirements for the core curriculum in YOIs. We also published our plans to improve education and training in custody within the Youth Crime Action Plan (July 2008). This included a commitment to place local authorities in the lead for securing education in juvenile custody, and this is scheduled to form part of the forthcoming Children, Skills and Learning Bill. The aim is to ensure education in custody meets young peoples' personal needs and so far as is practical matches that available for children and young people in the mainstream education system.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 28 January 2009

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministerial Statements

Mr. Bone: To ask the Leader of the House what mechanism she uses to monitor the number of occasions on which the media has been given information contained in Ministerial Statements before those statements have been made to the House. [250700]

Chris Bryant: The Leader of the House closely monitors all ministerial statements, written and oral, and is keen to ensure that paragraph 9.1 of the Ministerial Code is always upheld. This makes clear that

> "when Parliament is in Session, the most important announcements of Government policy should be made in the first instance, in Parliament."

SCOTLAND

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251452]

Ann McKechin: The information is as follows.

(a) The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

(b) The Scotland Office publishes statistics on the handling of correspondence from members of the public in our annual report. The annual reports for 2007-08 and earlier are available on the SO website at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk.

The Scotland Office aims to respond to all correspondence from members of the public within 15 working days of receipt.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* original expected delivery date, *(c)* actual cost incurred and *(d)* actual delivery date was of each ICT project undertaken and completed by his Department in each year since 1997; who the contractors for each project were; what the (i) initial estimated and (ii) outturn payment to each contractor was; and if he will make a statement. [251144]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 68W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251530]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on public relations consultancies in the last five years.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 239W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251314]

Ann McKechin: Ministers in the Scotland Office have undertaken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008: 'Presentation and Public Speaking Skills' and an 'Introduction Workshop for New Ministers'.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252237]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office have incurred no costs for media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; and have held no such training sessions.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251870]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252013]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, who remain their employers.

The matter of granting time off in lieu is delegated to Departments to determine under the civil service management code, of which section 9 sets out terms and conditions relating to hours of work and how staff should be compensated for working outside their normal pattern.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252014]

Ann McKechin: The Office does not record this information in the form requested.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250130]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office do not own or lease any cars and do not hold records of the cubic capacity of the engine of cars they hire.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place for the offence of consuming alcohol in a designated public place in each of the last seven years. [249033]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 21 January 2009]*: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against for consuming alcohol in a designated public place in England and Wales from 2001 to 2007 (latest available) are given in the following table.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for consuming alcohol in a designated public place, England and Wales, 2001-07[1, 2]

	Number
2001	—
2002	37
2003	108
2004	122
2005	111
2006	101
2007	113

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform Ref: IOS 044-09

Community Policing: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet a delegation of residents from Castle Point to discuss community policing and the return to use of Hadleigh police station. [249687]

Mr. Coaker: The management of the police estate and the allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief constable to determine.

However, I am happy to meet the hon. Member to discuss community policing in Castle Point.

Crime: Business

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost to UK businesses of *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* fraud, *(c)* forgery, *(d)* e-crime, *(e)* theft from vehicles, *(f)* theft of vehicles, *(g)* theft of plant, *(h)* graffiti and vandalism and *(i)* other crime in each year since 1997. [247127]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are currently no year-on-year estimates of the costs of crime to business. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 January 2009, *Official Report* column 700W, Crime: Business that provided links to the most recent published estimates.

However the Home Office also published some estimates of the costs of crime against retail and manufacturing premises for 1994 as well as for 2002-03 in:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors146.pdf.

The results from both surveys are broadly comparable and an overview is provided in section 4 of the second report. However it is not possible to identify the year on year trends in between these two surveys. No estimate of the cost of crime to businesses has been published since the 2002-03 report.

Extradition: EU Countries

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what offences British citizens have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* surrendered to the authorities of another EU member state under the provisions of a European arrest warrant since the Extradition Act 2003 came into force. [243022]

Meg Hillier: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is the designated authority for the receipt and transmission of European arrest warrants in the UK. There is no Government involvement in the operation of the EAW. The following table gives a total figure for the number of people extradited to and by the UK since the EAW entered into force on 1 January 2004 until September 2008.

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down into British and non-British nationals, nor into types of offence. SOCA is putting in place a new database to record this information non-retrospectively.

Extradited from the UK

Part 1 EAW	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
					Surrenders
Total	23	73	151	320	351

Extradited to the UK

Part 3 EAW	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
					Surrenders
Total extradited	24	62	75	96	78

Number of EAWs issued to and by the UK since 1 January 2004

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
					Totals by year
Part 1 EAW	1,865	5,986	3,329	2,534	2,429
Part 3 EAW	90	131	73	165	172

Identity Cards: Civil Proceedings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 145W, on identity cards, what stage the legal case relating to disclosure of Gateway information has reached; how much the Government have spent to date on legal costs for the case; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the Identity Card Gateway Review, redacting commercially sensitive information. [250192]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 508-09W. The tribunal has still not issued its decision.

The legal cost incurred, relating to the disclosure of Gateway information on the Identity Cards programme, is currently £121,000 excluding VAT.

Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for senior responsible owners (SRO). We do not, therefore, make this information routinely public.

Police Stations: Closures

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have been closed to the public since 2001. [252277]

Mr. Coaker: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and chief constable, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sworn police officers there are in England and Wales; and how many *(a)* occupy non-front line posts and *(b)* are on permanent restricted duties. [252276]

Mr. Coaker: There were 141,859 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the 43 forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2008.

There were 17,573 FTE non-operational police officers in the 43 forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2008. Such officers include any member of staff whose primary role is to support the delivery of the overarching aims of the police service or to service the internal needs of the organisation.

There were 4,821 police officers (headcount) in the 43 forces of England and Wales on temporary restricted duty as at 31 March 2008.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Defence Equipment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent improvements have been made to the personal protective equipment for armed forces personnel in active theatres. [250026]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have recently introduced enhancements to the fit of Osprey body armour which have improved user manoeuvrability. Additionally, a system which allows troops to wear front and back Osprey plates without the soft armour jacket has just been introduced. This system is used by troops who require extra mobility or are operating in confined spaces.

The need to improve personal protection in response to developing threats is continually assessed. Further improvements to body armour and helmets are being developed and are planned to be introduced later this year.

Defence: Military Aircraft

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent improvements have been made to the fleet of frontline UK aircraft. [250027]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In the past year, we have introduced a number of significant improvements to our frontline aircraft capabilities.

We have enhanced our strategic air lift capability by taking delivery of two more C-17s, taking our total C-17 fleet to six aircraft.

We continue to improve our fast jet capabilities with significant enhancements to our Harrier and Tornado fleets to increase their effectiveness in the Close Air Support roles they fulfil in Iraq and Afghanistan. These improvements include our new Paveway IV Precision Guided Bomb, which entered service with the Harriers in December 2008, and which provides the RAF with a state of the art all-weather, day and night, precision bombing capability. The Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone also entered service in December 2008 providing increased target accuracy and reduced risk of collateral damage. On 1 July 2008 Typhoon was declared operational in the air to ground role, while on 21 October the first two Tranche 2 Typhoon aircraft were delivered to RAF Coningsby.

We have also increased our surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities with the introduction of the Airborne Stand off Radar, which achieved its In Service Date in November 2008.

We have increased the number of helicopter airframes and hours available to our commanders in the last two years, delivering a 60 per cent. increase in available flying hours, and will be making a further significant increase in helicopter capacity in Afghanistan over the next two years. By the end of 2009 the first of the eight Chinooks under the Mark 3 reversion programme will be delivered, providing a significant uplift to our heavy lift helicopter fleet. The first of the 12 upgraded Lynx Mark 9 helicopters will also be available by the end of 2009. Taken with additional Apache capability and the Merlins that we plan to move to Afghanistan once they have completed their mission in Iraq, these improvements will deliver a significant increase in our front line helicopter capability.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of his Department's contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251308]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Summaries for the years 1995-96 to 2007-08 of the MOD's expenditure on external assistance, of which management consultancy is a part, are available in the House Library. These summaries also include the spend figures for Defence agencies and trading funds, but they exclude expenditure by non-departmental public bodies, which is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to letters from the hon. Member for Peterborough on the wearing of service uniforms off base by personnel at RAF Wittering. [250809]

Mr. Kevan Jones: My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces replied to the hon. Member on 21 January 2009. I am not aware of any further outstanding correspondence from this Department.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251437]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to correspondence from Members and Peers. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

The information sought in respect of letters from members of the public could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but the Department aims to respond to all correspondence within 15 working days of receipt.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W, on departmental ICT, what ICT projects his Department and its agencies are undertaking; and if he will make a statement. [251290]

Mr. Quentin Davies: An ICT project can vary from installing single computers and software licences to major programmes, such as the Defence Information Infrastructure. Details of all the ICT projects being undertaken by the Ministry of Defence and each of its agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251379]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ICT projects his Department initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [251381]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on departmental public relations, which firms were used; and what the remit was of each substantive contract. [250281]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1672-73W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251334]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1001W, to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge). Information on contracts with public relations consultancies is otherwise not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD publishes annual summaries of expenditure on external assistance which are placed in the Library of the House. The latest edition has been placed in the Library of the House and is available on line at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=1

Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services studies have been issued since 1997-98; [249709]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each Directorate of Management and Consultancy Services study produced in 2008. [249723]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will place a copy of the list of substantive studies completed by the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Management Consultancy Services between January 2000 and December 2008 in the Library of the House. While every effort has been made to ensure the completeness of the list over that period, it has not been possible to confirm absolutely that all substantive studies have been included due to a lack of consistency in recording information during a period of restructuring and change. Records prior to 2000 are not held on a central database and could be accessed and verified only at disproportionate cost.

I will place copies of the reports produced in 2008 in the Library of the House, subject to a check to ensure they do not contain information that should be withheld. I will write to the hon. Member when this has been done.

HMS Endurance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service date for HMS Endurance is. [251892]

Mr. Quentin Davies: On present planning assumptions HMS Endurance will reach her out-of-service date in 2015.

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Sussex of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, whether the development and acquisition schedule under the US/UK Memorandum of Understanding was denominated in US dollars. [251931]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Yes.

Supply Estimates

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down his Department's Winter Supplementary Estimate 2008-09 on the same basis as in his answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column [illegible]W. [243416]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Letter from Bob Ainsworth, dated 22 January 2009:

I undertook to write to you on 15 December 2008, (Official Report, column 341W) and 12 January, (Official Report column 99W) in answer to your Parliamentary Questions about Departmental Public Expenditure.

I attach tables which provide a detailed breakdown of the Department's Main Estimates 2007/08, together with a breakdown of the Department's Winter Supplementary Estimates for 2008/09.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Ministry of Defence breakdown of main estimates 2007-08

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Main estimates (£000)*
RfR1		
Commander-in-Chief Fleet (incorporates 2nd Sea Lord)	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	2,143,910
	DEL non cash	1,548
	Grants	1,786
	Operating A-in-A	-35,718
	Total DEL	2,111,526
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	50,458
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	50,458
Total Commander-in-Chief Fleet		2,161,984
Commander in Chief Land (includes Northern Ireland)	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	6,024,940
	DEL non cash	12,667
	Grants	243
	Operating A-in-A	-252,134
	Total DEL	5,785,716
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	239,054
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	57
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	239,111
Total Commander in Chief Land		6,024,827
Air Officer Commanding In Chief RAF Strike Command	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	1,761,978

Ministry of Defence breakdown of main estimates 2007-08

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Main estimates (£000)*
	DEL non cash	1,163
	Grants	
	Operating A-in-A	-24,461
	Total DEL	1,738,680
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	79,823
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	79,823
Total Air Officer Commanding In Chief RAF Strike Command		1,818,503
Chief of Joint Operations	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	440,020
	DEL non cash	3,239
	Grants	
	Operating A-in-A	-24,416
	Total DEL	418,843
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	3,599
	Total AME	3,599
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	61,322
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	61,322
Total Chief of Joint Operations		483,764
Adjutant General	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	860,084
	DEL non cash	-92,230
	Grants	3,787
	Operating A-in-A	-12,980
	Total DEL	758,661
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget near cash grants	9,254
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	9,254
	CDEL	28,407
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Op AinA	
	Total Capital	28,407
Total Adjutant General		796,322
Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	916,464
	DEL non cash	1,190
	Grants	3,023
	Operating A-in-A	-150,502
	Total DEL	770,175
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	28,867
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	28,867
Total Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command		799,042
Central	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	2,170,201
	DEL non cash	132,053
	Grants	198,874
	Operating A-in-A	-306,581
	Total DEL	2,194,547
	AME near cash	
	Ame Grants	8,411
	AME non cash	-12
	AME A in A	-4,500
	Total AME	3,899
	Non Budget near cash	
	non budget grants	750
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	750
	CDEL	65,724
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-51,179
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	14,545
Total Central		2,213,741

Ministry of Defence breakdown of main estimates 2007-08

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Main estimates (£000)*
Defence Equipment and Support (formerly DLO and DPA)	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	6,913,619
	DEL non cash	9,000,691
	Grants	1,025
	Operating A-in-A	-228,325
	Total DEL	15,687,010
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	83,696
	AME A-in-A	
	Total AME	83,696
	Non Budget near cash	-
	Non Budget A-in-A	-4
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	-4
	CDEL	7,155,853
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-232
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	7,155,621
Total Defence Equipment and Support		22,926,323
Science and Technology	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	541,908
	DEL non cash	-4,891
	Grants	4,101
	Operating A-in-A	
	Total DEL	541,118
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	0
Total Science and Technology		541,118
Defence Estates (formerly part of Central TLB)	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	1,111,564
	DEL non cash	1,562,269
	Grants	
	Operating A-in-A	-176,247
	Total DEL	2,497,586
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	3,141
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	3,141
	CDEL	242,472
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-353,000
	Capital non budget	1,904
	Total Capital	-108,624
Total Defence Estates		2,392,103
Total RfR1		40,157,727
RfR2		
Conflict Prevention RfR2	Administration Budget (See Note 1)	
	DEL near cash	44,303
	DEL non cash	
	Grants	
	Operating A-in-A	
	Total DEL	44,303
	AME near cash	
	AME non cash	
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	0
Total Conflict Prevention RfR2		44,303
RfR3		
War Pensions and Benefits RfR3	Admin budget	
	DEL near cash	
	DEL non cash	
	Grants	
	Operating A-in-A	
	Total DEL	0
	AME near cash	
	grants	1,027,582
	AME non cash	-575
	Total AME	1,027,007
	Non Budget near cash	
	Non Budget non cash	
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	
	Total Capital	0
Total War Pensions and Benefits RfR3		1,027,007

Ministry of Defence breakdown of main estimates 2007-08

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Main estimates (£000)*
MOD Total		41,229,037

Ministry of Defence breakdown of winter supplementary estimates 2008-09

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Winter supplementary estimates (£000)*
RfR1		
Navy Command (incorporates Fleet and 2nd Sea Lord)	DEL Near Cash	2,189,879
	DEL Non Cash	1,794
	Grants	1,831
	Operating A-in-A	-41,157
	Total DEL	2,152,347
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	10,959
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	10,959
	CDEL	21,560
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	21,560
Total Navy Command		2,184,866
Land Forces (includes AG and Northern Ireland)	DEL Near Cash	6,710,380
	DEL Non Cash	3,548
	Grants	4,136
	Operating A-in-A	-107,762
	Total DEL	6,610,302
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	72,055
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	72,055
	CDEL	153,896
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	153,896
Land Forces		6,836,253
Air Command	DEL Near Cash	2,931,287
	DEL Non Cash	2,858
	Grants	3,099
	Operating A-in-A	-168,113
	Total DEL	2,769,131
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	7,589
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	7,589
	CDEL	22,855
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	22,855
Total Air Command		2,799,575
Chief of Joint Operations	DEL Near Cash	395,501
	DEL Non Cash	7,326
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	-25,489
	Total DEL	377,338
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	56,349
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	56,349
Total Chief of Joint Operations		433,687
Central	DEL Near Cash	1,788,874
	DEL Non Cash	239,775
	Grants	189,958
	Operating A-in-A	-335,848
	Total DEL	1,882,759
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Grants	0
	AME Non Cash	-12
	AME A in A	0
	Total AME	-12
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Grants	830
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	830
	CDEL	304,930
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-272,115
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	32,815
Total Central		1,916,392
Defence Equipment and Support	DEL Near Cash	6,180,904
	DEL Non Cash	9,179,048
	Grants	1,051
	Operating A-in-A	-192,471

Ministry of Defence breakdown of winter supplementary estimates 2008-09

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Winter supplementary estimates (£000)*
	Total DEL	15,168,532
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	-84,762
	AME A-in-A	0
	Total AME	-84,762
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget A-in-A	-4
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	-4
	CDEL	6,350,573
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	6,350,573
Total Defence Equipment and Support		21,434,339
Science, Innovation, Technology	DEL Near Cash	503,283
	DEL Non Cash	-5,603
	Grants	4,204
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	501,884
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	0
Total Science, Innovation, Technology		501,884
Defence Estates	DEL Near Cash	1,497,093
	DEL Non Cash	1,511,768
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	-371,944
	Total DEL	2,636,917
	Resource AME	0
	Capital AME	0
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	3,026
	Total Non Budget	3,026
	CDEL	502,997
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-203,000
	Capital Non Budget	2,019
	Total Capital	302,016
Total Defence Estates		2,941,959
Administration Budget	DEL Near Cash	2,294,096
	DEL Non Cash	0
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	2,294,096
	Resource AME	0
	Capital AME	0
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Capital Non budget	0
	Total Capital	0
Total Administration Budget		2,294,096
Total RfR1		41,333,051
RfR2		
Programme Rest of the World	DEL Near Cash	46,966
	DEL Non Cash	0
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	46,966
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	0
Total Programme Rest of the World		46,966
Stabilisation Aid Fund	DEL Near Cash	27,030
	DEL Non Cash	0
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	27,030
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0

Ministry of Defence breakdown of winter supplementary estimates 2008-09

TLB	*Estimate type*	*Winter supplementary estimates (£000)*
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	0
Total Stabilisation Aid Fund		27,030
Peace Keeping and Operation (Afghanistan and Iraq)	DEL Near Cash	2,302,000
	DEL Non Cash	350,000
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	2,652,000
	AME Near Cash	0
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	1,063,000
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	1,063,000
Total Peace Keeping and Operation (Afghanistan and Iraq)		3,715,000
Total RfR 2		3,788,996
RfR3		
War Pensions and Benefits Programme Costs	DEL Near Cash	0
	DEL Non Cash	0
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	0
	AME Near Cash	0
	Grants	1,015,102
	AME Non Cash	-512
	Total AME	1,014,590
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	0
Total War Pensions and Benefits Programme Costs		1,014,590
War Pensions and Benefits Programme Costs - Far Eastern Prisoners of War	DEL Near Cash	0
	DEL Non Cash	0
	Grants	0
	Operating A-in-A	0
	Total DEL	0
	AME Near Cash	0
	Grants	500
	AME Non Cash	0
	Total AME	500
	Non Budget Near Cash	0
	Non Budget Non Cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
	CDEL	0
	CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
	AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
	Total Capital	0
Total War Pensions and Benefits Programme Costs - Far Eastern Prisoners of War		500
Total RfR 3		1,015,090
MoD Total		46,137,137

Summary of RfRs

	£000
Breakdown RfR1	
Administration Budget	2,294,096
DEL Near Cash	22,205,201
DEL Non Cash	10,940,514
Grants	204,279
Operating A-in-A	-1,242,784
AME Near Cash	0
AME Non Cash	-84,774
AME Grants	0
Resource AME	0
Capital AME	0
AME A in A	0
Non Budget Near Cash	90,603
Non Budget Grants	830
Non Budget Non Cash	3,026
Non Budget A-in-A	-4
CDEL	7,395,160
CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	-475,115
AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
Capital Non Budget	2,019
Total	41,333,051
Breakdown RfR2	
Administration Budget	0
DEL Near Cash	2,375,996
DEL Non Cash	350,000
Grants	0
Operating A-in-A	0

Summary of RfRs

	£000
AME Near Cash	0
AME Non Cash	0
AME Grants	0
Resource AME	0
Capital AME	0
AME A in A	0
Non Budget Near Cash	0
Non Budget Grants	0
Non Budget Non Cash	0
Non Budget A-in-A	0
CDEL	1,063,000
CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
Capital Non budget	0
Total	3,788,996
Breakdown RfR3	
Administration Budget	0
DEL Near Cash	0
DEL Non Cash	0
Grants	0
Operating A-in-A	0
AME Near Cash	0
AME Non Cash	-512
AME Grants	1,015,602
Resource AME	0
Capital AME	0
AME A in A	0
Non Budget Near Cash	0
Non Budget Grants	0
Non Budget Non Cash	0
Non Budget A-in-A	0
CDEL	0
CDEL Non Operating A-in-A	0
AME Non Operating A-in-A	0
Capital Non budget	0
Total	1,015,090
Grand Total	46,137,137

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Badgers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the badger population in each of the counties of England in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [251235]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Surveys of badger populations in Great Britain were undertaken in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. In the mid-1980s the badger population was estimated to be 250,000 badgers and in the mid-1990s a survey estimated the population had increased by 77 per cent.

DEFRA is not aware of any other national surveys which have attempted to estimate badger numbers in each of the counties of England.

DEFRA does not have regional breakdowns of these figures.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of dairy herds in each local authority area are under restrictions following a bovine tuberculosis breakdown. [248789]

Jane Kennedy: Bovine tuberculosis data are only collated on a county or regional basis and therefore it is not possible to break the data down by local authority area or by herd type.

A full county breakdown of TB herd statistics for 1998-2007 is available on the DEFRA website. The latest provisional county and regional statistics for 2008 are also published on the DEFRA website.

Carbon Neutral Newcastle

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants his Department has given to Carbon Neutral Newcastle; on what dates those grants were made; and for what objectives and purposes. [250835]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: Carbon Neutral Newcastle set up a charity Carbon Neutral North East to help deliver its objective of making Newcastle the first carbon neutral city in the world. It delivers elements of the city's climate change strategy, helping people and businesses understand their impact on climate change and providing them with information and support. Carbon Neutral North East also has the wider remit of promoting similar schemes and spreading the low carbon agenda through the north-east.

A grant was made from the Climate Challenge Fund over 2006-07 and 2007-08 to Carbon Neutral North East for a travelling outreach programme using a 'Climate Dome'. This housed an exhibition about climate change, which brought information to the public throughout the north-east region. The Climate Challenge Fund was part of the Climate Change Communications Initiative granting funding to projects across England to encourage more positive attitudes towards tackling climate change. These projects worked through community-based organisations and other trusted intermediaries and used creative communications.

The dates and amounts of grants were as follows:

	£
2006-07	207,746
2007-08	188,275
Total	396,021

I understand this to be the total sum of grants DEFRA made to Carbon Neutral Newcastle. However, officials are still completing their research into the matter, and if any other grants are identified I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Regulations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regulations were *(a)* implemented and *(b)* revoked by his Department in 2008. [250239]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2008, DEFRA completed the making of 87 statutory instruments. Of these two were signed on behalf of the Forestry Commissioners, and one on behalf of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, and two were Orders of the Privy Council.

These statutory instruments revoked 110 enactments, that is to say where all or nearly all of the statutory instrument (or Act in a small number of cases) was revoked.

Flood Control: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the EU Floods Directive; and if he will make a statement. [251111]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We intend to consult on arrangements for implementing the directive in England this spring, alongside the draft Floods and Water Bill.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial and economic impact assessment has been made of the implementation of the EU Floods Directive. [251112]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Impact assessments have been published for many elements of the directive, for example, as part of the Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the Summer 2007 floods, which was published in December 2008. Further impact assessments will be published whenever measures to implement the directive are proposed or consulted upon. An example of this will be the impact assessment to be published alongside the consultation document for the draft Floods and Water Bill, which we are intending to publish this spring.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the implementation of the EU Floods Directive; what response he made; and if he will make a statement. [251113]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We continue to have discussions with the Environment Agency, the devolved Administrations and other interested parties about the implementation of the directive upon which we shall consult this spring.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Somerset

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plant breeding methods were used to produce the GM-contaminated oilseed rape seeds in Somerset in 2008; [250020]

(2) at what location GM-contaminated oilseed rape seeds were grown in Somerset in 2008; [250021]

(3) whether the variety of GM-contaminated oilseed rape seeds grown in Somerset in 2008 was *(a)* listed on and *(b)* awaiting approval for the National List of Varieties; [250022]

(4) what the country of origin was of the GM-contaminated rape seeds grown in Somerset in 2008; [250023]

(5) what steps were taken to protect against the GM-contamination of the oilseed rape seeds found to be contaminated with GM material grown in Somerset in 2008 *(a)* during cultivation and *(b)* post-harvest; [250051]

(6) whether the areas immediately surrounding the GM-contaminated oilseed rape seeds grown in Somerset in 2008 have been examined for potential GM-contamination. [250155]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The affected trial grown in Somerset was of a new variety of conventionally bred, open-pollinated oilseed rape. The seed was imported from the USA with a view to being grown in various trials in the UK. This included national list trials, for which an application was made a year after the Somerset trial was sown. However, these did not take place and the variety has been withdrawn from the national list process. The trial in Somerset was carried out privately on behalf of the company that owns and imported the seed.

The conventional seed had a low level of GM seed mixed within it (0.05 per cent. or one in every 2,000 seeds), of a type approved by the European Union for food and animal feed use, but not for cultivation. It did not become known that the seed planted in Somerset had this GM content until after the trial had been harvested. As such, no measures were applied during cultivation to limit the potential dispersal of GM material. After harvest the farmer contracted to grow the trial left the ground fallow and let his livestock graze on emerging oilseed rape 'volunteer' plants (those that grow from seed shed at harvest). The farmer is being advised by the GM Inspectorate on the best way to further manage and reduce any volunteers. Given the low level of GM seed originally sown and the farmer's action post-harvest, it is not expected that GM volunteers will be a significant issue.

A separate trial of a different variety of conventional oilseed rape was grown immediately adjacent to the affected trial crop by the same farmer. Testing indicates that as a result of cross-pollination this adjacent crop acquired a very low adventitious GM presence (less than 0.01 per cent.). No other crops were grown in the vicinity of the affected trial, including on neighbouring farms, that might have been subject to GM cross-pollination. In this situation, it is not proposed to monitor the local area for potential contamination. The accidental sowing of the GM seed has not posed any risk to human health and the environment, and nor should there be any economic prejudice to neighbouring farmers through possible cross-pollination.

The affected trial took place within the south Somerset district council area. We do not think it would be appropriate to disclose the precise location, in part because it might deter people from coming forward with information about potential unauthorised GM releases, which would not be in the public interest. However, we are currently considering requests to release the exact location under the Environmental Information Regulations.

Marine Management Organisation: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the cost of establishing the Marine Management Organisation, broken down by budget heading. [251032]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A current estimate of the cost of establishing the Marine Management Organisation, which is currently not broken down by budget heading, can be found in the Impact Assessment for the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. This is available on the DEFRA website.

Pesticides

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterparts and *(b)* farming industry representatives from (i) other EU member states, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales on (A) current and proposed EU pesticide regulations, (B) the import of farm products from countries outside the EU and (C) proposed changes to the EU modulation regime; and if he will make a statement. [251280]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK's negotiating position on the proposed authorisation regulation for plant protection products was adopted in consultation with other Departments and the devolved administrations through the Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development's sub-committee on Europe. Ministers worked extremely hard throughout the negotiations to secure a balanced outcome, and held bilateral meetings with Commissioner Vassiliou, Ministers of other member states, and key stakeholders on the proposals and its potential impacts. It remains unclear how the introduction of the regulation will affect the import of produce from outside the EU.

The Secretary of State had numerous discussions with other member states, devolved administrations and stakeholders on the CAP Health Check, including changes to the EU modulation regime. These helped to achieve an increased focus on environmental benefits across Europe, by increasing the rate of compulsory modulation to 10 per cent. by 2012, and therefore the share of CAP funding that goes towards environment and rural development schemes. As part of this, the Secretary of State met Ministers from other member states, including France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Ireland, Denmark and Hungary, as well as Commissioner Fischer-Boel. In their approach to the health check negotiations, the Government worked closely with the devolved Administrations, both through ministerial meetings and technical discussions between officials, and with stakeholders, including through ministerial meetings and a public consultation.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects of a reduction in pesticides usage on levels of greenhouse gas emissions. [251987]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: My Department is currently not conducting any assessments of the effects of a reduction in pesticides usage on levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Water Supply

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking in its formulation of policy to take account of the impact which climate change will have on England's water resources; and if he will make a statement; [250953]

(2) how many water abstractions have been restored to permitted levels since the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme was launched in 1999; and if he will make a statement; [250955]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to prevent over-abstraction of water from rivers, wetlands, lakes and groundwaters; and if he will make a statement. [250956]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In April 2007, it became a statutory requirement for water companies to prepare and maintain previously voluntary water resources management plans. The water resources management plans look ahead 25 years and include projections of current and future demands for water, and how the companies aim to meet this demand.

In their plans, water companies must take into account the implications of climate change in their supply and demand forecasts, and include an assessment of the impact of each water resource supply option in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Environment Agency has responsibility for managing water resources. The Agency's forthcoming Water Resources Strategy will include the actions that will need to be taken to ensure enough water for people and the environment. It has been informed by research into future river flows to 2050 and groundwater resources to the 2020s and 2030s.

The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales and is taking forward the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) programme. To date, the RSA has been limited to identifying the sites where abstraction is at unsustainable levels. It has carried out investigations to identify where changes to abstraction regimes are necessary. In many cases those investigations have concluded that the licensed abstractions are having no adverse effect on the environment. Therefore no action to alter licensed abstractions is necessary.

Of the 2,970 Water Resources licences that have been assessed under the habitats regulations review of consents because they were likely to cause a significant effect on high priority Natura 2000 sites (that is special areas of conservation (SAC) and special protection areas (SPA)), 274 have been found to require an options appraisal to remove a possible adverse effect. In 2,696 cases it could be shown that there was no adverse effect on site integrity and therefore no action was required. Further work is required on medium and low priority sites but to date this relates to less than 10 per cent. of the abstraction licences in England and Wales.

It may also be necessary to take action on other sites not designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives or as SSSIs.

The first cycle of the Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies has helped to improve the Agency's knowledge of where there may be problems of unsustainable abstraction around the country and of specific sites that will require further investigation through RSA.

RSA will also contribute to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by providing a framework to restore unsustainable abstraction and work towards achieving the WFD target of meeting good ecological status by 2015.

The Agency is expecting to start taking action to revoke or modify abstraction licences at those sites where this is deemed necessary in 2009-10.

Water companies in England have indicated that they intend to take account of the habitats directive changes in their water resource management plans and work with the Environment Agency to resolve unsustainable abstractions. This will mean that some of the licences that have the biggest impacts on some of England's most important conservation sites will be resolved by voluntary changes.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Ofwat takes account of the effects of climate change in its periodic review of water prices; and if he will make a statement. [250954]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat sets out in its documents "Setting Price Limits for 2010-15: Framework and approach" and "Capital Expenditure for 2010-15: Ofwat's views on companies' draft business plans" how it is taking into account the impact of climate change for the 2009 price review. These documents are available from the Ofwat website.

WALES

Economic Inactivity

6. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on levels of economic inactivity in Wales. [250638]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have had many recent discussions with the First Minister about economic inactivity in Wales.

We are working together to help create jobs and help people get back to work, while ensuring that those who cannot work receive the support they need.

Job Losses

7. **Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the number of job losses in Wales since 1 December 2008. [250639]

Mr. David: Labour Market Statistics figures for December will not be published until next month.

However, working alongside the Welsh Assembly Government, we are doing everything we can to help individuals back into work.

Banking Assistance: Small Businesses

8. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on policy to ensure banks in receipt of public support assist small businesses in Wales. [250641]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the First Minister about assistance for small businesses in Wales, not least, at the All Wales Economic summits that I attend.

Defence Training Review

9. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the implications for Wales of the defence training review programme. [250642]

Mr. David: The St. Athan Defence Training Academy is a very important project for Wales. The substantial investment of Package 1 will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs both during construction and from 2013, when construction is completed.

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

10. **Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will work with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the National Assembly for Wales to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill in Welsh waters. [250643]

Mr. David: I have discussed the implementation of new marine legislation with the Welsh Assembly Government. This Government and the Welsh Assembly Government are committed to working together constructively to ensure their successful implementation.

Manufacturing Companies

11. **Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the cash flow of manufacturing companies in Wales. [250644]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Through my work on the National Economic Council and the All Wales Economic Forum, I am in touch with economic developments at the heart of Government and directly from the people of Wales.

Last week, I had also had a constructive meeting with David Rosser (Director CBI) and will be meeting FSB on Monday.

Small Businesses

12. **Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the levels of support from the Government available to small businesses in Wales. [250646]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Small businesses in Wales have a tremendous amount of support from both the UK and Welsh Assembly governments (WAG), such as the recently announced package of a £10 billion working capital fund, Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, and the Capital for Enterprise Fund.

Further, the Welsh Assembly government's Flexible Support for Business scheme provides help and advice as well as operating the Single Investment Fund. Businesses in Wales also benefit from assistance with their tax liabilities from the HMRC Business Support Service.

Public Expenditure

13. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the level of public expenditure per head of population in Wales was in 2008. [250647]

Mr. David: Figures for total identifiable public expenditure per head in Wales are published retrospectively by the Treasury as a Command Paper. Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251429]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

For correspondence from members of the public, information for the current year cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. The Wales Office aims to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days. As reported in the Department's Annual Reports, 91 per cent. were answered within the timescale in 2007-08, 93 per cent. in 2006-07, and 94 per cent. in 2005-06.

TRANSPORT

Airwave Service: Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Airwave handsets issued to the Marine and Coastguard Agency have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the Agency have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246186]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has never been issued with an Airwave handset.

The MCA has a fixed set and not a handset as stated in the written answer to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W.

A correction has been issued.

Aviation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many air passenger movements there were through the UK in each of the last three years; and what estimate his Department has made of the number in each year to 2014. [250098]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Civil Aviation Authority statistics on the number of terminal passengers at UK airports are reported in Transport Statistics Great Britain 2008', available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/.

The Department for Transport's forecasts of terminal passengers are reported in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009', available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pqr/aviation/atf/

The following table shows: Civil Aviation Authority statistics on the number of terminal passengers at UK airports in 2005, 2006, and 2007; and, the Department for Transport's forecasts of the same for 2008 to 2014.

		Passengers (million)
Outturn	2005	228
	2006	235
	2007	241
Forecast	2008	240
	2009	245
	2010	258
	2011	268
	2012	277
	2013	288
	2014	299

The forecasts of terminal passengers exclude some of the smallest UK airports covered by the outturn statistics. These account for around three million passengers per annum.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the research underlying figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 in his Department's publication UK Air Passenger Demand and carbon dioxide forecasts. [250357]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The research underlying figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009" is set out in chapter 2 of the same report, with further detail in annexes A-D.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1166-7W, on bus services: concessions, what discussions the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee has had with the Mental Health Action Group on access to free bus travel concessions. [252088]

Paul Clark: There has been no formal discussion between the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) and the Mental Health Action Group on access to free bus travel concessions.

However, the Mental Health Action Group has been invited to attend and speak at one of DPTAC's future working group meetings.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made on its study on a second Dartford crossing; and if he will make a statement. [250912]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport commissioned in February 2008 a study to provide advice on the future need for additional crossing capacity in the lower Thames and identify possible future options.

The study looks to make best use of available transport models to better understand the impacts of current and future demand, and review previous work on what can be done to improve traffic flow through the existing Dartford crossing in the short to medium term.

The study work is nearing completion and we expect to receive the report of the study shortly. Following receipt, Ministers will consider the findings and recommendations of the study, to inform decisions on options to address the short, medium and longer term transport challenges associated with current cross-Thames movements in the area.

Departmental Consultancies

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what payments the *(a)* Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(b)* Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, *(c)* Driving Standards Agency, *(d)* Vehicle Certification Agency, *(e)* Highways Agency, *(f)* Maritime and Coastguard Agency and *(g)* Government Car and Despatch Agency has made to (i) management consultancies, (ii) public affairs consultancies, (iii) public relations consultancies, (iv) advertising agencies and (v) other external consultancies in each of the last five years; [250282]

(2) what payments his Department has made to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other external consultancies in each of the last five years. [250433]

Mr. Hoon: Lists have been placed in the Libraries of the House which show the supplier and (where possible) the value and the nature of the consultancy work recorded within the Department for Transport and its agencies accounting systems as consultancy during the four financial years between 2004-05 and 2007-08. Similar data for 2003-04 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The breakdown of consultancy as requested in the question is not held centrally and to attempt to provide it now would incur disproportionate cost.

The business units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include a mixture of committed spend (i.e. orders raised) and actual spend incurred. The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

Details of payments to advertising agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Most payments relating to advertising expenditure are however made to the Central Office of Information.

The majority of campaign advertising investment by the Department is in support of marketing activities on the THINK! Road safety campaign, Act on CO_2 campaign, Concessionary Bus Fares campaign, aviation security and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's continuous registration campaign. Advertising expenditure is the largest value component of the Department's marketing expenditure.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licences were reported lost or stolen in the last 12 months; and how many valid driving licences there were in that period. [250503]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last 12 months 7.5 million driving licences have been issued, including 857,000 issued to replace those reported as lost or stolen. During the same period DVLA held 42.3 million driver records each of which could have a licence issued against it.

Heathrow Airport

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when meetings were held between *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(b)* both Ministers and officials in his Department with representatives of BAA to discuss proposals for Heathrow Airport in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [251293]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers have met BAA representatives on 17 occasions since January 2006 to discuss a range of matters related to BAA's UK airports, including Heathrow. BAA met regularly with officials to provide technical and operational expertise.

For propriety reasons, there has been no substantive discussion of Heathrow airport development issues with BAA since the launch of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation in November 2007 and neither Ministers nor officials have met BAA representatives to discuss such issues since the Secretary of State announced his decisions on 15 January.

Heathrow Airport: Public Consultation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation *(a)* expressed support for, *(b)* expressed opposition to and *(c)* were neutral on the construction of a third runway at Heathrow. [250113]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The consultation did not request views in this format. But an independent assessment of the nearly 70,000 responses received records 8,128 people giving "generic support for expansion" while 16,662 said they "did not want a third runway built at Heathrow". That suggests around 45,000 respondents did not express a clear view either way on a third runway. The full details can be found in the report 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Report on consultation responses (Ipsos MORI/Detica)' on the Department's website.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to publish the responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation in full. [250114]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A report on the analysis of responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation was published on 15 January together with other material referred to in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of

State's statement on Britain's transport infrastructure. In addition, all of the nearly 70,000 consultation responses may be viewed by appointment at the Department for Transport's offices.

Details are on the Department's website:

www.dft.gov.uk.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations his Department has received from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on the release of vehicle odometer reading data from MOT testing. [251698]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no recent discussions between the Department and The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) on the release of vehicle odometer reading data from MOT testing. VOSA is still considering the benefits and legal issues associated with the further release of such data to non-public bodies. Whether this proceeds will be subject to VOSA/DfT approval processes and overall Agency priorities.

Railway Electrification

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will commission research into the effects of the electrification of heavily-used rail services in major urban conurbations. [250714]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to examine the costs and benefits of further rail electrification. A decision on electrification will be announced later this year.

Railways: Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers have travelled on rail replacement bus services funded by his Department over the last 10 years. [247299]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not routinely collect data on passenger usage of rail replacement passenger services because rail services can be subject to amendment due to planned infrastructure improvements or maintenance works undertaken by Network Rail, especially at weekends. Occasionally, disruption to the rail network (due to signalling failures or other operational difficulties) may result in changes to specified rail services.

Railways: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many assaults on *(a)* staff and *(b)* passengers on the rail network in each region were recorded in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [252053]

(2) how many assaults on railway station staff have been recorded in each region in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [252054]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London NW1 9LN
E-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Railways: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many working days have been lost to strike action by workers on *(a)* the national rail network and *(b)* the London Underground in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [252059]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested.

National rail network information can be obtained from each of the individual train operators, who each hold this level of detail for their own organisation. Company contact details are available from the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC):

ATOC Ltd.
3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London
WC1N 1BY

Or via:

http://www.atoc.org/contact.asp

For London Underground this information can be obtained by contacting:

Lucy Webster
Head of Stakeholder Communications
London Underground
55 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BD

Railways: Standards

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train services have been cancelled in each year since 1997; how many scheduled train services there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by train operator; and if he will make a statement. [252057]

Paul Clark: In 2007-08, the most recent complete year for which data are available, 6,485,787 trains were planned to operate on the network, and 70,903 were fully cancelled.

For data on previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answers of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2246-7W, and 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 382W.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is responsible for publishing and monitoring data on rail performance, and for a breakdown by individual train operator, the hon. Member may wish to consult ORR's publication "National Rail Trends" on their website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on building new roads in each region in each year since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [252050]

Paul Clark: The following tables show the available data on regional expenditure on new construction/improvement and structural maintenance on motorways and trunk roads, as well as regional expenditure on new improvement for highways, lighting, road safety and structural maintenance on local roads for 1999-2000 to 2006-07. These data do not enable new road construction to be identified as a separate category.

Motorways and trunk roads: New construction/improvement and structural maintenance

£ million

Region	1999-2000	2000-01[1]	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
North East	12.9	14.9	72.0	46.1	38.1	27.2	26.1	46.7
North West	109.5	213.8	157.1	179.1	116.3	156.0	157.6	200.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	65.1	50.6	121.6	109.8	76.9	59.7	45.8	73.5
East Midlands	59.6	70.1	107.1	121.6	90.0	120.5	175.6	109.9
West Midlands	190.5	128.9	98.9	101.8	118.1	196.5	226.0	255.6
East of England	79.9	91.8	140.8	133.9	121.7	120.9	164.0	226.2
London	158.0	26.9	28.6	6.5	11.6	28.1	19.7	20.2
South East	299.8	286.5	205.1	215.0	168.2	225.7	255.7	307.6
South West	95.8	115.8	112.2	151.6	117.6	147.0	188.0	288.9
England	961.5	988.7	1,020.6	1,155.1	858.5	1,052.6	1,276.7	1,620.8

[1] Trunk roads in London were transferred to Transport for London in July 2000 and were reclassified as principal roads. Expenditure on these roads from 2000-01 is shown under the "Local roads" heading for London.

Source:

Highways Agency Financial Accounts and local authority returns to Communities and Local Government

Local roads[1]: New improvement for highways, lighting, road safety and structural maintenance[2]

£ million

Region	1999-2000	2000-01[3]	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
North East	89.5	86.7	117.2	145.0	125.2	139.8	148.9	186.7
North West	216.0	199.1	267.2	230.8	338.4	363.6	359.6	322.7
Yorkshire and the Humber	138.8	167.9	195.2	210.9	222.5	287.0	286.9	287.6
East Midlands	97.2	127.1	178.9	212.9	207.9	269.1	292.8	236.0
West Midlands	147.3	167.6	207.6	266.7	235.5	265.6	263.3	301.9
East of England	148.3	148.6	243.5	275.7	285.5	309.6	364.0	363.1
London	246.3	350.6	515.1	489.0	616.1	382.5	428.0	611.7
South East	215.2	188.0	258.8	322.6	317.3	376.8	377.9	358.7
South West	138.5	148.0	203.0	228.6	239.2	263.9	311.9	298.5
England	1,398.9	1,583.6	1,982.6	2,404.7	2,578.8	2,615.6	2,773.2	2,730.0

[1] Local authority expenditure excludes car parks.

[2] Includes expenditure on patching.

[3] Trunk roads in London were transferred to Transport for London in July 2000 and were reclassified as principal roads. Expenditure on these roads from 2000-01 is shown under the "Local roads" heading for London.

Source:

Highways Agency Financial Accounts and local authority returns to Communities and Local Government

This information is available in table 5.4 of 'Regional Transport Statistics' publication at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/regionaldata/rts/

Roads: Safety

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much capital funding his Department provided for road safety schemes in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [251150]

(2) what funding his Department has provided for highway maintenance and improvement in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the North East in each year since 1997. [251211]

Paul Clark: I have placed details in the House Libraries of relevant funding from the Department for Transport provided to local authorities in the north-east. The funding streams covered are:

(a) Block capital funding made available to local authorities since 2000-01 as part of the LTP settlement. This funding is not ring fenced. Integrated block funding is allocated at the Tyne and Wear plan level. Capital highway maintenance funding is allocated to local highway authorities. The table includes aggregate figures for funding provided prior to the introduction of the LTP settlement.

(b) PFI credits allocated to signed street lighting contracts in the north-east.

(c) Revenue and capital funding provided to north-east authorities since 2001-02 for the maintenance of recently detrunked roads. This funding is also not ring fenced. A three year settlement covering 2008-09 to 2010-11 has been made for revenue allocations for detrunked roads.

(d) Funding provided for emergency repairs following flooding to north-east local highways in 2001-02.

(e) Capital funding that the Department has contributed to major local authority road schemes (generally costing over £5 million). The table shows schemes completed since 2000 and those currently being delivered.

(f) Since 2007-08, local authorities have received specific road safety grant. As with integrated block funding, this is allocated at the Tyne and Wear plan level. The distribution of the funding within Tyne and Wear is determined by the local authorities within the road safety partnership. Since 2007, road safety partnership grant has also been allocated to local authorities.

Local authorities are also provided with financial support for road maintenance and road safety schemes through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. There is no separately identified highways maintenance component in RSG and it is for each authority to determine how much of it should be allocated to their highway network.

Information is not held centrally on what Gateshead metropolitan borough council and South Tyneside metropolitan council, which cover the Jarrow constituency, have spent within the boundaries of the constituency.

The Highways Agency's reporting systems does not record actual expenditure on a constituency or regional basis. Estimates are compiled for regional expenditure to supplement data reported in the Department's annual report. The estimates for the north-east have been placed in the House Libraries.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials from his Department have had since 12 December 2008 with potential providers to discuss the technology and infrastructure required for congestion charging. [251154]

Paul Clark: Since 12 December 2008, no Department for Transport Minister has met with any potential providers on the technology and infrastructure required for congestion charging.

Department for Transport officials responsible for the demonstrations project have, however, in that period had a number of contractual progress meetings with each of the seven framework contractors for the project.

On 18 December, other departmental officials met a group of technical experts and other stakeholders working to promote interoperability across existing and already planned road pricing schemes.

Rolling Stock: Competition

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the recent findings of the Competition Commission on the market for the leasing of rolling stock for franchised passenger services; and what steps he plans to take in response to the Commission's recommendations for Government. [250062]

Paul Clark: The Competition Commission investigation is ongoing and the Department for Transport looks forward to the final report.

The department continues to engage with the Competition Commission on the recommendations.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras have been installed on public roads in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority area; and if he will make a statement. [252057]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department only holds information about the number of safety camera sites (covering both fixed and mobile camera enforcement) operating within the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. The information relates to partnership areas which may consist of more than one police force area.

The following table shows the number of speed camera sites operating within the national programme within each year using the "date established" supplied by the safety camera partnerships. Different areas entered the national programme on different dates, and in many cases had established camera sites before joining the programme which are not shown in the table.

Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras in place since then will therefore be a matter for each individual partnership.

Camera sites by area and year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	104	189	228	247	247	247	247
Bedfordshire	30	88	90	95	114	114	114
Cambridgeshire	36	56	67	74	88	92	92
Cheshire	18	26	54	64	75	80	80
Cleveland	34	38	47	52	52	54	54
Cumbria	0	0	35	35	39	44	44
Derbyshire	45	73	108	123	127	128	128
Devon and Cornwall	55	95	105	124	145	147	147
Dorset	29	51	92	99	102	105	105
Essex	117	126	159	168	215	220	220
Gloucestershire	29	29	60	72	72	72	72
Greater Manchester	67	79	135	153	261	268	271
Hampshire	19	22	50	61	66	68	68
Hertfordshire	23	23	51	63	80	94	95
Humberside	0	0	64	77	81	81	82
Kent and Medway	38	62	96	118	126	129	129
Lancashire	63	150	268	338	344	345	345
Leicestershire	7	65	77	83	83	88	88
Lincolnshire	25	38	48	57	60	61	61
London	294	305	323	352	403	439	439
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	−24	46	51
Mid and South Wales	74	266	327	353	354	355	355
Norfolk	8	14	24	29	31	37	37
North Wales	27	28	66	72	73	73	73
Northamptonshire	26	28	35	39	77	84	84
Northumbria	34	34	103	121	121	126	126
Nottinghamshire	10	44	44	53	55	62	62
South Yorkshire	35	112	119	119	119	119	119
Staffordshire	54	55	65	81	98	98	98
Suffolk	1	3	47	55	55	55	55
Surrey	15	16	16	16	21	23	30
Sussex	25	50	58	69	77	78	81
Thames Valley	213	266	269	274	275	275	275
Warwickshire	8	20	21	34	34	37	37
West Mercia	0	0	40	53	56	60	63
West Mids	97	100	116	141	155	161	161
West Yorkshire	6	27	47	79	83	86	86
Wiltshire	6	23	50	62	62	63	63
Grand total	1,672	2,601	3,604	4,105	4,550	4,714	4,737

Transport: Expenditure

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on transport projects in each local authority area in England in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [251840]

Paul Clark: Most transport projects in local authority areas are the responsibility of the relevant local transport authority. The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport services. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Where authorities wish to pursue major schemes they may seek additional funding from the Department, subject to prioritisation of their proposal by the region. Certain other projects may also be eligible for specific grants from time to time.

Details of the capital funding made available to each local transport authority in local transport settlements are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/.

The Department spends funds on the strategic road network through the Highways Agency (HA). The HA's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity. Estimates are compiled for regional expenditure to supplement data reported in the Department's annual report.

Likewise, funding for other transport projects in England, such as rail projects, is not available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what transport projects have been announced by the Government and subsequently cancelled in each year since 1997; how much has been spent on each such project prior to cancellation; and if he will make a statement. [252056]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not collect this information.

PRIME MINISTER

Adela Mahoro Mugabo

Mr. Leech: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to his answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 922, at Prime Minister's questions, what consideration he has given to the case of Ms Adela Mahoro Mugabo. [252390]

The Prime Minister: I wrote to the hon. Member on 4 April 2008 on this matter.

BAA

Justine Greening: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence he and officials in No. 10 Downing Street have had with representatives from BAA since 3 October 2008; when each meeting took place; who attended each meeting; and what the subject of each meeting was. [252708]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings and correspond with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Domestic Visits: Costs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost of hotel accommodation for the tour undertaken by Ministers between 7 and 9 January 2009 was; and in which hotels accommodation for the tour was booked. [251070]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1429W.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister whether new procedures for *(a)* the analysis and *(b)* the publication of intelligence material have been put in place since he became Prime Minister; and if he will make a statement. [246282]

The Prime Minister: Since I became Prime Minister the arrangements for the analysis and publication of intelligence material put in place, and the appointments made, have been consistent with the recommendations of Lord Butler's Review.

I announced to the House in my National Security Statement on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 841-45, the separation of the position of JIC Chairman from policy adviser to the Government to ensure that assessments are formulated independently and that the Professional Head of Intelligence Analysis role created following Lord Butler's Review would be fulfilled by the JIC Chairman. Last year I also published the National Security Strategy and the National Risk Register.

Following resolutions in both Houses, appointments to the ISC are now made on the basis of nominations by Parliament. Debates on ISC reports will in future take place in both Houses and will be introduced by the Chairman of the ISC or the appropriate ISC member. Arrangements have been made to strengthen further the ISC's ability to scrutinise financial matters and the process of recruiting a general investigator has begun.

Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many staff in each pay grade work on the No. 10 Downing Street YouTube video platform; [250329]

(2) how many staff work to *(a)* maintain and *(b)* supply content for the Ask the PM YouTube channel; [250330]

(3) how much has been spent on website designers to design the Ask the PM YouTube video platform; [250331]

(4) how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* unique visitors the Ask the PM YouTube channel has received since its establishment; [250335]

(5) how many video submissions from members of the public have been *(a)* received and *(b)* answered since the launch of the Ask the PM YouTube channel. [250336]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1481-82W. Further information requested is available on the Downing street YouTube channel at:

http://uk.youtube.com/user/DowningSt.

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which websites are operated by his Office in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for those websites is; [251213]

(2) which websites were operated by his Office in addition to its main website in the last five years. [251419]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1481-82W.

Ministers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister how many people whom he has appointed as Government Ministers in the *(a)* House of Lords and *(b)* House of Commons accepted their appointment on the basis that their service in Government would be time-limited. [249610]

The Prime Minister: As was the case under previous Administrations, ministerial appointments are in the gift of the Prime Minister.

Ministers: Interests

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 470W, on Members' interests, what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the annual statement of Ministers' interests. [250117]

The Prime Minister: The list will be published in the near future.

Ministers: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what the pension arrangements are for the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer of Thoroton. [250537]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1070W.

Opposition

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister what arrangements the Cabinet Secretary plans to establish for talks between permanent secretaries of Government departments and the Official Opposition ahead of the next general election; whether the arrangements will differ from those in previous parliaments; and what discussions he has had on the timetable for such talks. [250310]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister who made the decision to offer meetings with senior civil servants before the next general election to the Liberal Democrats. [250514]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 754W.

Sir Fred Goodwin

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will recommend to Her Majesty the Queen that the knighthood awarded to Sir Fred Goodwin for services to banking be withdrawn. [251016]

The Prime Minister: The authority to grant and cancel honours is contained in the Statutes of the various Orders of Chivalry.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates he has met *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* UK Sport to discuss the £100 million of private sponsorship for elite athletes announced in the 2006 Budget; and if he will make a statement. [250265]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Television

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many television sets are operationally available on the House Estate, broken down by building; and how many such sets are available in hon. Members' offices. [247807]

Nick Harvey: The number of annunciator (TV) sets available on the House of Commons estate is as follows:

	Number
Palace of Westminster	663
No. 1 Parliament St. Phase 1 (N)	47
Derby Gate Residences Ph 1 (Centre)	19
Derby Gate Phase 1 (S)	103
7 Millbank	112
Norman Shaw (North)	154
Norman Shaw (South)	130
2 The Abbey Garden	12
1 Canon Row	30
Portcullis House	251
4 Millbank 5th and 6th Floors	32
Total	1,553

All Members' offices are fitted with annunciators, and these are included in the above figures. Records are not kept separately of the number of annunciators which are in Members' offices.

Members: Allowances

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) by what date the House of Commons Commission expects the process of scanning and redacting the receipts for hon. Members' expenses since 2004 to be completed; [251045]

(2) by what date the House of Commons Commission expects to place the details of hon. Members' expenses since 2004 in the public domain. [251846]

Nick Harvey: The scanning and editing of Members' claims, receipts etc. for the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 is well advanced. Once this work is complete, individual hon. Members will need to check the records relating to them, and further editing may then be required. A date for publication cannot yet be set.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for what reason backdated details of hon. Members' expenses have not yet been published; what factors account for the delay; and if he will ensure that all relevant information will be placed in the public domain by the end of February 2009. [249219]

Nick Harvey: The task of scanning and editing for publication a very large amount of information has proved more difficult than originally envisaged when the proposed arrangements for disclosure of Members' expenses down to receipt level were announced last summer. Ensuring that hon. Members' legitimate security and privacy concerns were taken into account has been complex and has required careful attention to over 700,000 individual records. Once scanning and editing has been completed, individual hon. Members will need to check the records relating to them, and further editing may then be required. This process will not be complete by the end of February 2009 and a date for publication cannot yet be set.

Parliament: Heating

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent steps the House authorities *(a)* have recently taken and *(b)* plan to take to improve the heating within 1 Parliament Street; and if he will make a statement. [248143]

Nick Harvey: The heating in 1 Parliament street is controlled by means of a computerised building management system (BMS). This allows the heating and cooling in each office to be individually monitored and controlled. The original system, installed in 1990, had become obsolete and was replaced by a modern system. The hardware was installed in the 2008 summer recess and the installation of a new control network was completed in November 2008. The arrival of the cold weather in the autumn highlighted a number of software problems which took longer than anticipated to resolve due to the lack of a network, which meant revisiting every office. At the same time, the opportunity was taken to replace any faulty heating or cooling valves and as a result some 50 cooling and 20 heating controls were replaced.

Now that the new BMS is installed, the method of heating control will be modified from a fixed time based method to the more efficient and accurate 'optimised start' method which ensures that the heating is switched on earlier if the outside air temperature is lower. In addition, a survey of the heating capacity of the boilers and associated pipe-work is planned for the 2009 summer recess. This will identify the heating capacity of the boilers and pipe-work, should larger radiators be required in some offices.

Parliament: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate has been made of the cost of repairs to the gates on Derby Gate; what reports he has received on the cause of the damage; and if he will make a statement. [248234]

Nick Harvey: The cost of completed repairs to the gates adjacent to 1 Derby Gate was £1,968.40. There are no reports available as the vehicle damage to the gates was minimal.

Portcullis House: Fire Alarms

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on how many occasions since 1 January 2008 Portcullis House has been evacuated for fire-related reasons; on how many of these occasions a fire was discovered; and what steps the Commission is taking to minimise the number of false alarms. [250745]

Nick Harvey: From 1 January 2008 to 21 January 2009 there were five evacuations from Portcullis House. None were actual fires. They were caused by:

4 March 2008: Technical fault on system—addressed by the fire alarm engineers;

19 August 2008: Operation of manual call point by persons unknown;

26 November 2008: Beam detector actuated by fitting of the Christmas lights in the atrium when on one occasion contractors failed to follow correct process—contractors reprimanded and reminded of correct process;

9 January 2009: Technical fault resulting in actuation of newly installed fire detection camera by art handling activity interfering with beam—camera adjusted to recognise such movements and not activate the alarm; and

20 January 2009: Detector actuated by fumes from cooking; technical fault on alarm system re-set resulted in evacuation alarm activation—fire alarm engineers are investigating the reason the system would not accept the re-set.

To minimise disruption to the occupants, a system is operated in Portcullis House whereby upon actuation of smoke/beam/video smoke detectors outside the atrium, the parliamentary fire section has 15 minutes to identify and resolve an incident before the evacuation alarm is automatically activated. Three of the five evacuations in the last 12 months were triggered because it was not possible during the 15 minutes to verify that the building was safe. On the other two occasions, operation of a manual call point and the interruption of a beam detector in the atrium automatically triggered an evacuation. In order to minimise the number of unwanted alarms, a full fire incident investigation is carried out by the parliamentary fire section, fire safety manager and London fire brigade after every incident to establish the cause of the incident and to identify the person(s) responsible. Key personnel involved in the alarm activation are interviewed and remedial action taken. In the case of technical faults, the fire alarm engineers are called to site to investigate and take remedial action. Fire safety training is regularly reviewed and revised to address trends in activation of fire alarms.

JUSTICE

Cannabis: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he has issued on the referral of possession of cannabis cases to the magistrates' courts in circumstances where it followed the issuing of *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three previous penalty notices for disorder to the same individual for the same offence. [249536]

Maria Eagle: When penalty notices for disorder become available for the offence of possessing cannabis, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will issue guidance under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 about their issue.

Also, the Association of Chief Police Officers will publish revised national guidance for the policing of cannabis possession as a Class B drug in England and Wales. This makes clear that while arrest is always the first option, an adult offender is likely to receive a cannabis warning for a first possession offence, and a penalty notice for disorder for a second offence. A third offence will result in arrest and consideration of likely further action including caution, conditional caution or prosecution. All subsequent offences are likely to result in arrest. If any aggravating factors are present the police will escalate the response accordingly. Ultimately, decisions as to the most appropriate disposal for an offender are made by the police and CPS using their professional judgment and experience.

Conveyancing: Fees and Charges

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) from what date the newly appointed charging fee for local authority property search regulations will be effective; [251410]

(2) when he expects to publish the charging fee for local authority property search regulations; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish them. [251411]

Bridget Prentice: The fee for a personal search of a local land charges register in England is £11. It was set at this level in 2003. The Ministry of Justice is, however, considering whether the fee should be changed following the response to the joint Department for Communities and Local Government—Ministry of Justice 2008 consultation paper Local Authority Property Search Services: Charges for Property Search Services. We received a large response expressing a wide range of views. We are giving them careful consideration but have not yet reached a decision on the way forward. We aim to announce the outcome of the consultation and to publish a response document as soon as is practicable.

Other local authority property search fees in England are set by individual local authorities. The basis on which such fees are to be calculated is set out in the Local Authorities (England) (Charges for Property Searches) Regulations SI 2008 No. 3248 which came into force on 23 December 2008.

Coroners

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average length of time in days taken by coroners in (i) Leicestershire and (ii) the rest of England to hold treasure inquests was in each of the last two years. [251129]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the time taken to conduct inquests into finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996 is not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice, though informal figures collated by the British Museum suggest that the average time for inquests concluded in 2008, from notification of the find to a final verdict, is 173 days.

Ministry of Justice statistics on coroner caseload show that the two coroners whose districts cover the county of Leicestershire and the city of Leicester between them conducted three inquests into treasure in 2007, and two in 2006. Figures for 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website in May.

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the remaining provisions of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 will be brought into effect. [248652]

Maria Eagle: With two exceptions, all provisions in the Act were commenced on 6 April 2008.

The exceptions are:

Section 2(1)(d) which extends the offence to duties of care relating to those detained at a custodial institution or in a custody area at a court or police station; detained at a removal centre or short-term holding facility; being transported in a vehicle, or being held in any premises, in pursuance of prison escort arrangements or immigration escort arrangements; living in secure accommodation in which they have been placed; and detained patients. We are working to implement this aspect of the legislation within three to five years of implementation of the offence. As stated in our first report to Parliament on this in July last year, the majority of custody providers will be ready in three years. Where implementation can occur sooner with respect to certain organisations, we will put the necessary arrangements in place to achieve this.

Section 10 which provides for the court to require a publicity order. We will implement this section following the issue of a guideline from the Sentencing Guidelines Council since this is a new disposal where we felt it important for guidance to be in place from the outset.

Data Protection

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to give powers to the Information Commissioner to audit data controlled in the *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary sectors. [251185]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner already has powers to check and enforce the compliance of data controllers in the private and voluntary sectors with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

The Information Commissioner may issue an Information Notice under the DPA on any data controller to assess compliance with the data protection principles.

If the Information Commissioner is satisfied that a data controller is contravening the data protection principles, he may issue an Enforcement Notice requiring the data controller to take action to ensure compliance. Failure to comply with either of these Notices is a criminal offence. Schedule 9 of the DPA also allows the Information Commissioner to apply for a warrant to enter and inspect the premises of any data controller he reasonably suspects to be in contravention of the data protection principles or committing an offence under the DPA.

The Information Commissioner may also currently undertake a Good Practice Assessment under s51 (7) of the DPA to assess the data processing procedures of any data controller, providing he has obtained their consent.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252228]

Mr. Wills: In the past three years the following external organisations have been engaged by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and the Ministry of Justice (since its creation in May 2007) to provide training for fast stream civil service staff:

National School for Government

Westminster Explained

Roffey Park

Logica CMG UK Ltd

GBdirect

Institute for European Business Administration

Industry and Parliament Trust.

Information regarding the number of civil servants in the Ministry of Justice (and formerly the DCA) who have participated in provision of training for external organisations in the same period is not collated centrally and could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and the former Department for Constitutional Affairs spent on visits by their staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [241255]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to determine how much was spent on visits by staff to Brussels as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's financial systems. Data on how many overseas visits, to which countries and by which mode of transport are not held centrally. To obtain any such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is possible however to provide data for the main divisions within the Department that undertook such journeys to Brussels for the period requested. These are detailed as follows.

Air: 3

Rail: 45

Total expenditure: £19,352.24

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook, and all travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Judiciary

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Lords of Appeal in Ordinary, *(b)* the Lord Chief Justice and Heads of Division and other judges of the Court of Appeal and High Court, *(c)* Crown and County Court judges, *(d)* district judges sitting in crime and civil and family matters and *(e)* High Court masters who are engaged in administrative and managerial work in addition to their judicial work; and what estimate he has made of the average number of days per calendar month that those in each category spend on such work. [251944]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice does not currently hold any information on the amount of time spent by judges on administrative and managerial work. All judges may be called on from time to time to assume responsibilities in relation to the courts and jurisdictions they work in. How much time these responsibilities take to discharge will depend on the level of responsibility, the circumstances and the judge.

I am informed that the Judges' Council is undertaking work at present to provide better estimates of judges' workloads. The collection, and any release, of this information is a matter for the Lord Chief Justice.

National Offender Management Service: Apprentices

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the participation of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in his Department's public sector apprenticeship scheme; what apprenticeship schemes are operated by NOMS; and what plans he has to increase the availability of apprenticeships at NOMS. [250914]

Mr. Hanson: In June 2008, HM Prison Service introduced the Prison Maintenance Departments Apprenticeship scheme for people who are interested in learning a trade.

Currently, NOMS is working in partnership with Skills for Justice to develop an apprenticeship in business administration in the justice sector, tailored to the specific needs of all administrative staff working in NOMS. In the future, there is potential to explore further apprenticeship programmes such as a custodial apprenticeship.

NOMS has also, for some time, worked with Skills for Justice to develop appropriate qualifications for staff, aligned to national occupational standards.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate of the average cost per year of keeping an offender in *(a)* an adult prison, *(b)* a young offender institution and *(c)* a secure training centre is. [251160]

Mr. Hanson: The overall average resource cost per offender (prisoner) in England and Wales in 2007-08 was:

	£
(a) adult prisons	38,000
(b) young offender institutions (YOI)	40,000
(c) secure training centres	178,000

Note:
Figures to the nearest £500

The average costs for adult prisons and YOIs comprise (a) the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the "Annual Report and Accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS)", increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the National Offender Management Service and (b) the resource expenditure of contracted-out prisons also increased by certain costs borne centrally. This involves some estimation. Income from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of services recharged to the YJB is excluded in order to show the overall cost to the Ministry of Justice. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education). The prisoner escort service is included.

The YOI figure comprises male open and male closed establishments. Adult includes all other establishments except male juvenile category.

The categorisation of costs into adult prisons and Young Offender Institutions is based on the main category of the prison establishment as at 31 March 2008, not on the mix of offenders in the establishments. So for example, where an establishment is primarily adult but has a young offender population, the young offender costs are not separately identified.

The secure training centre cost includes education, healthcare and VAT.

There are a number of factors which will cause differences in prison costs, such as the size, age, location and category of the prison, the mix of prisoners (including gender and age) and the internal regime and rehabilitation work followed.

Reparation by Offenders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reparation orders have been issued by each court in each year since 2005. [251228]

Mr. Hanson: The repatriation of a foreign national prisoner from the UK does not require the production of a court order; under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 1984 a warrant is issued on behalf of the Secretary of State which enables the transfer of a prisoner into the custody of a foreign jurisdiction.

The following number of prisoners were repatriated by England and Wales to a foreign jurisdiction each year since 2005:

	Number
2005	136
2006	111
2007	111
2008	68

The United Kingdom currently has prisoner transfer agreements with over 100 countries and territories.

Repatriation requires the consent of the sentencing state, the receiving state and the prisoners themselves. A prisoner cannot be forcibly repatriated.

Repossession Orders: Uxbridge

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Uxbridge constituency in each year since 2001. [250782]

Bridget Prentice: Although figures for the Uxbridge constituency are not available, the following tables show the number of mortgage and landlord possession claims issued and orders made in Uxbridge and Staines county courts since 2001.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, Uxbridge and Staines county courts cover areas other than Uxbridge and therefore not all possession actions at these courts will relate to this constituency.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Table 1: Mortgage[1] possession claims issued and orders[2] [3]made in Uxbridge and Staines county courts, 2001-08

	Uxbridge		Staines	
	Claims issued	Orders made	Claims issued	Orders made[3]
2001	414	265	233	149
2002	405	254	285	153
2003	500	265	268	150
2004	601	356	365	219
2005	827	521	547	301
2006	881	604	501	412
2007	885	555	457	—
2008[7]	718	490	428	—

Table 2: Landlord[1] [2] possession claims issued and orders made[4,5] in Uxbridge and Staines county courts, 2001-08

	Uxbridge		Staines	
	Claims issued	Orders made	Claims issued	Orders made[6]
2001	1,827	1,109	589	407
2002	2,153	1,036	593	362
2003	2,014	971	592	344
2004	1,633	953	580	391
2005	1,622	848	531	308
2006	1,766	894	569	332
2007	1,566	830	612	—

Table 2: Landlord[1,2] possession claims issued and orders made4,5 in Uxbridge and Staines county courts, 2001-08

	Uxbridge		Staines	
	Claims issued	Orders made	Claims issued	Orders made[6]
2008[7]	1,231	722	445	—

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.

[2] Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether social or private.

[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence and shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[5] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[6] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data Only those county courts who do not have direct on site access to PCOL were affected. Staines county court does not have direct on site access to this system and figures for 'orders made' are not available for this court from 2007 onwards.

[7] January to September. Figures for the latest year are provisional.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Speed Limits: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* fined for speeding in (i) Stroud, (ii) Gloucestershire and (iii) south west England in each of the last five years. [250784]

Maria Eagle: Speeding offences, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regulations 1973, can be dealt with by way of written warnings, court proceedings or the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

Available information collected centrally on the Court Proceedings Database, held by the Ministry of Justice, on the number of persons given a court fine for speed limit offences within the Gloucestershire police force area and the South West region from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in table 1.

Information collected centrally by the Home Office on the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for speeding offences, by area, for the period 2002 to 2006 (latest available) is given in table 2. Data for 2007 are due to be published in the spring of 2009.

Formal cautions are not given for motoring offences.

Data are collected centrally by police force area and therefore information for Stroud is not available.

Table 1: Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] for speed limit offences[2] within the Gloucestershire police force area, and the South West region[3], 2003-07[4,5]

		Number of offences
	Area	Number of fines[1]
2003	Gloucestershire	800
	South West Region	18,000
2004	Gloucestershire	786
	South West Region	18,266
2005	Gloucestershire	750
	South West Region	19,448
2006	Gloucestershire	1,398
	South West Region	21,976
2007	Gloucestershire	1,111
	South West Region	18,157

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown Court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.

[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.

[3] Includes, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire police force areas.

[4] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] in Gloucestershire police force area and the South West local government office region, 2002-06

	Number of offences				
Police force area	2002[3]	2003[3]	2004	2005	2006
Gloucestershire	3,898	3,139	4,913	10,849	13,406
South West Region[4]	135,549	272,383	304,379	264,190	211,536

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.

[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.

[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.

[4] Includes following police force areas: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offender institutions have an in-reach mental health team providing tier 2 and 3 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in England; how many such institutions are without an in-reach CAMHS tier 2 and 3 service; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost of providing an in-reach CAMHS tier 2 and 3 service for a young offender institution. [251230]

Mr. Hanson: All young offender institutions (YOIs) in England have access to in-reach Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). YOIs in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Transfer of the responsibility for commissioning health services in YOIs, and adult prisons in England, began in 2003 and was fully devolved to the national health service by April 2006. Primary care trusts (PCTs) work with their partner establishments to develop a comprehensive health needs assessment of the population and commission on the basis of that need.

Since 2006 all funding including mental health forms part of the wider health care allocation and is paid out as part of the NHS Bundle and part of PCT main allocation. The NHS bundle includes the strategic health authority. All health funding is allocated to NHS bundle and they distribute this to the PCTs.

The Department of Health has provided £1.5 million additional funding for 2007-08, repeated in 2008-09, to extend the range of CAMHS in the secure estate for children and young people.

Young Offenders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders have been intensively supervised in the community in each year since 2001; and what the average cost of such supervision per person supervised was in each of those years. [251459]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides details of the numbers of young offenders aged under 18 who have been placed on the intensive supervision and surveillance programme (ISSP). This programme is the most rigorous and robust community sentence for under 18s supported by an initial three month curfew which is monitored electronically. The cost of ISSP varies from region to region but the Youth Justice Board use an average cost of £6,000 per head with a further £2,250 for the electronic monitoring bringing the total to £8,250.

Intensive supervision and surveillance programme starts 2001 2008

	Number
2001-02	876
2002-03	3,153
2003-04	4,705
2004-05	4,960
2005-06	5,568
2006-07	5,243
2007-08	5,044

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the use of penal custody for child offenders; and how many such offenders are being supervised in the community. [251461]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 provides for a new generic community sentence for under 18s, the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO), which will replace nine existing community sentences. The Order provides a range of requirements providing a flexible sentence that can be tailored to meet individual offenders' needs. It includes two high intensity requirements, intensive supervision and surveillance and fostering set as direct alternatives to custody. The Act will also require a court to consider using a YRO with one of the high intensity requirements prior to custody. If custody is still given the sentencer must explain in court why the high intensity community sentence is not appropriate.

In addition the Government have provided a range of out of court disposals designed to keep low level offences and offenders out of the criminal justice system, yet provide interventions to prevent reoffending. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act introduces the Youth Conditional Caution which will be available to the Crown Prosecution Service as a final out of court disposal. Both these measures will be brought into effect later this year.

This Government believe in early intervention and prevention, but recognises that where offending occurs we should have a structured, robust sentencing framework aimed at preventing reoffending. However, where the offence is serious or persistent and there is a risk of harm to the public then custody should be available. These aims are set out in the Youth Crime Action Plan published in July 2008.

The number of 10 to 18s getting community sentences in 2007 was 66,007 out of a total of 97,387 sentenced. This counts all types of offence at magistrates' courts and the Crown court. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the number of child deaths in custody. [251462]

Mr. Hanson: The death of any young person is a tragedy. The Government are committed to reducing the number of deaths in custody.

The Youth Justice Board's Child Protection and Safeguarding Programme 2005-08 included a wide range of safeguarding initiatives including:

the introduction of specialised safeguarding posts within Young Offender Institutions;

the introduction of local authority social workers to meet the welfare needs of young people in custody;

the introduction of an independent advocacy service to provide young people with assistance if they wish to make complaints or need advice;

the development of policies and guidance that specifically address the needs of young people, such as anti-bullying and violence reduction;

consideration of building and cell design, including increasing the presence of CCTV cameras in known bullying hotspots; and

increased child protection and safeguarding training.

In December 2008, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) published its "Review of Safeguarding in the Secure Estate". Safeguarding remains a priority and the YJB is working with cross-Government partners and secure estate providers to improve the safeguarding of young people in the secure estate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2165W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, when he expects the terms of reference for the work on evaluating the effects of the sale of alcohol between 3 am and 6 am will be agreed. [260077]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Pursuant to my answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2165W, I can confirm that my Department is still in discussions with the Home Office about further evaluation of the impact of the sale of alcohol between 3 am and 6 am. No decisions have yet been reached on terms of reference.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department provides guidance to convenience stores with off-sales licences on the *(a)* positioning of and *(b)* promotion of alcohol within their shops. [252093]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS does not provide guidance to licensed premises on any matter. However, in our guidance to licensing authorities, we have provided details of the Portman Group Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks, which seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner. In addition, if there is a risk or perceived risk to the licensing objectives (such as the protection of children from harm) as a result of the position or promotion of alcohol, following representations and a hearing, conditions can be attached to the premises licence by the licensing authority to address the concerns.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 244W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on increasing the number of apprentices in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employs. [251966]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Royal Parks runs a three year apprenticeship scheme, which commenced in September 2007. There are currently nine first year apprentices and six second year apprentices. Recruitment for a further 10 apprentices will begin in early February 2009.

In 2008-09 there are currently no DCMS staff undertaking apprenticeships or advance apprenticeships, but places continue to be offered and advertised on the in-house intranet for management and administration.

Arts Council England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on *(a)* grants for the arts, *(b)* the Cultural Leadership Programme, *(c)* managed funds, *(d)* the Urban Cultural Programme, *(e)* Own Art and *(f)* its regularly funded organisations in each of the last five years; and what percentage of expenditure came from (i) the National Lottery and (ii) Exchequer funds in each case. [249410]

Barbara Follett: Information is as follows:

Arts Council England expenditure

Arts Council England advises that it has provided Exchequer and lottery funding for each of the categories requested, as set out in the following table.

£000

How much ACE spent on:	*Type*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(a) Grant for the Arts	Grant in aid (GIA) and Lottery	73,743	83,196	92,057	45,560
(b) Cultural Leadership Programme	Restricted funds[1]	—	—	4,563	5,635
(c) Managed funds	GIA	32,020	30,918	27,142	29,770
(d) The Urban Cultural Programme	Lottery	4,550	1,450	—	—
(e) Own Art	GIA	250	250	378	366
(f) Regularly funded organisations	GIA	279,409	300,900	314,107	325,725

[1] Culture Leadership Funds were part of Restricted Funds until 2007-08. From 2008-09 it was brought into part of the core funding from DCMS.

Percentages of Arts Council Expenditure

Arts Council England has also advised that the above expenditure consists of National Lottery and Exchequer funding in the proportions as set out in the following table:

Percentage of expenditure from (i) the National Lottery and (ii) Exchequer funds in each case

Percentage

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(a) Grants for the Arts				
Lottery	89	89	90	98
Grant in aid (GIA)	11	11	10	2
(b) Cultural Leadership Programme				
Restricted funds	—	100	100	100
(c) Managed funds				
GIA	100	100	100	100
(d) The Urban Cultural Programme				
Lottery	100	100	—	—
(e) Own Art				
GIA	100	100	100	100
(f) Regularly funded organisations				
GIA	100	100	100	100

Arts: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* public money and *(b)* lottery money has been spent per capita on arts services in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area in each of the last five years. [248320]

Barbara Follett: The information is not available in the form requested. However, public money includes lottery money and, based on information from Arts

Council England and population estimates (source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year population estimates 2005, 2006 and 2007), annual per capita spend on the Arts Council's Regularly Funded Organisations and Grants for the Arts programmes in each English region is as set out in the following two tables.

Information for years prior to 2005, and on each local authority area, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Arts Council England—Regularly Funded Organizations: spend per capita

£

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East	1.50	1.55	1.62
East Midlands	2.15	2.23	2.22
London	21.16	22.04	22.62
North East	4.43	4.95	5.29
North West	2.98	3.26	3.35
South East	1.54	1.56	1.63
South West	2.77	2.89	3.01
West Midlands	7.68	7.97	8.30
Yorkshire	4.60	4.75	4.82

These figures are based on the Arts Council office responsible for monitoring each organisation; in practically all cases this is the region in which the organisation is based. However, this may not reflect the region where benefit is derived because of touring or travel to funded organisations and projects in a different region.

Arts Council England—Grants for the Arts: spend per capita

£

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East	1.11	1.34	0.74
East Midlands	1.40	1.49	0.88
London	3.07	2.82	1.49
North East	1.98	2.14	1.34
North West	1.97	2.13	0.93
South East	1.02	1.39	1.02
South West	1.54	1.70	1.06
West Midlands	1.25	2.21	0.97
Yorkshire	1.39	1.80	0.90

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251436]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

We aim to respond to all letters from members of the public within 20 working days of receipt. Statistics on the percentage responded to within this target are available in our annual report. Information on average response times to letters from the public could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251377]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's IT service is outsourced to Atos Origin and all costs are paid to that company.

My Department does not keep a formal register of IT projects. However, records show that the following projects have been undertaken in the last two years:

Project	*Planned completion*	*Estimated cost (£)*	*Actual completion*	*Actual cost (£)*
Collaboration Space	November 2008	50,000	November 2008	45,000
Electronic Records Management	January 2009	1,500,000	October 2008	
Web Content Management (Red Dot)	November 2008	200,000	November 2008	201,000
Desk Top Portal (Frank)	June 2009	100,000	—	—
Google Enterprise Search	March 2009	200,000	—	—
Secure collaboration—Proof of Concept	March 2009	150,000	—	—

Information of earlier projects could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which ICT projects his Department initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were in[illegible] each project; who the contractors for each we[illegible] what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [251389]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not abandoned any ICT projects since 1997.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252265]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2008 DCMS has spent no money on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau.

No such training sessions were held and no DCMS staff attended these training courses.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252037]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency the Royal Parks, staff working *(a)* in lunch breaks would be entitled to time off in lieu and those staff working *(b)* in evenings, and *(c)* at other times outside contracted hours, would either be paid overtime or receive time off in lieu.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252038]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information relating to days off in lieu granted to staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249129]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not answered any questions where the cost of preparing the answer would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold as Ministers did not believe it to be in the public interest to answer such questions irrespective of cost.

Legacy Trust: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Legacy Trust has raised since its establishment; and how much it has received from *(a)* trusts and foundations, *(b)* public funds, *(c)* lottery funds and *(d)* the private sector. [251740]

Andy Burnham: The Legacy Trust UK was established with a £40 million endowment from the Millennium Commission, Big Lottery Fund, the Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities for all, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the United Kingdom. Of this endowment, £29 million came from the Millennium Commission and Big Lottery Fund with the remaining £11 million from Arts Council England and DCMS.

Since its establishment at the end of 2007 it has identified matched funding of £21,777,250 of which £5,769,411 has been secured.

The breakdown is as follows:

	£
Total identified from Trusts/Foundations	200,000
Total identified from public funds	19,050,250
Total secured to date	5,769,411

The identified public funds, includes the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), universities in the south-west of England and regional development agencies.

Total identified from private sector: £2,527,000

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations his Department has received on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in each of the last three years. [250243]

Barbara Follett: As stated in my response to the hon. Member for Bournemouth East on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 604W, we have received representations from VisitBritain on behalf of small accommodation providers about the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and its impact on their establishments. We have also received a small amount of other correspondence from tourism establishments.

Figures on representations from organisations in our sectors could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as we have not maintained a log of specific contact on this issue.

Sport England: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by Sport England; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250255]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they do not own any buildings or land. The Sports Council Trust Company (SCTC), of which Sport England is a member and controlling shareholder, underlease the following properties:

1. 114 Cardigan road, Headingley, Leeds

The SCTC is the Superior Landlord on the above premises which is underlet to The National Coaching Foundation (NCF) with an annual rent of £51,000. This current underlease is due to expire in April 2009 and SCTC are in negotiations to renew this lease for a further four years. The superior lease expires in 2018. Sport England does not receive any of the rental income derived from that premises and are not party to the lease agreement.

2. Bisham Abbey

The SCTC rents out parts of Bisham Abbey including the Abbey, Sports Centre and external areas on the property, to a total of 26 tenants which comprise of both sports clubs, associations and individuals. The total annual rent derived from these leases is £272,586. Sport England does not receive any of the rental income derived from that premises and are not party to the lease agreements.

3. Lilleshall

The Sports Council Trust Company (SCTC) rents out parts of Lilleshall to a total of four tenants which comprise of both sports clubs, associations and individuals. The total annual rent derived from these leases is £16,502. Sport England does not receive any of the rental income derived from that premises and are not party to the lease agreements.

Sports: Facilities

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will monitor the trends in the number of pay-and-play customers at sporting facilities during the economic downturn. [240930]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has no plans to directly monitor the number of pay and play customers at sporting facilities. However, from October 2008 Sport England's Active People survey has begun to monitor the impact of the economic downturn on sports participation more widely.

Sports: Sponsorship

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials from his Department have met representatives from (i) HM Treasury and (ii) UK Sport to discuss the £100 million of private sponsorship for elite athletes announced in the 2006 Budget; and if he will make a statement. [250263]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following dates have been identified where the Secretary of State met with UK Sport and the £100 million of private sponsorship for elite athletes was likely to have been discussed: 31 October 2006, 8 November 2006, 11 June 2007, 24 July 2007, 22 October 2007, 23 January 2008, 7 February 2008, 7 May 2008, 9 July 2008, 15 July 2008, 16 September 2008, 30 September 2008, 24 and 25 November 2008, 18 December 2008. I was also present at the meetings on 7 February 2008, 7 May 2008, 24 and 25 November 2008 and 18 December 2008.

DCMS officials have held discussions with UK Sport on the issue of the £100 million sponsorship on a regular basis. In addition, Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings on this issue at which HM Treasury has been represented.

Swimming: Low Incomes

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds *(a)* the Amateur Swimming Association and *(b)* Sport England provide for (i) the teaching of basic swimming and (ii) increasing swimming participation among people on low incomes. [247720]

Andy Burnham: The Government are committed to increasing participation in swimming, as demonstrated by their £140 million investment in the Free Swimming Programme, an element of which will be to provide free swimming lessons.

Increasing overall participation in swimming is also one of the key aims of the Amateur Swimming Association's (ASA) Strategic Plan 2005-09, to which Sport England has contributed in excess of £9 million of whole sport plan funding.

Sport England awarded £3 million to the ASA to support its 'Everyday Swim' project during 2006-08. 'Everyday Swim' is a national project, operating at a number of sites across England, which has the aim of improving people's experience of using public pools and so delivering a sustained increase in participation, including people on low incomes.

UK Sport: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by UK Sport; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250260]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport have advised that they do not own any buildings or land.

UK Sport operate from offices at 40 Bernard Street, London WC1N 1ST, and lease of this property, which is not listed or scheduled, is treated as an operating lease and UK Sport does not capitalise, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. At 31 March 2008 UK Sport had £0.55 million leasehold improvements in the balance sheet at cost. The depreciated value was £0.1 million.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the change in expenditure on *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance payments after they became exportable within the European economic area; [247660]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of claimants of *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance payments after they became exportable within the European economic area; [247661]

(3) with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on disability benefits (European Court of Justice), what progress has been made in discussions with the European Commission to clarify the extent of the Government's responsibilities following the judgment in the European Court of Justice of 18 October 2007. [247229]

Jonathan Shaw: We set out the entitlement conditions for those customers who are eligible to export an existing award of disability living allowance care component, attendance allowance or carer's allowance on the Directgov website in April 2008. This can be found at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/Introductiontofinancialsupport/DG_073387

The increase in expenditure is very difficult to predict. Our estimates indicate that, at most, this will result in an increase in the number of customers and benefit expenditure as set out in the following table

	Estimated maximum expenditure (£ million)	Estimated maximum caseload
Disability living allowance	30	20,000
Attendance allowance	10	¹
Carers allowance	10	¹
Total	50	20,000

¹ Equals less than 5,000 and therefore equals zero when rounded to the nearest 10,000

Note:

These estimates relate to 2010-11 because this is assumed to be the first full year following full implementation of the judgment.

We expect to set out entitlement conditions for those wishing to claim from abroad shortly. The directgov website will be updated at that time.

Child Support Agency: Cost-effectiveness

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of the operational improvement plan in place at the Child Support Agency. [242214]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of the operational improvement plan in place at the Child Support Agency. (242214)

The Operational Improvement Plan was launched in April 2006 and supported by £120 million of additional funding. The three-year plan aimed to improve the service the Child Support Agency was delivering to its clients and to deliver more money to more children, while the entire system of child maintenance was redesigned. The Agency is currently in the third and final year of the plan and while some challenges remain it is on course to meet all of the commitments that were made when the plan was launched.

As a result of the investment in the Operational Improvement Plan the Agency is now delivering its services far more efficiently and effectively. Indeed, after two-and-a-half years of the plan the number of uncleared cases has fallen significantly, from 264,000 cases that were outstanding in March 2006, to just 95,900 cases outstanding at the end of September 2008. The number of children who receive maintenance has also increased under the plan to a total of 778,200 children in the three months to the end of September, 155,200 more children than received maintenance in the three months to March 2006. In addition, the Agency collected and arranged £1.08 billion in child maintenance in the year to September 2008, which is a considerable increase from the £836 million that was collected in the year to March 2006.

The investment in the Operational Improvement Plan has resulted in more money for more children, and will provide a stable foundation on which the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission can build for the future.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Cold Weather Payments

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will include RAF Benson as one of the meteorological stations used to determine cold weather payments in Oxfordshire; [247773]

(2) if he will estimate the number of people in Henley constituency who would have qualified for cold weather payments in the period from 1 November 2008 to 11 January 2009 had the determining temperature for the payment been taken solely at RAF Benson; [247778]

(3) how many people in Henley constituency qualified for cold weather payments between 1 November 2008 and 11 January 2009. [247779]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the number of benefit units who qualified for cold weather payments between 1 November 2008 and 11 January 2009 are not available by parliamentary constituency or local authority, but only by weather station.

A cold weather payment is triggered for an eligible customer if the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode.

Postcodes in Henley parliamentary constituency are linked to either Brize Norton, High Wycombe or South Farnborough weather stations. Each of these weather stations triggered twice between 1 November 2008 and 11 January 2009. Therefore eligible benefit units in Henley parliamentary constituency each qualified for two cold weather payments between 1 November 2008 and 11 January 2009. If Henley parliamentary constituency had been linked to RAF Benson, eligible benefit units would still have qualified for two cold weather payments between 1 November 2008 and 11 January 2009.

The inclusion of RAF Benson as one of the meteorological stations used to determine cold weather payments in Oxfordshire will be considered as part of the annual cold weather payment review in summer 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251410]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 571W, in response to his previous question 244721.

Disability Living Allowance: Chronically Sick

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed the higher rate care component of disability living allowance on the ground of terminal illness in 2007-08, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available. [244374]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not collect statistics on the number of disability living allowance claimants who are terminally ill. The available information about the number of disability living allowance claimants with the highest rate care component who have claimed under the special rules applicable to people who are terminally ill and not expected to live for more than six months is in the table.

Disability living allowance claimants with the highest rate care component on the grounds of terminal illness in 2007-08

	May 2007	*August 2007*	*November 2007*[1]	*February 2008*	*May 2008*
North East	2,600	2,600	—	2,600	2,700
North West	7,800	7,800	—	7,800	7,900
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,700	6,700	—	6,500	3,900
East Midlands	5,300	5,300	—	5,200	3,100
West Midlands	6,300	6,400	—	6,000	3,800
East of England	5,700	5,600	—	5,600	3,400
London	6,200	6,300	—	6,100	5,200
South East	6,900	7,100	—	7,100	4,600
South West	5,000	5,500	—	5,500	3,400
Wales	3,200	3,300	—	2,900	2,900
Scotland	6,400	6,300	—	6,200	4,000

[1] Data for November 2007 is not available.

Notes:

1. Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data has been used in this case because it provides some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, it identifies those claiming under the Special Rules.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2226W, on sight impaired: disability living allowance, for what reasons 2010-11 is the earliest date at which the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance could be extended to people registered blind. [246883]

Jonathan Shaw: Any change to extend entitlement of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people with severe sight impairments or who are registered blind would necessitate a change to the primary and secondary legislation. Further time will be needed to design, test and implement the administrative processes, which will require changes such as new guidance and training for staff. As a result, the earliest implementation timescale would be 2010-11.

Disabled: Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on disability benefits (European Court of Justice), what legal advice his Department sought ahead of the European Court of Justice's judgment; and at what cost. [247230]

Jonathan Shaw: In addition to legal consideration by internal legal advisers, Her Majesty's Government instructed external counsel to represent the United Kingdom in the proceedings before the European Court of Justice at a cost of approximately £19,000.

Employment Schemes: Contracts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which employment service contractors in each region did not have their contract for employment services renewed under each *(a)* New Deal, *(b)* Employment Zone and *(c)* Pathways to Work programme in each of the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [246548]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested in relation to *(a)* New Deal contracts is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information requested in relation to *(b)* Employment Zone contracts is provided in the following table. Provider-led Pathways to Work contracts *(c)* were let in two phases in December 2007 and April 2008 and the earliest date for renewal of any of these contracts will be 2010.

A large number of bids for DWP contracts are received each year from a diverse range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations. All contracts are procured through open and fair competition in accordance with public procurement policy and EU regulations. Contracts are awarded to the bidder who offers the best quality and value for money against objective and published criteria, using fair and open competitions.

Delivery of welfare to work services by the private and voluntary sectors is an important feature of our welfare reform strategy. We set out last February our future approach to commissioning welfare to work (Cmnd 7363) and last month's White Paper (Cmnd 7506) described how we intended to devolve more powers to private, public and voluntary providers.

Employment Zone	*Former contractor*	*Contract end date*
North West Wales	Work Connections	May 2002
Middlesbrough	Working Links	October 2003
Nottingham	Nottingham City Partnership	October 2003
Southwark	Working Links	April 2004

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary sector employment service contractors in each region under each (i) New Deal, (ii) Employment Zone and (iii) Pathways to Work programme in each of the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [246569]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* agreed contract employment target, *(b)* award payment structure per client and *(c)* names were of each (i) private and (ii) voluntary contractor for each (A) New Deal, (B) Employment Zone and (C) Pathways to Work programme in each region that involved contracting out employment services in each of the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [246595]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested in relation to contract employment targets and the award payment structure for clients is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the names of each (i) private and (ii) voluntary contractor for each of the current (A) new deal (B) employment zone and (C) pathways to work programme (phases 1 and 2) in each region are shown in the following tables. For completeness, the names of the public sector organisation delivering these programmes is also included.

Delivery of welfare to work services by the private, voluntary and public sectors is an important feature of our welfare reform strategy. We set out last February our future approach to commissioning welfare to work (Cmnd 7363) and last month's White Paper (Cmnd 7506) described how we intended to devolve more powers to private, public and voluntary providers.

New deal prime contractors

Region	*Private sector providers*
East Midlands	A4e, Instant Muscle, TBG Learning
East of England	A4e Anglia Training Services, Kennedy Scott, TNG
London	A4e, Skills Training
North East	A4e, Crosby Training, Inspire to Independence, MBW Training Services, Sencia Ltd., Standguide, TNG, Training West Lancashire Ltd., Working Links
North West	A4e, TNG
Scotland	A4e, Glasgow Mentoring Network, Management Introductions, Reed in Partnership plc, Support Training Ltd., Triage Central Ltd.
South East	A4e, TBG Learning
South West	A4e, Prospects Services Ltd., Seetec
Wales	A4e Wales Ltd., DASH Training South Wales LLP, TD Training Ltd.
West Midlands	Beacon Resource Management Ltd., Juniper Training, Pertemps People Development Group Ltd., Workfirst,
Yorkshire and Humberside	A4e, BEST (Business Employment Services Training)

Region	*Voluntary sector providers*
East of England	YMCA Training
London	CDG, Community Links
North East	BTCV Enterprises
Scotland	Claverhouse Training, SCVO, The Wise Group
South East	CDG
South West	BTCV Enterprises
Wales	SOVA, Tydfil Training Consortium Ltd.
West Midlands	Steps to Work Walsall

Region	*Public sector providers*
East of England	North Hertfordshire College
Scotland	Argyll and Bute Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Lauder College, Moray College, West Lothian Council
South West	Bournemouth and Poole College
Wales	Carmarthenshire Training and Technology Centre, Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training, Pembrokeshire County Council, Scout Enterprises (Western) Ltd., Swansea College
West Midlands	Dudley MBC Future Skills, ETW, Shropshire County Training

Employment zone contracts

Region	*Private sector providers*
East Midlands	Work Directions
London	Reed in Partnership, TNG, Work Directions, Working Links
North East	Pertemps
North West	Pertemps, Reed in Partnership, Sencia
Scotland	Reed in Partnership, Working Links
South East	Working Links
South West	Working Links
Wales	Working Links
West Midlands	Pertemps, Work Directions, Working Links
Yorkshire and Humberside	Reed in Partnership

Region	*Voluntary Sector providers*
Scotland	Wise Group

Provider led pathways to work phase 1

Region	*Private sector providers*
East Midlands	TNG Ltd., Work Directions UK Ltd.
London	Work Directions UK Ltd.
Scotland	Triage Central Ltd., Work Directions UK Ltd.
South West	A4e
Wales	A4e
West Midlands	Seetec Business Technology Centre Ltd., Work Directions UK Ltd.
Yorkshire and Humberside	A4e

Region	*Voluntary sector providers*
North West	The Shaw Trust
East of England	The Shaw Trust

Provider led pathways to work phase 2

Region	*Private sector providers*
East Midlands	Working Links
East of England	Reed in Partnership
London	Reed in Partnership
North West	Carter and Carter, TNG
South West	Working Links
West Midlands	Working Links
Yorkshire and Humberside	Carter and Carter, Working Links

Region	*Voluntary sector providers*
East of England	Shaw Trust
South East	Instant Muscle, Royal British Legion Industries, Shaw Trust

Region	*Public sector providers*
West Midlands	Remploy

Employment Schemes: English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to how many *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* non-UK EU citizens and *(c)* others his Department and Jobcentre Plus offered an English for Speakers of Other Languages course in order to help them secure employment in the last 12 months; and at what cost to the public purse such offers were taken up. [249197]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

DWP and Jobcentre Plus do not collect data on national origin as part of the skills referral system. Jobcentre Plus signposts customers to provision made available through Jobcentre Plus New Deal, the Learning and Skills Council, local authorities and other organisations from the public and voluntary sector. Language support is not delivered in isolation but as an integral component within a suite of basic skills provision delivered through programmes such as New Deal and the Learning and Skills Council's Employability Skills Programme.

Jobcentre Plus funded provision is only available to customers who have the legal right to work in the UK and, furthermore, have qualified to receive benefits. It is therefore right and proper that those who are expected to contribute to the UK economy should be supported in their efforts to do so.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of housing benefit in each London borough in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [249555]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following table.

Number of housing benefit recipients in each London borough at August each year

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]
Barking	15,820	16,880	17,550	18,040	18,410
Barnet	19,180	19,950	20,710	20,810	21,700
Bexley	9,900	10,750	11,160	11,420	11,620
Brent	23,810	26,380	27,730	27,860	28,230
Bromley	13,920	14,500	15,310	15,650	15,860
Camden	27,400	27,810	28,280	28,210	27,980
City of London	1,100	1,140	1,170	1,150	1,170
Croydon	21,700	23,640	25,260	26,180	26,690
Ealing	20,640	22,320	23,450	24,080	24,610
Enfield	17,470	20,610	22,310	23,910	25,080
Greenwich	23,410	24,300	25,280	25,450	25,310
Hackney	30,550	34,180	35,030	34,960	35,010
Hammersmith and Fulham	19,430	19,430	20,090	20,060	20,390
Haringey	26,520	28,980	30,650	31,230	30,980
Harrow	9,040	11,450	11,610	13,180	12,490
Havering	9,770	10,490	10,660	10,910	11,360
Hillingdon	14,080	14,820	15,170	15,890	15,970
Hounslow	14,910	15,930	16,800	16,990	17,070
Islington	28,860	29,240	29,570	29,470	28,680
Kensington and Chelsea	14,980	15,630	15,640	8,540	16,000
Kingston upon Thames	6,290	6,790	7,130	7,140	7,250
Lambeth	32,880	34,820	36,390	36,040	35,070
Lewisham	27,380	28,530	29,100	29,360	29,100
Merton	8,680	9,830	10,150	10,370	10,570
Newham	31,750	32,380	33,770	34,090	33,920
Redbridge	11,820	12,780	13,520	14,400	14,630
Richmond upon Thames	7,680	8,080	8,090	8,550	8,080
Southwark	34,530	35,400	35,800	35,280	34,560
Sutton	8,650	9,010	9,200	9,550	9,740
Tower Hamlets	30,060	31,100	32,300	32,160	32,040
Waltham Forest	17,780	20,340	20,660	21,700	22,140
Wandsworth	20,040	22,300	22,960	23,280	23,200
Westminster	19,630	21,020	21,480	23,710	23,730

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system.

Incapacity Benefit: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much incapacity benefit was overpaid due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* official error and *(c)* customer error in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the total expenditure on incapacity benefit this represented in each of these years. [246721]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP estimates of fraud and error in incapacity benefit up to and including 2005-06 were provided in the answer to PQ/07/117960 (Mr. Laws). DWP estimates for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are contained in the DWP publications "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2006 to March 2007" and "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2007 to March 2008", copies of which are available in the Library.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment support through Jobcentre Plus has been available to lone parents with children under the age of 12 since the changes to the eligibility rules for income support came into effect in November 2008; what such support will be available to lone parents with *(a)* children under the age of 10 when the changes to the eligibility rules for income support come into effect in October 2009 and *(b)* children under the age of seven when the changes to the eligibility rules for income support come into effect in November 2010; and if he will make a statement. [246547]

Kitty Ussher: In addition to the support that every jobseeker on JSA gets from 24 November 2008 when these changes started, lone parents also continue to have voluntary access to additional comprehensive support and advice under the new deal for lone parents from the start of their jobseeker's allowance claim, as well as other support from Jobcentre Plus to help them prepare for, enter and remain in work. This includes pre-employment support via training opportunities and in-work support via in-work credit, Jobcentre Plus personal adviser support and the in-work emergency discretion fund.

If a lone parent is still claiming jobseeker's allowance after six months, they will enter supported job-search, where the full range of new deal for lone parents help will still be available. However, if a lone parent reaches 12 months on jobseeker's allowance they will switch to flexible new deal provision which will provide job-search support tailored to the specific needs of lone parents and address-related barriers to employment. At this point, voluntary access to new deal for lone parents will not be necessary.

The aforementioned support will also become available to lone parents as the eligibility rule changes in October 2009 and November 2010 affect them.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Osteoarthritis

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has plans to accept osteoarthritis of the knee as a qualifying condition for industrial injuries disablement benefit; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Kitty Ussher: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is considering the recommendations contained in the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council report Osteoarthritis of the Knee in Coal Miners, CM7440, published on 21 August 2008.

Jobcentre Plus: Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies for positions within the Jobcentre Plus network have been advertised in each of the last 12 months. [illegible]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to the question you asked regarding how many external vacancies for positions within the Jobcentre Plus network have been advertised in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The available information is in the following table.

External vacancies advertised by Jobcentre Plus in 2008

	Vacancies
January	464
February	1,067
March	1,291
April	536
May	588
June	548
July	506
August	701
September	461
October	508
November	860
December	701

Note:
The information provided does not include temporary vacancies. Responsibility for temporary recruitment lies with individual vacancy holders within Jobcentre Plus and this is not collated centrally.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus: Recruitment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the recent announcement to recruit 6,000 new Jobcentre Plus frontline staff positions includes the retention of those employed to support the introduction of the employment support allowance; and if he will make a statement; [246626]

(2) with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 263-64W, on Jobcentre Plus: manpower, what Jobcentre Plus's latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* staff and *(b)* personal advisers there will be in each of the next 12 quarters, broken down into the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [246717]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply your questions asking whether the recent announcement to recruit 6,000 new Jobcentre Plus frontline staff positions includes the retention of those employed to support the introduction of the employment support allowance; and with reference to the Answer of 4 November 2008, Official Report, columns 263-4W, on Jobcentre Plus manpower—what is Jobcentre Plus' latest estimate of the number of (a) staff and (b) personal advisers will be in each of the next 12 quarters, broken down into the smallest geographical unit for which figures are available. These are issues which fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below shows the original numbers of full time equivalent posts in Jobcentre Plus projected in each of the years covered by the Department's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007, together with the revised figures reflecting the pre-budget Report settlement. Plans for 2010/11 are under review and a firm figure is not yet available.

March each year	*Original projected number*	*Revised estimated number (December 2008)*
2009	65,453	69,000
2010	61,985	72,700
2011	58,529	—

While Jobcentre Plus will have an additional 6,000 staff in the next operational year we do not yet have the detailed plans on their deployment as these are still being worked on. We are therefore unable to say at this point which of these staff will be Personal Advisers. I am also unable at this stage to provide details for the next 12 quarters as this goes beyond the end of the department's CSR 2007 and information about the next CSR settlement.

It is not possible to say how many of the extra 6,000 staff will come from those employed to support the introduction of the Employment Support Allowance. Significant recruitment is underway to achieve these revised numbers, and we hope that those employed to support the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance will apply successfully for those recruitment exercises. Civil Service recruitment rules constrain our ability simply to extend the contracts of all these people for the whole period of the Spending Review.

Pension Credit

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of (1) the value of unclaimed pension credit to which pensioners in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex are entitled at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [243902]

(2) the number of pensioners in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex who were entitled to pension credit but had not claimed it at the latest date for which figures are available. [243903]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest estimates of the take-up rates, value of unclaimed benefit and the number of those entitled to but not receiving means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07".

Estimates of eligibility and therefore the value of unclaimed pension credit and those entitled to pension credit but not claiming are not available below the level of Great Britain.

Pension Credit: Ashford Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Ashford constituency *(a)* were entitled to and *(b)* claimed pension credit in each year since 2005. [249195]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Estimates of eligibility to pension credit are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled to but not receiving Pension Credit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07":

The number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Ashford constituency 2005-08 are shown in the following table:

As at May each year	*Household Recipients*	*Individual Beneficiaries*
2005	3,950	4,920
2006	4,040	5,040
2007	4,090	5,110
2008	4,120	5,150

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension schemes have applied for protection under the Pension Protection Fund in the last two years. [248814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) pays compensation to members of defined benefit and hybrid pension schemes which are underfunded at the point their sponsoring employer experiences an insolvency event. Pension schemes do not specifically apply for protection under the PPF but they are required to notify the PPF in the case of an insolvency event. Notifications are required for all occupational pension schemes although only defined benefit and hybrid schemes are eligible for PPF compensation.

Following notification, eligible schemes enter an assessment period, after which they may enter the PPF.

The relevant figures are in the following table:

	Notifications received from all schemes	*Schemes entering the PPF assessment period*
2007	1,646	115
2008	2,725	112

As at 31 Dec 2008, 289 schemes were in the assessment period.

Since the PPF opened in April 2005,106 schemes have completed assessment, of which 68 have entered the PPF.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the increase in the size of the Pension Protection Fund's deficit was in *(a)* each year since 2004 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [248815]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) was established by the Pensions Act 2004 and opened its doors for business on 6 April 2005. The deficits recorded in the annual accounts have been as follows:

	Deficit (£ million)
2005-06	343
2006-07	609
2007-08	517

Audited figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions he has made in respect of the future of the Pension Protection Fund; and if he will make a statement. [248816]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Government made robust provisions for the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) through the Pensions Act 2004. The PPF is managed by an independent Board and is designed to work in a benign environment and in a downturn.

The PPF provides security and reassurance to around 12 million members of the defined-benefit pension schemes that it protects.

The PPF paid out compensation of around £3.7 million between 2 December 2008 and 1 January 2009 and has around £3 billion in assets. There are no liquidity problems for the PPF, and compensation continues to be paid. The PPF is like a pension scheme and that it only pays out compensation when it falls due.

The Government, the PPF, the Pensions Regulator are monitoring the economic and financial situation carefully to asses how to respond to different scenarios. We continue to keep all these issues under review, to ensure that we have a flexible, proportionate and effective pension protection regime.

Pensioners: Payments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to ensure that pensions are not withheld from pensioners whose mail has been returned by the Post Office for any time after an investigation into the reason for the mail being returned has been concluded; and if he will make a statement. [250153]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member for Castle Point to the written answer I gave on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1684W.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 42W, on the Post Office Card Account, if he will place in the Library a copy of the script of the message that staff use when speaking to customers. [248739]

Ms Rosie Winterton: When discussing account options with customers staff use the messages contained in the document 'Collecting Account Details'. This is guidance rather than a script. A copy of this document will be placed in the Library.

Poverty: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England were born into families in relative poverty in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [247612]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were considered to be in severe poverty in (i) 1999 and (ii) 2007. [249059]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in low income at Government office region level.

Redundancy: Dartford

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what practical support and advice is provided by his Department and its executive agencies to workers in Dartford who are facing redundancy. [242572]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what practical support and advice is provided by his Department and its executive agencies to workers in Dartford who are facing redundancy. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a number of measures to support companies and their employees who are facing redundancy.

A strengthened Rapid Response Service was launched on 12 November, doubling funding from £3 million to £6 million. It is being promoted through relevant press and on-line. The Pre Budget Report announced a further doubling of Rapid Response Service funding—£12m will be available in 2009/10.

Through the Rapid Response Service, Jobcentre Plus has access to funds to enable those individuals made redundant to receive the necessary help to get them back into work. Such measures could include:

Skills Transfer Analysis (to help identify an individuals transferable skills and training needs relevant to the local labour market);

Job-Focussed Training (to assist individuals with appropriate training and certification linked to employment or self-employment linked to the needs of the local labour market).

In conjunction with the South East Regional Development Agency, our staff will provide pre-redundancy advice about benefit entitlement and claim making arrangements, as well as advice about job hunting and job vacancies. We will also work closely with any job placement provider that may be engaged by the company facing the prospect of redundancy.

Jobcentre Plus Kent District has appointed a Rapid Response Manager and we have a pool of Rapid Response volunteer staff from Kent District who can be deployed where additional help is required.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus across the South East has a joint initiative with South East England Development Agency, known as the Continuing Employment Support Service, which tailors support for companies and their affected workforce and has helped place many people in new careers, by giving them the tools to find alternative employment as quickly as possible, either directly or via local partners.

Social Fund: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) at which locations Social Fund staff work; and how many such staff work at each location; [241447]

(2) how many staff have worked on the Social Fund in each month in each of the last five years. [241448]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions asking at which locations Social Fund staff work and how many such staff work at each location and how many staff have worked on the Social Fund in each month in each of the last five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following tables attached at Annex 1 provide the average number of staff working on Social Fund from April 2008 to September 2008, the mid point of the 2008/09 operational year for each Benefit Delivery Centre and Contact Centre.

Historically it is difficult to make a robust estimate of the number of staff working on Social Fund alone. Although Social Fund activity was recorded on our Activity Based Modelling System, we know that for many of these staff Social Fund was only part of their work. Following centralisation of benefit processing, which began in April 2006 and was completed in March 2008, we can be more confident that our data represents people working full time on Social Fund.

Overall our data shows staff working on Social Fund for 2003/04 around 3,400; 2004/05 around 3,200; 2005/06 around 3,200; 2006/07 around 3,300 and 2007/08 around 3,600.

Annex 1: Social fund processing locations and average staff numbers between April 2008 and September 2008

Benefit Delivery Centre[1]	*Average staff number (FTE)*
Balham and Ilford	382
Basildon	66
Belle Vale	227
Bradford	62
Bristol	153
Chesterfield	73
Chorlton	221
Inverness	121
Llanelli	59
Milton Keynes	178
Newcastle	67
Newport	123
Norwich	99
Nottingham	78
Perry Barr	252
Sheffield	174
Springburn	276
Stockton	73
Sunderland	89
Total	2,773

Contact Centre location[2]	*Average staff number (FTE)*
Annesley	85
Middlesbrough	165
Lowestoft	95
Caerphilly	73
Dundee	117
Taunton	90
Halifax	115
Marton Mere	40
Lincoln	25
Pembroke Dock	40
Total	845

Sources:

[1] Jobcentre Plus ABM systems.

[2] Contact Centre Directorate.

State Retirement Pensions: Overpayments

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received pension overpayments in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 months. [249578]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available by region, district or constituency. The national figure for pension related overpayments is in the following table. This is split between state pension and pension credit overpayment.

Volume of pension related overpayments

	April 2007 to March 2008	*April 2008 to December 2008*
Pension credit	136,031	112,466
State pension	229,626	168,600

Support: Mortgages

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, (1) how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance have been claiming support for mortgage interest payments for two years or more; [249366]

(2) how many people have been claiming support for mortgage interest payments for *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six months and one year, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* two or more years. [249367]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Territorial Army: Jobseeker's Allowance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance are members of the Territorial Army. [248665]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Train to Gain Programme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what demand there has been from employers for Train to Gain in each of the last five years. [247621]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Train to Gain builds on the Employer Training Pilots which were very successful in engaging employers and employees in training up to a first full level 2. Train to Gain started to roll out regionally in April 2006 achieving full national coverage in August 2006. Data on Train to Gain is not available prior to this date.

Train to Gain is a growing programme and employer demand is increasing. In 2005-06 (April 2006 to July 2006) there were 4330 employer engagements and 32,400 learner starts. In 2006-07 (August 2006 to July 2007) there were 47,490 employer engagements and 206,300 learner starts. In 2007-08 (August 2007 to July 2008) there were 52,080 employer engagements and 331,800 learner starts.

Winter Fuel Payments

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of *(a)* 60 and *(b)* 80 years have claimed the winter fuel allowance in (i) the UK, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since its introduction. [244898]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about the number of payments made to households in those areas is in the following table. 2006-07 is the latest year for which information is available.

Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

Data for Tees Valley District are not available.

	Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency	*North East*	*Great Britain*
Winter fuel payments made to people aged 60 or over			
1999-2000	16,030	461,690	10,084,130
2000-01	18,070	511,880	11,105,750
2001-02	18,320	513,460	11,201,900
2002-03	18,750	516,760	11,348,040
2003-04	18,990	519,060	11,468,240
2004-05	18,920	509,230	11,401,170
2005-06	19,260	511,630	11,514,760
2006-07	19,700	518,560	11,702,900
Winter fuel payments made to people aged 80 or over			
2003-04	3,400	95,150	2,334,400
2004-05	3,380	94,790	2,313,230
2005-06	3,520	96,000	2,342,010
2006-07	3,570	97,800	2,376,870

Notes:
1. Figures rounded up to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies, local authorities and Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. The increased winter fuel payment for people aged 80 or over was introduced in winter 2003-04.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments were made (1) to people living in Glasgow North West constituency in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [248547]

(2) in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [248548]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the number of cold weather payments made are not available by parliamentary constituency or local authority, but only by weather station.

The available information is shown in the following table.

Cold weather payments made in Great Britain

	Number
2005-06	988,000
2006-07	402,000
2007-08	472,000

Notes:
1. Figures for 2005-06 and 2007-08 include payments triggered in March but not actually made until April of the following year.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:
Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of winter fuel payment applications which have been delayed owing to incomplete application forms in the latest period for which figures are available. [248887]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Over 95 per cent. of winter fuel payments are made automatically before Christmas. This is to reassure pensioners that they will have extra money available to pay for heating their homes during the coldest part of the year before the winter heating bills arrive.

To date for this year's exercise over 12 million payments have been made and, of them, 63,000 (0.5 per cent. off all winter fuel payments made) claims for winter fuel payments suffered a delay in processing, which was due to customers not supplying all the information required to progress their claim.

Winter Fuel Payments: Wansdyke

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in Wansdyke in each of the last five years. [251836]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on winter fuel payment claims made by households in Wansdyke is not available. The following table shows the number of households in Wansdyke constituency receiving a winter fuel payment in the last five years. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available but we expect the numbers to be similar.

	Number of households in Wansdyke constituency receiving a winter fuel payment
2002-03	13,635
2003-04	13,940
2004-05	14,335
2005-06	14,680
2006-07	14,970

Notes:
1. Figures from 2002-03 to 2004-05 are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures from 2005-06 are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Trade Unions: Legal Opinion

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice commissioned by the Office of Fair Trading on whether trades union members are consumers for the purposes of consumer protection legislation. [250296]

Mr. Thomas: The OFT did not commission external legal advice on whether trade union members are consumers for the purposes of consumer protection legislation, conducting a preliminary internal analysis only.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on steps to ensure that women are not discouraged from giving evidence in court proceedings in cases of domestic and sexual violence. [250985]

Maria Eagle: Successful prosecutions for domestic violence and rape have both increased since 2003. We want to build on this, which is why we have committed to:

> Expanding the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) programme;
>
> Ensuring there are Specialist Officers and Specialist Rape Prosecutors across the country; and
>
> Making video-recordings of rape victims automatically admissible as evidence-in-chief in trials.

I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this matter through the inter ministerial group on sexual and domestic violence.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which websites were operated by the Government Equalities Office in addition to its main website in each year since its inception. [251310]

Maria Eagle: Since its inception in 2007, the Government Equalities Office has operated one website:

> www.equalities.gov.uk

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the policy of the Government Equalities Office is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if she will make a statement. [252027]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office's policy is to allow staff time off in lieu for work in lunch breaks, evenings and at other times outside contracted working hours. These arrangements are subject to agreement between individual staff and their line managers and take account of the business needs of the Office.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office: Complaints

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints were received by the Adjudicator's Office in each of the last five years. [251175]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the Adjudicator's Office annual reports, available from the following website

> http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/publications.htm

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to resolve complaints made to the Adjudicator's Office was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [251186]

Mr. Timms: The average time taken from receipt to resolution was 23 weeks in 2007-08.

Information relating to 2008-09 will be collated at the end of the financial year and will be published in the Adjudicator's Office 2008-09 annual report.

Adjudicator's Office: Correspondence

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets his Department set for the Adjudicator's Office to respond to correspondence in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what his assessment is of the performance of the Adjudicator's Office against these targets. [251176]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not set targets for the Adjudicator's Office. The performance targets for the Adjudicator's Office are set out in its annual business plan. The targets for dealing with correspondence, along with performance against these targets, are as follows:

> 1. When a customer first contacts the Adjudicator's Office and a written response is required, 95 per cent. of responses will be within 10 working days. Actual performance against this was 97.3 per cent. in 2007-08.
>
> 2. 95 per cent. of investigation correspondence dealt with within 15 days. Actual performance against this was 98.3 per cent. in 2007-08.

Information relating to 2008-09 performance will collated at the end of the financial year and will be published in the Adjudicator's Office 2008-09 annual report.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what restrictions he has put in place to prevent the payment of bonuses to bankers who work for those institutions in which the Government has a majority stake. [248145]

Ian Pearson: On 13 October, implementing the measures announced on 8 October, the Chancellor announced that the Government would be underwriting capital investments for Royal Bank of Scotland and, on successful merger, for HBOS and Lloyds TSB.

UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, will oversee the conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund, including in relation to remuneration policies. UKFI will work to ensure management incentivisation based on long-term value maximization, which attracts and retains high quality management and which minimizes the potential for rewarding failure.

Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley have their own conditions on remuneration—these are set out in their respective shareholder relationship framework documents, available on the Treasury website.

More broadly, on 13 October the chief executive of the Financial Services Authority wrote to the chief executives of the major banks and building societies, setting out the criteria for remuneration policies and practices which are properly aligned to sound risk management and controls. The FSA is currently undertaking a review of regulated firms remuneration practices and the authorities have made it clear that failure to comply with the standards set out in the 13 October letter will be reflected in the FSA's risk assessment of firms and will be taken into account when setting capital requirements.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* instructions he has issued to those banks in receipt of public money under the Bank Lending Programme announced on 19 January in respect of lending to overseas-registered companies with (i) operations and (ii) no operations in the United Kingdom. [250936]

Ian Pearson: As set out by the Chancellor on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 485-86, the Government intend to negotiate lending agreements with each bank which will be binding and externally audited in return for access to support measures.

Child Trust Fund: Wansdyke

Dan Norris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Wansdyke constituency have been eligible to receive a voucher to open a child trust fund account in each year since the scheme's inception; and how many such accounts were opened in each of those years. [251834]

Ian Pearson: Constituency level data, including parental account opening figures, on Child Trust Fund accounts was published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf.

This information is not broken down by year as HMRC does not hold the information in that format.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the full-year cost to the Exchequer for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 of reducing the main corporation tax rate to 25 per cent.; [251190]

(2) what estimate he has made of the full-year cost to the Exchequer for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 of reducing the small companies rate of corporation tax to 20 per cent. [251191]

Mr. Timms: The direct revenue effects of a one percentage point change in both the small companies' rate and the main rate of corporation tax are shown in table 5 of "Tax Ready Reckoner and Tax Reliefs November 2008".

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
pbr08_taxreadyreckoner_287.pdf

These estimates will be updated at Budget 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251448]

Angela Eagle: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

This information relating to correspondence from members of the public could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress the inquiry into the premature disclosure of information from his Department in 2008 has made. [251702]

Angela Eagle: It has been the policy of successive Administrations not to comment on the initiation of, content of, or outcome of internal leak inquiries.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [251137]

Angela Eagle: In respect of projects prior to September 2008, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1950W, and to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 9 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 289W.

HM Treasury has no record of any projects that have been abandoned since then.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 428W, on departmental ICT, what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each of the projects referred to; and if he will make a statement. [251246]

Angela Eagle: In respect of the Consultancy Frameworks Contract, which was completed in July 2008, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 428W.

The Corporate Shared Service Programme, completed in January 2009, will have actual costs of £1.36 million.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which websites were operated by his Department in addition to its main website in the last five years. [251300]

Angela Eagle: The Department has operated the following websites in the last five years:

www.isb.gov.uk
http://thegfp.gov.uk
www.ges.gov.uk
www.gsr.gov.uk
www.euro.gov.uk
www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk
www.financial-reporting.gov.uk
www.stakeholdersaving.gov.uk[1]
www.redbox.gov.uk[1]
www.policyhub.gov.uk[1]
www.wga.gov.uk[1]
www.csren.gov.uk[1]
www.opg.gov.uk[2]
www.lyonsinquiry.org[1]
www.government-accounting.gov.uk[1]
www.frab.gov.uk[1]

[1] These websites have closed or content has been moved to the main Treasury website, Directgov or the civil service site.

[2] Ownership of this website has been transferred to HMRC.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which websites are operated by his Department in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for those websites is. [251406]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 683W, on websites operated by the Department and their budgets.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249865]

Angela Eagle: Bonuses are paid to senior civil servants to reward and incentivise high performance. Recipients will typically have consistently performed at a very high level. In 2006-07, 69 bonuses were paid at a cost of £517,000 and in 2007-08, 82 bonuses were paid at a cost of £585,000.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251398]

Yvette Cooper: The 2008 Pre-Budget Report announced that £3 billion of capital spending from 2010-11 will be brought forward to support businesses and jobs across the country. The Chancellor's Departments have not brought forward any capital expenditure. The Chancellor's Departments and their agencies all have small capital budgets that mainly relate to information technology expenditure. A thorough evaluation was undertaken that concluded it would not be appropriate to bring forward capital expenditure for the Chancellor's Departments. This was due to the limited size of the projects and value for money problems involved in doing so.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many departmental identity cards have been reported lost or stolen by staff in HM Revenue and Customs in the last 24 months. [250518]

Mr. Timms: In the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008, HMRC staff lost 298 departmental identity cards, and 41 were reported stolen. These losses represent a small proportion of the 30,000 ID cards held by HMRC.

HMRC provides a Helpdesk facility that enables staff to report such losses and thefts, and allows the Department to take appropriate steps to maintain security across all its estate, including reporting to the police and notification on the card administration database.

Departmental Television

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many flat screen televisions his Department has purchased since 1997. [251654]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1889W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251317]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers attended three courses in the period concerned. The courses were intended to enable Ministers to carry out their duties effectively in line with the ministerial code.

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of hon. Members' questions for written answer on a named day his Department has answered on the day named in the 2008-09 Session of Parliament to date. [251899]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer written parliamentary questions promptly wherever possible. Of the 169 named day questions tabled to the Treasury in the current parliamentary Session, 103 (61 per cent.) were answered on the day nominated by questioners.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department played in discussions leading to the recent decision of the Financial Services Authority to remove its prohibition on short selling of shares in financial institutions. [251268]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* The Financial Services Authority (FSA) reviewed its recent short selling restrictions and, after consulting publicly, decided to extend the short selling disclosure regime until 30 June 2009 and allow its prohibition on the short selling of shares in financial institutions to expire.

The FSA is independent of Government, though is accountable to Parliament, HM Treasury, regulated firms and consumers. The Government do not have a general power of direction over the FSA.

The UK tripartite authorities, HM Treasury, the Bank of England, and the FSA, have worked, and continue to work, together to take all necessary steps to ensure the stability of the UK financial system. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Foreign Exchange

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of sterling traded on each day of the last two months. [251664]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not estimate daily trading volumes in foreign exchange markets.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection he has made of the prevailing exchange rate between the pound sterling and the *(a)* euro, *(b)* Thai baht and *(c)* US dollar in each of the next 12 months. [251666]

Ian Pearson: As set out in footnote 2, on page 146 of Pre-Budget Report 2008 (Cm 7484), the Government's economic forecast is based on the assumption that the exchange rate moves in line with an uncovered interest parity condition, consistent with the interest rates underlying the economic forecast. The Government do not publish forecasts of sterling against individual currencies.

Fraud: Currency

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made representations to *(a)* the euro area authorities on the abolition of the 500 euro banknote and *(b)* the United States administration on abolition of the 100 dollar bill as a means of making criminal payments more difficult. [250589]

Ian Pearson: Her Majesty's Government recognise that high denomination banknotes can present a money-laundering risk, and we continue to work with our international partners through the EU's Committee on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to reduce these risks where possible.

Government Shareholding

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in relation to the preference shares taken by the Government in *(a)* Lloyds Bank, *(b)* HBOS and *(c)* Royal Bank of Scotland, whether non-payment of the preference dividend by the board of directors would be treated as an act of default entitling the Government to initiate proceedings for winding-up the company; [249678]

(2) in relation to the preference shares taken by the Government in *(a)* Lloyds Bank, *(b)* HBOS and *(c)* Royal Bank of Scotland, if he will bring forward proposals to (i) make them cumulative and (ii) adjust the coupon on the shares to a lower rate; [249679]

(3) in relation to the preference shares taken by the Government in *(a)* Lloyds Bank, *(b)* HBOS and *(c)* Royal Bank of Scotland, whether, if the board of directors decide to pass the dividend the lost dividend will be recoverable for the public purse. [249680]

Ian Pearson *[holding answers 20 January 2009]:* The terms of the agreements with the recapitalised banks on preference shares were set out in Chancellor's statements to the House on 8 October 2008, 13 October 2008 and 19 January 2009, and in press notices on HM Treasury's website. The placing and open offer agreements are available in the House of Commons Library.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland's letter to him of 20 October 2008 on petrol prices in Orkney and Shetland. [251098]

Angela Eagle: I met with the hon. Member on 4 June to discuss the issues raised in his letter of 20 October 2008 to the Prime Minister and wrote on 24 November 2008.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs the Government plans to create through expenditure on eco-friendly projects; what estimate he has made of the proportion of such jobs which will go to British workers; and how much money the Government plans to spend in this respect. [251069]

Angela Eagle: At the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government announced that £3 billion of capital investment would be brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to support a number of different industries and sectors through the current downturn. This included a green stimulus of £535 million, comprising:

£100 million new funding for the Warm Front scheme and £50 million brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10;

£60 million to provide to accelerate household energy efficiency and heating measures under the Decent Homes programme;

£300 million to accelerate delivery of up to 200 new rail carriages;

£20 million accelerated flood defence spending; and

£5 million accelerated spend on the British Waterways canal network.

The Prime Minister has announced that total public sector capital investment is expected to create or support approximately 100,000 jobs across the country in 2009-10.

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the HM Revenue and Customs website does not give a postal address for complaints. [248231]

Mr. Timms: Tax complaints should be sent to the local tax office. The address for each local office can be found on HMRC's website.

For all other complaints, the addresses can be found on relevant HMRC correspondence or from HMRC's telephone helpline.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many pre-surplus staff there were at HM Revenue and Customs and its agencies at the end of each quarter from March 2007 onwards; [250273]

(2) with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1123W, on Revenue and Customs: manpower, what the definition is of pre-surplus staff. [250274]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 197W, on departmental personnel, how many of the pre-surplus staff classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the pre-surplus staff have been classified as such for at least *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months. [250116]

Mr. Timms: Since 2005, HMRC have reduced their overall headcount from 105,000 staff to 88,000 staff. HMRC have committed to reducing staff numbers further over the coming years.

My hon. Friend'sanswer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1473W described how the pre-surplus arrangements work. Pre-surplus status is a term used by HMRC as part of their arrangements for managing workforce changes. When work volumes reduce or it is planned to move work to another location, HMRC use pre-surplus arrangements to help manage the consequent change in staffing requirements. HMRC use this scheme to help re-deploy staff to new roles ahead of any change in staffing requirements in a particular location or business unit.

Potentially surplus staff are given pre-surplus status and then have priority for any vacancies that arise that they apply for. This allows HMRC to address proactively any potential staffing surplus as a result of a change in the business. Pre-surplus staff continue to carry out essential work for the Department as they await new jobs. This is a sensible way to make best use of the skills of people during a period of radical reconstruction to improve service to customers.

If pre-surplus measures do not resolve the situation, staff can be declared 'surplus' after which the Department can start to move to redundancy. The pre-surplus arrangements are a key part of our strategy for managing surpluses, and the Department remains committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies as far as this is reasonably practicable.

Information on pre-surplus information was only retained from the quarter ended September 2007. The figures provided as follows provide a snapshot of the position at each date. The position changes on a daily basis.

Numbers of pre-surplus staff in HMRC

	Number
June 2007	n/a
Sept 2007	3,197
Dec 2007	2,420
Mar 2008	1,998
June 2008	2,275
Sept 2008	2,240
Dec 2008	2,865

n/a = Not available.

The current number of pre-surplus staff (20 January 2009) is 2,824. The number of pre-surplus staff on maternity leave is 18. The number of staff pre-surplus for at least six months is 34 and there are 21 who have been pre-surplus for more than 12 months.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs' public service agreement and associated targets are for quantities of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine and *(c)* crack cocaine seized on entry to the UK in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [251087]

Mr. Timms: Public service agreements (PSAs) refer to high level objectives set by Government and shared across Departments, for the current spending review period, 2008-9 to 2010-11. Individual Departments have, for this period, set departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) that will measure their achievement against PSAs and core business objectives. HMRC's DSO3 specifically relates to reducing the amount of illicit imported and exported goods.

The PSA/DSO targets for heroin and cocaine are set out in the following table. Seizures of crack cocaine are not targeted separately—the target for cocaine includes crack cocaine.

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Heroin			
Number of seizures	61	67	67
Quantity (kg)	700	527	527
Cocaine			
Number of seizures	1,176	1,174	1,174
Quantity (kg)	2,600	2,368	2,368

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* name, *(b)* address and *(c)* size is of each (i) used and (ii) vacant space for each entry on the e-PIMS property database, excluding sensitive information. [252190]

Angela Eagle: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what targets his Department has set for the time taken to process *(a)* a notification of a tax credit claimant's change of circumstances and *(b)* any subsequent amendment of a tax credit award; and if he will make a statement; [246608]

(2) how long on average it has taken to process a notification of *(a)* a tax credit claimant's change of circumstances and *(b)* any subsequent amendment of a tax credit award in each year since the scheme's introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246609]

(3) how many notifications of changed circumstances relating to tax credits HM Revenue and Customs received in each month of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [246610]

Mr. Timms: Performance outturn for all new claims, renewals and changes of circumstances for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 can be found in the Department's autumn performance reports which are available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Information relating solely to change of circumstance notifications for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the following table.

	Target (Percentage)	
	86 per cent. in five working days	*95 per cent. in 30 working days*
2006-07	89.7	92.7
2007-08	89.1	91.6

The majority of changes of circumstances are notified to the tax credits helpline and are processed at the time of the call. The changes that impact on the 30-day target are usually notified in writing.

The Tax Credit Office now has a separate internal measure that aims to process 80 per cent. of all written notifications in 15 working days and 98 per cent. in 30 calendar days in 2008-09. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is working hard to identify how resources can be most effectively deployed to achieve this aim.

Detailed information about the number of change of circumstance notifications received is not available in the format requested.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times bailiffs have been deployed with respect to the recovery of tax credit overpayments *(a)* in each year since 2003-04 and *(b)* in each month in 2008-09 for which information is available; and what the average level of overpayment was. [249234]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not deploy bailiffs to recover tax credit overpayments.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions his Department has used the services of a private debt collecting company with respect to the recovery of tax credit overpayments *(a)* in each year since 2003-04 and *(b)* in each month in 2008-09 for which information is available; and what the average level of overpayment was. [249236]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not currently deploy private debt collecting companies for the recovery of tax credit overpayments.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* sector skills councils and *(b)* individual employers on the revised Apprenticeship Blueprint, with particular reference to (i) college-based and (ii) work-based programmes. [246312]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is leading the development of the revised Apprenticeship Blueprint. The LSC has consulted with Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), Standard Setting Bodies (SSBs) and other employer representatives involved with the Apprenticeship Framework Approval Group to develop the revisions to the Apprenticeships Blueprint. The LSC met SSCs, SSBs and other employer representatives in December 2008 to discuss the revisions and a full public consultation on the revised Blueprint will be launched in February 2009. We expect SSCs, employers, colleges and providers of work-based programmes to respond to the consultation.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices there were in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [251126]

Mr. Simon: In the 2006-07 academic year, there were 184,400 apprenticeship starts. The number of apprenticeship starts in 2007-08 was 224,800. This information was published in a statistical first release on 18 December 2008.

There has been a renaissance in apprenticeships, and starts have been increasing, from 65,000 in 1996-97 with 27 per cent. completion, with 2008 completions standing at 64 per cent. Framework completions have increased from 39,000 in 2001-02 to 111,800 in 2006-07 and 112,600 in 2007-08.

My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property, wrote to the hon. Member on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 286W, on the subject of how we count apprenticeships. In "World-Class Apprenticeships", we announced that we were changing the way we count apprenticeships, moving to counting the number of people starting an apprenticeship in the year ('starts') and the percentage who complete an apprenticeship ('completion rate'). Therefore, information on the total number of apprenticeships in training during the year is not available.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249128]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not recorded. As a matter of general principle, we aim to provide as much information as possible when answering written questions and would consider providing an answer, despite it exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold, if it was deemed to be in the public interest.

Educational Institutions: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which colleges have submitted applications *(a)* in principle and *(b)* in detail as part of the Building Colleges for the Future programme; which have yet to receive final approval for their projects; and if he will make a statement. [251978]

Mr. Lammy: In 1997-98, the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Library.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of *(a)* the adequacy of the Learning and Skills Council's capital budget for further education colleges to fund pending capital projects and *(b)* the effect of spending on such projects on local economies. [252094]

Mr. Simon: In 1997-98, the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

Currently more than 250 projects are under way and funded by the LSC—helped by the recent decision to accelerate £110 million in 2008-09 from future budgets to help beat the downturn.

In total, since the programme began under this Government, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed. Only 42 colleges have not yet benefited from investment. The programme has therefore been a huge success.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding they require are becoming increasingly ambitious.

In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the LSC will be working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making further funding decisions.

As a result of this the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—has been deferred from December to March.

Research by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2003/04 into the effects of capital investment on educational outcomes found that capital investment appears to have a marked effect in increasing the level of student retention on courses and success. Frontier Economics updated the research in 2007 ('Evaluating the impact of capital expenditure in further Education' available from the Learning and Skills Council website) and confirmed a link with higher student enrolment.

We know that colleges build strong communities economically and socially. To ensure we maximise the value of our capital investment, all contractors working on college projects are now required to have in place a formal training plan that maximises access to apprenticeships, work-based learning and other training opportunities.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of A level entrants were *(a)* 19 and *(b)* over 21 years of age in each year since 1997. [249241]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of learners in further education undertaking at least one A level or AS level in each academic year since 2003/04 by age group, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

Table 2 shows proportions, by age, of learners in further education undertaking at least one A or AS level.

Awarding Body data on A level examination entries is analysed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the "School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables" publication. However, this work only covers qualifications entered for by 16-18 year olds. Therefore, we do not have information readily available on adults entered for A level examinations.

Table 1: Learners in further education undertaking at least one A or AS level by age, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Age	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Under 19	201,800	199,900	197,700	197,800	197,800
19	6,900	6,500	5,600	4,900	4,800
20	3,700	3,000	2,400	2,000	1,800
21	2,300	2,000	1,500	1,300	1,000
Over 21	30,700	26,900	21,500	16,000	11,700
Total	245,400	238,300	228,700	222,000	217,100

Notes:
1. Age is based on age as at 31 August (academic age).
2. This information does not include learners studying A/AS Levels in Schools or Higher Education Institutions.
3. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
4. If a learner is studying A/AS levels over more than one year, they will be counted in each year for which they are studying.
5. It is not been possible to split out A level learners from those undertaking AS levels.

Source:
FE ILR

Table 2: Proportions, by age, of learners in further education undertaking at least one A or AS level by age, 2003/04 to 2007/08

					Percentage
Age	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Under 19	82	84	86	89	91

Table 2: Proportions, by age, of learners in further education undertaking at least one A or AS level by age, 2003/04 to 2007/08

					Percentage
Age	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
19	3	3	2	2	2
20	2	1	1	1	1
21	1	1	1	1	0
Over 21	13	11	9	7	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Notes:
1. Age is based on age as at 31 August (academic age).
2. This information does not include learners studying A/AS Levels in Schools or Higher Education Institutions.
3. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
4. If a learner is studying A/AS levels over more than one year, they will be counted in each year for which they are studying.
5. It is not been possible to split out A level learners from those undertaking AS levels.

Source:
FE ILR

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 3 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North on the Learning and Skills Council. [248917]

Mr. Simon: A response to the hon. Member for Walsall, North's letter was sent on 26 January 2009.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on the first annual review of the list of subjects exempt from the restrictions on funding for students taking an equivalent or lower qualification. [251127]

Mr. Lammy: The Secretary of State established when he finalised this policy in January 2008 that the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) should conduct an annual review on its impact. I wrote to HEFCE earlier this month setting out the terms of reference for the review. I told HEFCE that they should consider whether there is evidence that any changes to the current approach will help universities respond more effectively to the challenges of the economic downturn. I also instructed that a review should not lead to a significant net increase in the overall number of ELQ students studying exempt or protected subjects because we will continue to give priority for public funding to those who have not yet obtained a first higher education qualification. HEFCE has started work on the review and plan to report later in the year.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* adults over 25 years received Skills for Life funding in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [249116]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows LSC-funded Skills for Life participation—the number of learners aged 25 or over as at 31 August (academic year age) and all adults (aged 16+), in the 2004/05 and 2005/06 academic years. Information on Skills for Life participation is not available prior to 2004/05.

Table 1: LSC-funded Skills for Life Participation, 2004/05 and 2005/06

	2004/05	2005/06
Adults aged 25 and over	232,100	300,100
Total Adults (all ages, 16+)	870,600	1,010,800

Notes:
1. These figures include learners at further education colleges (including learndirect), Work Based Learning (including apprenticeships, Train to Gain and entry to Employment) and Adult Safeguarded learning.
2. Figures are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year. Learners undertaking more than one course are counted only once for each data collection. However, learners that are included in different data collections, whether that relates to different years or different funding streams will be counted more than once. For example, if a learner is undertaking an apprenticeship and Train to Gain qualification, they will be counted twice in this table.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to involve Afghan nationals not resident in Afghanistan in his Department's efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. [244581]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular contact with the Afghan community and non-governmental organisations in the UK. We have invited Afghans living in the UK to participate in round-table briefing sessions with officials to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, and will do so again in future. We are holding a conference early next year involving the Afghan community, non-governmental organisations and other interested parties. The conference will feature prominent Afghans based in the UK speaking about the situation in Afghanistan, and will seek to promote debate about how best we can work together to support stabilisation efforts in Afghanistan.

Armed Conflict: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on achieving improvements to post-conflict stabilisation policy at the UN and EU; and what contribution the UK is making to these efforts in the areas of *(a)* strategy and leadership, *(b)* capacity and *(c)* funding, as referred to in his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [246256]

David Miliband: Following the UK-chaired May Security Council debate, the UN Secretary-General was mandated to produce a report on Peacebuilding and Early Recovery by May 2009. A UK-hosted conference in July and a follow-up conference in Copenhagen have helped to build international consensus on the need to address three key gaps—in strategy and leadership, capacity and funding. We are working to ensure that the UN Secretary-General's report is ambitious and provides the basis for real improvements in delivery on the ground. Ministers and senior officials have met with key UN officials and other member states to urge an ambitious reform agenda. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's

Special Envoy on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms visited New York and Brussels to emphasise the importance that the UK places on this work. In the context of the EU, we ensured that a focus on post-conflict stabilisation reform was included in the review of the European Security Strategy in December, and the UK will continue to push forward work to improve capabilities for EU missions during the Czech EU presidency.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247379]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241189]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works to ensure that its estate is as sustainable as possible and that we properly manage all environmental risks to our operations.

The FCO works with other Government Departments notably the Department of Energy and Climate Change to deliver Government objectives on climate change and is committed to delivering a low carbon, high growth global economy.

The FCO consular strategy takes into account that climate change may produce more extreme weather events requiring a crisis response (for example, an increase in the number and intensity of tropical storms). We work closely with the travel industry to minimise any risks to British nationals overseas in such circumstances.

The FCO has no plans to publish a climate change adaptation strategy, but details of all of the above work can be found in the FCO annual report.

Commonwealth Scholarships

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the right hon. Lord Morris of Manchester of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords column WA45, on the Commonwealth Scholarships Programme, whether the working group on scholarships has been formed; what its *(a)* composition and *(b)* mandate is; and when it is expected to report. [240672]

David Miliband: The interdepartmental working group on scholarships has been established. Its membership includes the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for International Development, UK Trade and Investment, the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government (to be confirmed), the Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, Universities UK, Research Councils UK, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the Scottish Funding Council, The Russell Group, the British Council, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and the Confederation of British Industry (to be confirmed).

The group is a vehicle for the exchange of information and ideas between government, the higher education sector and organisations which deliver scholarships in order to improve the UK scholarship offer to international students. Its terms of reference are for approval at its first meeting on 19 February 2009, but I have placed the draft terms in the Library of the House.

The group does not have a deadline to produce a report. It will continue to work for as long as is useful.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been made to his Department since 2005; how many such requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if he will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by his Department opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by his Department in connection with each appeal; and if he will make a statement. [245080]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State for Justice my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 7 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report, which 130 UK-based policy slots are in the process of being deleted; and what the 130 new positions created are. [246268]

David Miliband: In March 2008, FCO Ministers agreed to realign the Department's global network in order to deliver its new strategic framework. This has resulted in a shift of staff to strengthen our presence in countries critical to the achievement of our objectives and to reinforce our policy work in London, and a reduction in staffing in Europe.

By March 2009, we intend to have created around 170 new policy positions filled by UK-based staff, and we are in the process of deleting around 130 old positions. We will keep the staffing of our global network and UK operation under regular review to ensure that we remain best placed to handle our international priorities.

On current plans, these changes will include the following:

New policy positions

DSO 5 Counter Terrorism and Weapons Proliferation

Seven new D6 (First Secretary) positions in the Middle East, North Africa, East Africa and South Asia.

New C5 (First Secretary) position at UKMIS Vienna

Six new C4 (Second Secretary) positions in North Africa, South Asia, Indonesia, Sudan, Washington and at UKDIS Geneva.

New C4 (x7), B3 (x2) and A2 positions in the FCO, London, and four new C4 positions in a joint FCO/Home Office Unit.

DSO 6 Prevent and Resolve Conflict

New D7 position in Baghdad.

New D6 positions in Baghdad, Khartoum, Kinshasa, Rabat/Nouakchott, Kabul (x2), Lashkar Gah (x5), Islamabad, Washington and UKMIS New York.

New C5 position in Kabul.

New C4 positions in Ankara, Kuwait, Erbil, Damascus, Tripoli, Tbilisi, Astana, Dhaka, Kabul (x2), Lashkar Gah, Islamabad and Washington.

New B3 (Third Secretary) positions in Kabul (x2), Lashkar Gah and Beirut.

New A2 (attache) positions in Kabul (x3) and Lashkar Gah

New SMS, D7 (x4) D6 (x7), C5, C4 (xl4), B3 (x7), A2 (x4) and Al positions in the FCO, London.

DSO 7 Promote a Low Carbon, High Growth Global Economy

New Senior Management Structure (SMS) positions in Beijing and New Delhi.

New D7 position in Moscow.

New D6 positions in Brasilia (x2), Mexico, Ottawa, Washington, Singapore, Paris, Rome, Pretoria, New Delhi and Jakarta (x2).

New C5 positions in Beijing and Guangzhou.

New C4 positions in Washington, Brasilia, Mexico, Vancouver, Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Jakarta, Seoul, Tokyo, Moscow (x2), New Delhi and Copenhagen.

New B3 position in Brasilia.

New SMS (x2), D7 (x2), D6 (x5), C4 (xlO), B3 (x6), A2 (x3) and Al positions in the FCO, London.

DSO 8 (Develop Effective International Institutions)

New SMS position in Warsaw.

New D6 positions in Brasilia, Stockholm, Addis Ababa and Moscow

New C4 position in Beijing.

New SMS position in the FCO, London.

Deleted positions

Europe

A2 positions in Athens, Belgrade, Berne, Bratislava, Brussels Embassy (x2), Bucharest (x2), Budapest, Dublin, Gibraltar (x2), Helsinki, Ljubljana, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Rome, Sofia, Tirana, The Hague, Valletta (X2) and Vienna.

B3 positions in Berne, Athens (x2), Brussels, Gibraltar, Lisbon, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris (x2), Riga, Rome (x2), Stockholm, Tallinn, the Hague, Warsaw, Zagreb.

C4 positions in Athens, Berlin (x2), Bratislava, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Kiev, Lisbon, Oslo, Prague, Sofia, The Hague, Warsaw.

C5 position in Berlin.

D6 positions in Berlin (x2), Bratislava, Budapest, Dublin, Ljubljana, Madrid, Paris (x4), Rome, Sarajevo, Vilnius.

D7 positions in Brussels and Bucharest.

SMS positions in Prague, Rome, The Hague and Warsaw.

Americas

SMS position in Canada.

D6 positions in the United States network (x2), Brasilia and Buenos Aires.

C5 positions in Antigua and the US network.

C4 positions in Brasilia, Mexico City, Guatemala and the US network.

B3 positions in Kingston and Canada.

A2 positions in Buenos Aires, Mexico City and the US network.

FCO, London

SMS, D6 (x2), C5, C4 (x4), B3 (x4), A2, Al positions in Sustainable Development and Business Group.

SMS, D7, C5, C4, B3, A2, Al positions in Science and Innovation Group.

B3 position in Climate Change and Energy Croup.

D6 (x4), C4, B3 (x2), Al positions in Drugs and International Crime Department.

D6 (x2), C4, A2 positions in Counter Terrorism Department.

B3 position in Counter Proliferation Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the planned allocative efficiencies for CSR07, set out in the Table of Value for Money Projects on page 26 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report, will be achieved; and if he will provide a breakdown of the changes. [246265]

David Miliband: Allocative efficiencies in the comprehensive spending review value for money programme are generated when resources are reassigned from lower priority areas to release funding for reinvestment in higher priority areas.

We aim to provide a full breakdown, of all allocative efficiencies achieved in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2009 departmental report.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251877]

Gillian Merron: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) are responsible for providing ministerial transport in line with the ministerial code. The GCDA service is provided at a standard monthly charge during working hours and no additional cost would usually be incurred for transporting Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises.

Information on the expenditure incurred for ministerial transport by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for each of the last five financial years were given in a written answer by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 578-80W, and in a written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 116-18WS.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252029]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office gives managers authority to allow their staff to take time off in lieu as an alternative to payment for overtime, by mutual agreement, when they are required to work outside contracted hours.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252030]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain a central record of the number of days taken off in lieu by its staff serving in either of these categories in the United Kingdom or overseas. Time off in lieu is authorised and managed locally by line managers.

Diplomatic Service: Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1272-3W, on ambassadors (education), where his Department's assessment development centres are located. [244248]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds its assessment centres at Wiston House, Wilton Park, Steyning, West Sussex.

Wilton Park is a Foreign and Commonwealth Office executive agency.

Diplomatic Services: Equality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many ambassadors and high commissioners are *(a)* male and *(b)* female and identify themselves as (i) white and (ii) from another ethnic group. [251312]

Gillian Merron: UK heads of mission overseas are designated high commissioner when accredited to a Commonwealth state, and ambassador when accredited to a foreign state. In dependent territories they serve as governors.

28 out of 193 staff currently serving as UK heads of mission overseas are female.

Five UK heads of mission have recorded that they are from a non-white British ethnic minority, and five opted not to declare their ethnicity.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to increasing the diversity of its work force at all levels, including its senior representatives. Our objective is both to reflect the diversity of modern Britain at home and overseas and to promote equality and harness different approaches and perspectives.

Faroe Islands: Whales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to hold discussions with Faroese representatives on the recent slaughter of whales in the Faroe Islands; and if he will make a statement. [244053]

Gillian Merron: The UK recognises with deep concern that these actions still occur in Faroese waters and we regularly raise the matter with Denmark at the International Whaling Commission.

The UK will continue to be extremely critical of these small cetacean (dolphin and porpoise) hunts because of their limited regulation, cruelty and unsustainable numbers taken.

All cetaceans are protected in EU waters under the Habitats Directive and no EU country hunts small or large cetaceans. We would like to see the Faroese observe this and other EU conservation directives in their efforts to seek greater integration and co-operation with the EU.

Gaza: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government are assisted in the repatriation of any UK citizens from Gaza during the conflict in the region. [248107]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* We are providing consular assistance to all British nationals in Gaza who require it. In view of the particular circumstances in Gaza, this includes those with dual UK/Palestinian nationality. So far 11 individuals have requested permission to leave, which we are arranging to facilitate.

As elsewhere in the world, we will provide consular assistance to EU and in certain circumstances to Commonwealth nationals whose countries do not have diplomatic representation. Currently three persons have requested assistance to leave, which we are facilitating.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many individuals working for private military security companies registered in the UK have been killed on duty in Iraq since 2003. [243110]

Bill Rammell: The Government do not maintain figures detailing the number of fatalities or casualties of the employees working for private military security companies in Iraq, be they registered in the UK or elsewhere. We could find no collation of this information held by other bodies or organisations.

Iraq: Weapons

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on Iraq: weapons, what reports he has received from the International Atomic Energy Agency of its discussions with the orginators of the intelligence. [244151]

Bill Rammell: As I said in my answer to my hon. Friend on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, we understand that the originators of the intelligence discussed the issue with the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), but have not received any further reports on this matter. Intelligence is exchanged on a confidential basis and we would not expect the IAEA to discuss with us such information it had received from a third country.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1660W, on languages, how much has been paid in the current financial year to each of the 15 foreign language training providers who have a framework agreement with his Department. [240671]

David Miliband: The following table provides these details.

Foreign language training provider	£
Ana Lazarevic	44,675.00
Communicaid	377,305.72
European Business School	0.00
Farnham Castle	4,820.90
Gateway	141,771.67
Institut Francais	38,221.50
King's College London	131,839.49
L2	82,892.70
Language Services Direct	64,674.55
LSI	2,202.70
LSE	0.00
Linguarama	40,888.83
Rainbow	42,349.25
SOAS	198,421.00
WLC	96,813.05

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budget allocation his Department has made for the services of foreign language training providers in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [240835]

David Miliband: The budget allocation for 2008-09 for provision of language training was £4.29 million. The budget for 2009-10 has not yet been allocated.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other countries through the UN (i) have organised and (ii) plan to organise medical aid to assist Israeli casualties following rocket attacks from Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [247983]

Bill Rammell: Israel has reported 13 casualties as a result of the current violence in Gaza only four of them civilians. The Israeli Government have made no request to the international community for medical aid as a result of rocket attacks from Gaza. The UK has been clear in its call for an immediate and durable ceasefire to bring the violence to an end.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on discrimination against Jewish communities in Arab states; and if he will make a statement. [247986]

Bill Rammell: The UK condemns any discrimination against religious communities and minorities including Jewish communities. We consistently raise human rights in discussions at the UN and directly with Arab states, Israel and other states at all levels.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel on discrimination against Jewish communities in Arab states; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [247987]

Bill Rammell: The UK condemns any discrimination against religious communities and minorities including Jewish communities. We consistently raise human rights in discussions with Arab states, Israel and other states at all levels.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to allow the sale of arms to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [247988]

Bill Rammell: The policy is absolutely clear: where there is a clear risk of shipments of exports being used either for internal repression or for external aggression the export licence is not granted.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab states; and if he will make a statement. [247989]

Bill Rammell: We have taken no such steps and have no plans do to so.

Nigeria: Oil

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the situation in the Niger Delta; and what discussions he has had with the Nigerian Government on this matter. [248543]

Gillian Merron: The Government remain concerned at the continuing high level of violence and instability in the Niger Delta. The key to resolving the crisis is domestic political will within Nigeria, and a systematic approach to security, governance and development. We support the Nigerian Government on Delta issues, for example through a £2 million project to promote transparency and accountability of state and local government expenditure in the Delta and through support on maritime training. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, has discussed these issues several times with the Nigerian authorities in follow-up to discussions between my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Yar'Adua in July 2008. He also discussed the Delta with the Foreign Minister Maduekwe in December 2008 and with President Yar'Adua in January 2009.

Nigeria: Violence

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Nigeria on action against the perpetrators of the violence which took place in Jos between 28 and 30 November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [243159]

Gillian Merron: Following the rioting in Jos on 28-30 November 2008, the Government have had discussions with the Nigerian authorities, both at local and at ministerial level, and will continue to monitor the situation carefully. The government of Nigeria has taken various measures, including a temporary curfew, to avoid further violence. The Nigerian Inter-Religious Council has held a meeting in Jos under the chairmanship of the Sultan of Sokoto and Catholic Archbishop John Onaiyekan to help prevent future violence.

Nuclear Fuels

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what timescale has been agreed for the International Atomic Energy Agency to approve the conditions and modalities for a nuclear fuel bank, as set out in the Conclusions of the 2914th meeting of the General Affairs Council on 8 December 2008. [246269]

David Miliband: The UK is continuing to work with our European partners to achieve the successful establishment of a Nuclear Fuel Bank under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) auspices. As part of our ongoing commitment to this project, the EU has pledged to provide €25 million to assist the Nuclear Threat Initiative in achieving its announced goal of $100 million. Although it is not possible to predict when modalities and conditions for such a project will be agreed, the matter will be raised at the next IAEA Board of Governors, to be held in Vienna from 2 to 6 March 2009. The matter is also the subject of ongoing discussion at the EU Working Group on Non-Proliferation.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's contribution will be to the 25 million euro the European Union is planning to contribute for the creation of an International Atomic Energy Agency nuclear fuel bank; and if he will make a statement. [246283]

David Miliband: EU Foreign Ministers agreed in December to contribute up to €25 million once the conditions and modalities for the nuclear fuel bank have been defined and approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s Board of Governors. At least 80 per cent. of the EU contribution will come from the European Commission's Instrument for Stability, a tool designed to address situations of crisis and instability in third countries. Any balance is expected to be financed by the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy Budget. Details of the UK's contribution to the EU budget are set out at:

> http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/institutions/britain-in-the-european-union/eu-policies/economic-and-social-affairs/eu-budget

Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the statement by the then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett), of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 301, in response to the hon. Member for Ilford, South (Mike Gapes), what subsequent discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* India and *(b)* Pakistan on their becoming signatories to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty; and what response he received. [244117]

Bill Rammell: Ministers and officials regularly discuss nuclear non-proliferation with the governments of India and Pakistan. We make clear our wish to see both countries sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear weapon states. Although neither country has indicated it is ready to accede to the NPT, we are working to bring both India and Pakistan closer to the international non proliferation mainstream, including through the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty.

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the United States Government on the suspected death of Mr. Rashid Rauf following a US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on 22 November 2008. [245663]

Bill Rammell: We do not have confirmation of the death of Rashid Rauf. Following a request from his family, we have requested official confirmation from the Government of Pakistan.

No specific representation has been made to the US Administration.

Russia: Broadcasting

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his French counterpart the termination of Russian language broadcasts by EU member states to *(a)* Russia, *(b)* Belarus, *(c)* Azerbaijan and *(d)* Uzbekistan. [245877]

Caroline Flint: We did not discuss with the French presidency the termination of Russian language broadcasts by other EU member states to Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan or Uzbekistan. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans at present to discuss this with the current Czech EU presidency. The UK did raise with the French the BBC World Service's Azerbaijan service (that includes Russian broadcasting) ending on 31 December 2008 by order of the Azeri National Radio and TV Broadcast Council. We will continue to monitor the situation and will raise with the Czechs as appropriate.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245716]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have any specific guidelines in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance the Government have provided for the deployment of the African Union force in Somalia in the *(a)* last and *(b)* current financial year; and if he will make a statement. [243876]

David Miliband: In financial year 2007-08, the UK committed £8.3 million support to AMISOM (the African Union force in Somalia). This included assistance with Ugandan and Burundian troop sustainment (fuel, food, rotation costs, airlift); assistance with Burundian troop allowances; and supplies to the Ugandan battalions (trucks, vehicle spares etc).

We have allocated and expect to provide around £9 million of assistance this financial year, including further support to Burundian troops. We will keep this sum under review, in the light of the situation on the ground in Somalia and of discussions in the UN Security Council on the UN role.

The UK also contributes to the EU's African peace facility, which has provided funds of €19.7 million (euros) to AMISOM between March 2007 and December 2008. A further €20 million (euros) will be provided in 2009.

St. Helena: Airports

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on access to St. Helena after the planned retirement from service in 2010 of RMS St. Helena; what the consequences for that policy are of the decision to postpone the St. Helena airport project; and if he will make a statement. [244935]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 836-37W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn).

Students: Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans his Department has given to student organisations in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the purpose was of the payment in each case. [246859]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FCO posts overseas may provide grants or loans to student organisations as part of programmes that contribute toward their strategic objectives. Individual student scholarships, to study in Britain as part of the Chevening Scholarship Programme, are administered on our behalf by the British Council and totalled £31.3 million in 2007-08.

Terrorism

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department has made available for the Government's counter-radicalisation agenda for each year until 2010-11. [243031]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has allocated approximately £80 million for counter-radicalisation over the next three years: £19 million in 2008-09, £24 million in 2009-10 and £37 million in 2010-11.

Thailand: Politics and Government

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has made representations to the Thai government on the recent anti-government protestors' blockade of Bangkok's two main airports; and if he will make a statement. [240302]

Bill Rammell: I spoke to the Thai ambassador on 28 November 2008 to urge the Thai authorities to do everything in their power to restore public order and reopen Bangkok's airports. I emphasised the urgent need to assist those British nationals affected by the blockade and underlined the damage the situation was doing to Thailand's international reputation.

In addition, from the day protests at the airports began, our embassy in Bangkok has repeatedly passed similar messages to senior members of the Thai Government, military, major political parties and others with influence on the situation. On 4 December 2008, the British ambassador participated in a joint demarche with US, EU, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Korea colleagues and spoke to caretaker Prime Minister Chavarat Charnvirakul, emphasising that Thailand's leaders should work to ensure future political activity was legal and not aimed at Thailand's visitors or wider economic interests.

Treaty of Lisbon

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plans to restart its contingency preparatory work for implementation of the Lisbon Treaty should it come into force. [253023]

Caroline Flint: The Government will in no way pre-empt the decisions of those countries that have yet to ratify the Lisbon treaty. However, in light of the decisions at the December 2008 European Council, we will now work on all possible scenarios. This will include preparing for the possibility that the Lisbon treaty will come into force. We have a responsibility to engage in discussions to ensure that any institutional arrangements being planned for the event that the Lisbon treaty comes into force reflect our national interest. Not to do so would be irresponsible. I can, however, assure the House that work will remain on a contingency basis only and that no formal decisions will be taken unless and until the treaty enters into force.

Ukraine: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had since July 2008 and *(b)* plans to have with EU counterparts on levels of anti-Semitism in (i) Ukraine and (ii) Russia; and if he will make a statement. [247758]

Caroline Flint: We monitor these issues closely with our EU partners in Brussels, Kyiv, and in Moscow. We have previously expressed our concerns about xenophobia and racism at a senior level to the Ukrainian authorities. Racism was raised with Russian authorities by the EU in human rights talks in October 2008, and we had a thorough discussion of the issue in our own bilateral human rights talks with the Russians on 16 January this year. Both countries understand the seriousness with which we view these questions. We will continue to monitor this situation and raise these matters with the appropriate authorities in future, should it be necessary to do so.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on departmental consultants, how much his Department, its agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultants between May 2007 and March 2008. [243395]

Mr. Woodward: Information is collated on an annual basis from April to March. In the period April 2007 to March 2008, my Department, its agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies spent £4,419,074 on external consultants.

The Northern Ireland Office formalised its approach to the employment of consultants when it introduced its "Policy on the Use of External Consultants/Professional Services" in July 2006. Staff throughout the department are now more conscious of the public interest in the subject and of the need for a strong case before considering the employment of consultants.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252015]

Paul Goggins: Business areas may make local arrangements with staff to allow an adjustment to their flexible working hours time sheet if a requirement to work through a lunch break or in the evening is unavoidable.

Staff who are required to work at other times outside contracted working hours i.e. Saturday or Sunday are compensated with an overtime payment appropriate to their grade band. Staff who are required to work on any public or bank holiday are compensated by time off in lieu equal to the hours of attendance plus a payment at single time rate for the hours of attendance. When time off in lieu cannot be given, payment for all of the hours is given at the rate of double time (overtime grades) or single time (non-overtime grades). Payment is subject to the appropriate overriding maxima. Staff who are required to work on any privilege holiday are compensated by time off in lieu equal to the hours of attendance. When time off in lieu cannot be given, payment for all of the hours worked is given at the rate of double time (overtime grades) or single time (non-overtime grades).

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250139]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W.

In addition, my Department leases the following cars:

Make	*CC*	*Number*
Volvo	2500	2
Seat	1900	1
Volkswagen Golf	2000	1
Ford Mondeo	2000	1

Whilst in Northern Ireland on official business Northern Ireland Office Ministers use vehicles provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

No vehicles are owned or hired.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many former Royal Ulster Constabulary police officers have been recruited by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [252316]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the chief constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners in Northern Ireland were detained as a result of non-payment of fines in each of the last five years. [251274]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for East Antrim (Sammy Wilson) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1644W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the budget of his Department's provincial reconstruction team in Helmand province has been in each year since 2002; how much has been spent in each year; which organisations have managed the projects undertaken; what monitoring, impact assessments and evaluations have been undertaken in respect of each project in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [245774]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The UK took responsibility for Helmand province through the establishment of a provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in 2006. The PRT combines the efforts of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in a comprehensive approach to development. Accordingly, the PRT delivers reconstruction and development projects from a tri-departmental budget managed jointly by FCO, DFID and MOD. £7.04 million was spent in 2006-07 and £9.99 million in 2007-08 from the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP). To date, £14.08 million (of a Stabilisation Aid Fund budget of £34.41 million) has been spent in 2008-09. Prior to the establishment of the PRT in 2006, there was no specific allocation of funding to Helmand province.

The tri-departmental funding facilitates a range of projects in Counter Narcotics, Rule of Law, Strategic Communications, Governance, Political activities and Area Based Stabilisation. These projects are administered in Lashkar Gah or London, dependent on the implementing agent. Projects are managed through a range of partners including the Afghan Government, local community organisations, international or local non-governmental organisations or external contractors. Programmes are reviewed and updated monthly by an official in the embassy in Kabul and the PRT in Lashkar Gah. Projects are evaluated at six-monthly intervals.

In addition to this tri-departmental budget, the FCO, DFID and MOD also have individual budget allocations. From its bilateral programme fund, the FCO spent £17,000 in 2007-08 on Helmand specific projects.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department have allocated to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium for 2009-10. [250797]

Mr. Michael Foster: In December 2008, the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) submitted, through Christian Aid, a funding proposal to the Department for International Development (DFID) covering three years from April 2009 to March 2012. DFID is considering this proposal in consultation with Christian Aid, other donors to TBBC and TBBC itself.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All losses of the listed items are investigated, however, the Department for International Development (DFID) does not retain records of the number of staff investigated who were neither suspended nor dismissed. No DFID civil servants have been suspended or dismissed for losing such items in this period.

HIV Infection

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department funds the use of oral mouth swabs to diagnose acquired immune deficiency syndrome. [250126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UK Government funded programmes to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS in developing countries, cover prevention, voluntary counselling and testing, treatment and care. These funds are typically channelled through budget support at the country level to health programmes or as contributions to the core budgets or pooled funds of UN organisations. Information on disaggregated methods used to test for HIV is not therefore readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported that in 2007, 96 per cent. of the HIV antibody tests procured through its bulk procurement scheme were rapid tests, which involve a simple blood test taken from a pin prick. No information on uptake of oral tests is available, and WHO makes no recommendation as to their suitability for use.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the grade and salary range was of each member of his Department's staff seconded to support the Quartet Middle East Envoy in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; how many such staff at each grade and salary range will be so seconded in 2009; how much his Department spent on such staff in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; and if he will make a statement. [248783]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) seconded one member of staff to the Office of the Quartet Representative in Jerusalem to provide expert governance analysis. The secondment began in August 2007 and will finish in January 2010. The post is DFID grade A1. The salary range for the post for 2007-08 was £53,490 to £64,925 and for 2008-09 is £55,814 to £66,873.

The total amount spent on the secondment (including salary and support costs) in 2007-08 was £107,228. In 2008-09 we expect costs to be £190,549.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much direct aid his Department has provided to Gaza in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [249870]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: UK development aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) is for both the West Bank and Gaza. Although some of our aid is earmarked for activities in Gaza, the majority is given for activities in both Gaza and the West Bank.

In the calendar year 2008, we provided £82.3 million to the OPTs. Of this, the following benefited Palestinians living in Gaza: £6.8 million for immediate humanitarian assistance to Gaza announced on 31 December; £19 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to help Palestinian refugees in the region, including the 70 per cent. of Gazans who are refugees; £2 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for humanitarian assistance; and £50.45 million to the Palestinian Authority which helped it provide essential public services in both Gaza and the West Bank.

As announced on 18 January 2009, the UK has pledged an additional £20 million to help meet needs in Gaza, bringing the total UK response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza to nearly £27 million since the conflict started.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how grant aid from the Government to the Palestinian Authority was used over the last three years, broken down by project; [250447]

(2) how much development aid the Government have given to the Palestinian Authority in each of the last three years. [250449]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2005-06 we gave £13,715,862 to the Palestinian Authority (PA) (including £10 million in emergency budget support through the World Bank Trust Fund); in 2006-07 we gave £14,525,065 to the PA (including £11.875 million through the European Commission Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)); and in 2007-08 we gave £44,143,585 to the PA (including £18.45 million through TIM/PEGASE and £20 million through the World Bank Trust Fund).

The following table shows the support we have given to the Palestinian Authority over the last three financial years, broken down by projects.

(£)

Project	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Support to the Palestinian Negotiations Support Unit	1,530,248	815,813	433,627
Support to the Office of the President	—	—	187,500
Support to Palestinian Civil Policing	—	—	1,000,000
Palestinian Police Support	244,911	—	—
Governance Support Facility	—	—	276,484
EC TIM/ PEGASE	—	11,875,000	18,450,000
World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund	10,000,777	—	—
World Bank Trust Fund	—	—	20,000,000
Funding to pay Private sector arrears owed by the PA	—	—	3,000,000
Public administration and Civil Service reform	1,365,093	1,720,739	794,279
Capacity building on Anti Money Laundering/Counter Terrorism Funding	—	8,405	9,695
Unification of Palestinian legislation	—	15,200	—
Preparation work for Palestinian Recovery Programme	74,848	—	—
Utilisation of 1997 Palestinian census data	250,000	—	—
Pro-poor planning	71,889	—	—
Economic Policy programme	38,263	—	—
Gaza midwifery	20,854	—	—
Police Adviser	39,629	—	—
Aquifer management	79,350	50,597	—
Total	13,715,862	14,525,065	44,143,585

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's direct aid to Zimbabwe which has reached its intended recipients in the last 12 months. [249869]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The delivery of UK aid in Zimbabwe, alongside that of UN and other international agencies, is rigorously monitored and subject to regular reporting, independent evaluation and financial audit. Our estimation has been that UK assistance reaches its intended recipients. When we do hear of any attempt to divert aid, the programme in question is halted immediately while an investigation takes place. However, from 4 June to 29 August 2008, as a cynical and damaging electoral ploy, Robert Mugabe's regime instituted a ban on the operations of NGOs across the country. During this period, large amounts of international food-aid (including UK contributions) were obstructed; none of this aid was diverted, it was simply not distributed. Other non-food aid—including essential medicines and support to people with HIV and AIDS—was distributed where delivery to intended recipients could be assured.

Since the lifting of the ban, the international community has scaled up its response rapidly to provide vital food assistance to over five million Zimbabweans. Despite this massive operation, rigorous monitoring has been maintained, with few reports of obstruction or diversion of aid, and we are confident that UK contributions are being delivered to intended recipients.

HEALTH

Air Pollution

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual number of premature deaths caused by air pollution in England; and if he will make a statement. [249764]

Dawn Primarolo: There are many uncertainties involved in estimating deaths brought forward as a result of air pollution. Current estimates are being updated, but in 1998, the Department's Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) estimated that 24,000 deaths were brought forward each year due to air pollution in the United Kingdom.

The UK Air Quality Strategy aims to protect against risks to public health from air pollution. Healthy individuals are not thought to be at significant risk of short-term effects from current levels of air pollution in the UK, but associations have been indicated between daily variations in levels of some pollutants and daily variations in mortality and hospital admissions for respiratory or cardiovascular conditions.

An economic analysis to inform the Air Quality Strategy was published in July 2007. It presents detailed assessments of the additional policy measures considered by the Air Quality Strategy (AQS).

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/publications/stratreview-analysis/index.htm

To inform the UK Air Quality Strategy (2007), COMEAP estimated that the average loss of life expectancy would be around seven to eight months in 2005. With the implementation of measures outlined in the Strategy, this is predicted to drop to around 5.5 months in 2020. As with any average, the loss of life expectancy will be greater than this for some people and less than this for others.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned or assessed on the levels of *(a)* PM_{10}, *(b)* $PM_{2.5}$, *(c)* ozone, *(d)* nitrogen dioxide and *(e)* nitrogen oxide in the atmosphere; and if he will make a statement. [249765]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned a number of research projects to assess the links between public health and the air pollutants.

Projects recently commissioned in 2008 are:

Title	*Institution*
Health implications of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in indoor environments	University of Birmingham
Short- and long-term effects of air pollution on cardiovascular disease events	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Lifecourse Effects of Air Pollution on cardiorespiratory morbidity in the MRC National Survey of Health and Development	Imperial College, London
Oxidative potential of particulate matter and risk of cardiovascular disease: a hybrid toxico-epidemiological study	King's College, London
An investigation of the effects of long term exposure to air pollution on cardiorespiratory morbidity in a large population cohort	St. George's, University of London
A study of the concentration-response relationship for the effects of ozone on health	St. George's, University of London
Quantification of health impacts of airborne particulates: comparing estimates based on personal exposure and outdoor concentrations	University of York

The published reports of previous projects are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/AirPollution/index.htm

The effects of particles, S02 and ozone have all been quantified and valued as part of the UK Air Quality Strategy review in 2007, using recommendations by the Department's Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP).

The health effects considered include both short-term effects (daily deaths, respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions) and long-term effects. There is, however, still considerable uncertainty surrounding the precise scale and mechanisms linking air quality and health, especially for the long-term effects on life expectancy.

Brain Tumours: Research

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding the National Cancer Research Institute provided for *(a)* brain tumour and *(b)* leukaemia related research in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; [250690]

(2) what initiatives the National Cancer Research Initiative is managing in relation to care and treatment of those with brain tumours. [250691]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) is a membership organisation that brings together the major funders of cancer research in government, the voluntary sector and industry along with cancer patient representatives to ensure a national strategic approach to cancer research. The NCRI does not itself fund or manage research.

The NCRI publishes an analysis of the national cancer research portfolio that includes details of expenditure by its partner organisations on research into individual tumour sites. The analysis is available on-line at:

www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/analysisReport08.pdf

A more detailed account of annual aggregated portfolio expenditure is given in an associated data package available at:

www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/Data_package.xls

Breast Cancer

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of the breast there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [250034]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of the breast there were in (a) Essex and (b) England in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (250034)

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer are for the year 2006. Figures for the years 2002 to 2006 are in the table below.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], Essex and England, 2002-06

Geographical area		*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Essex	Male	5	6	10	6	12
	Female	936	990	951	1,115	1,035
England	Male	258	291	267	235	275
	Female	35,294	37,486	37,649	38,464	38,064

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Cancer: Children

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding the National Cancer Research Network has provided for paediatric oncology in each of the last five years; and what proportion of this support has been spent on projects relating to *(a)* brain tumours and *(b)* leukaemia treatment and care. [250692]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) forms part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) clinical research network. It supports high quality research studies funded by the NIHR and its research partners through the provision of the necessary health service infrastructure.

The NCRN's specialised research network on paediatric oncology, led by the UK Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group, receives dedicated funding from the NCRI. The amounts allocated over the last four years have been:

	£000
2005-06	115
2006-07	117
2007-08	119
2008-09	122

The Department also currently allocates £50,000 a year to each of four NHS trusts specifically to provide infrastructure support for early phase studies devoted to children with cancer.

Information on the attribution of these funds to research relating to individual tumour sites is not held centrally.

Clinical Physiologists: Regulation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement his proposals for the statutory regulation of clinical physiologists. [250681]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the statutory regulation of clinical physiologists will be resolved as part of a separate consultation, as outlined in 'The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce Modernising Scientific Careers: The Next Steps: A Consultation' published in November 2008. A copy of the consultation has already been placed in the Library.

Consultation plans will be announced in due course.

Colonoscopy

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many colonoscopists are employed by each primary care trust. [252380]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Allowances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 444W, how much the second homes allowance for David Nicholson and Bill Kirkup were; where the second homes are; and for what reasons they are eligible for the allowance. [246707]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is as follows:

David Nicholson received £37,600 second home allowance.

Bill Kirkup received £25,800 second home allowance.

Both second homes are in London.

Departmental policy allows for individuals to claim Second Home Allowance if they are expected to work away from their permanent workplace for long periods and if the temporary workplace is not within daily travelling distance from their home.

The Department approves such claims where the case meets business needs and demonstrates cost effectiveness.

This allowance is not permanent and is subject to review.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248384]

Mr. Bradshaw: Provision of food and drink for the Department's catering needs in London is provided under contract by Quadrant Catering Limited. The Department's catering needs in Leeds is provided by Eurest Services.

The Department has paid Quadrant Catering Limited and Eurest Services the following sums on food and drink in the last three years:

	£
2005-06	1,076,479
2006-07	952,046
2007-08	887,844

The information requested to identify the amount paid to each supplier is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff. [249075]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies do not have any *(a)* directly-operated or, *(b)* franchised catering outlets.

The Department has a contract with Quadrant Catering Limited to supply restaurant and hospitality services to four buildings in London, (Richmond house, Skipton house, Wellington house and New King's Beam house.) Eurest provide catering services to the Department's offices in Quarry house (Leeds) under arrangements through the Department of Work and Pensions.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority at Market Towers ((MHRA)—London) has a contract with Bartlett Mitchell to supply a restaurant service which is subsidised by MHRA. The amount is £72,000 per year. This figure is not directly attributed to food and drink and includes the running costs of the restaurant.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 193W, on departmental personnel, how many staff without posts there are in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [250105]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table presents an analysis of staff without posts in the core Department classified by period of time in that situation and by grade. No one has been displaced for a period of over 12 months

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency both report that they do not currently have any staff member without a post.

No staff without posts are in this position as a result of return from maternity leave.

Reasons for individuals being without posts include return from secondment or loan outside the Department and staff without posts due to internal restructuring exercises.

	Time displaced			
Grade	*0 to 3 months*	*3 to 6 months*	*More than 6 months*	*Total*
Senior Civil Service	3	0	1	4
Grade 6	0	0	2	2
Grade 7	1	0	0	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	0	2
Higher Executive Officer	0	0	0	0
Executive Officer	2	1	1	4
Administrative Officer	7	1	0	8
Total	14	3	4	21

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Devizes of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on departmental public relations, if he will list each of the external public firms on which the £5.3 million of expenditure was incurred in 2007-08; and for what reasons in-house communications staff could not provide the requisite services. [250570]

Mr. Bradshaw: The public relations (PR) agencies employed by the Department during 2007-08 were:

Euro RSCG;
Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams;
The Forster Company;
Geronimo;
Grayling;
Munro and Forster;
The Red Consultancy; and
Trimedia Harrison Cowley.

PR companies are employed to support a range of marketing and policy initiatives including major public health behaviour change programmes such as tobacco control, sexual health, flu immunisation, hand and respiratory hygiene and drug and alcohol harm reduction campaigns. In addition to providing specialist knowledge of a wide range of media through which the Department needs to communicate with specific target audiences, they also provide extensive creative input to communications programmes. PR companies are a highly flexible and cost-effective resource as they can be commissioned for the duration of each individual project thus reducing the need for increasing internal headcount.

The total expenditure on external PR during 2007-08 (£5.3 million) includes VAT and both fees and costs. Typically costs may include producing materials and newsletters, creation of content for online media, advertorials, photography, research, creation of toolkits for stakeholders and costs incurred for regional activity such as stakeholder or media roadshows.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247916]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are committed to consulting and involving the public to ensure that our campaigning activity and all associated publicity materials are shaped around understanding of their needs and attitudes. Our investment in communications research and insight is central in designing and evaluating our communications campaigns.

The Department's Communications Directorate spent the following in each financial year on quantitative surveys among the public in each of the last three years.

	Spend (£)
2005-06	810,440
2006-07	1,122,112
2007-08	1,656,939

These figures include evaluation of public health campaigns; evaluation of major NHS communications initiatives; evaluation of NHS careers campaign and regular tracking of public attitudes towards the NHS.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251357]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department allows managers to access temporary staff, when necessary, through appropriate employment agencies at their own discretion, where the appropriate funding is authorised. The Department does not collect information on agency and temporary staff spend in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dispensing GP practices are registered in *(a)* Stroud constituency, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* England; and what percentage of the total number of practices this represents in each case. [247938]

Phil Hope: The number of dispensing general practitioner (GP) practices and total practices is not available by parliamentary constituency but can be provided by primary care trust (PCT).

The following table provides the total number of GP practices and the number of dispensing GP practices in England, Gloucestershire PCT and South Gloucestershire PCT as at 14 January 2009. The figures in brackets represent the percentage of the total number of practices in each category.

	Gloucestershire PCT	*South Gloucestershire PCT*	*England*
All GP Practices	86 (1%)	29 (0.3%)	8,611
Dispensing GP Practices	29 2.6%)	4 (0.35%)	1,129

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Organisational database

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of inappropriate dispensing of hospital prescriptions in community pharmacies were reported by each primary care trust in the latest year for which figures are available. [248226]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Health Services: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by (1) what means his Department provides access to *(a)* detoxification services and *(b)* primary health care for homeless people in Merseyside. [251453]

(2) what assessment he has made of the availability of detoxification services for homeless people in Merseyside. [251458]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCT) to plan, develop and improve local health services according to the health needs of their local populations.

The provision of detoxification services in Merseyside is therefore the responsibility of the local PCTs, working in partnership with relevant agencies and stakeholders.

Details of these services can be obtained from the PCTs and Drug and Alcohol Action Teams direct.

Hospitals: Construction

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average capital cost is of major hospital capital building projects initiated under *(a)* the private finance initiative and *(b)* other funding arrangements in the last three financial years. [251072]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the private finance initiative over the last three financial years there have been 20 major hospital schemes (£25 million or over) which have reached financial close and started construction. Capital costs have ranged from £30 million to £1,000 million, with the average being £222 million.

Eight public capital funded major hospital schemes have awarded tenders and started construction over the last three years. Capital costs have ranged from £25 million to £75 million with the average capital cost being £47 million.

Hospitals: Food

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have *(a)* declared and *(b)* been unable to declare that dieticians had confirmed that hospital menus would deliver nutritional requirements sufficient to meet the needs of all patients in the last six months. [250648]

Dawn Primarolo: Information about which NHS trusts have/have not declared that dieticians have confirmed that hospital menus would deliver nutritional requirements sufficient to meet the needs of all patients is not collected centrally.

Knee/Hip Replacements

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a (1) knee operation in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency was in the latest period for which information is available; [249549]

(2) hip operation in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland was in the latest period for which information is available. [249623]

Mr. Bradshaw: The median time waited for a hip and a knee replacement in England, the north east, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in the latest period for which information is available is shown in the following table.

Median time waited for hip and knee replacements[1] of residents in England, North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA), Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Redcar and Cleveland PCT in 2006-07

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Median waiting time (days)	
	Hip	*Knee*
England	147	156
North East SHA	145	150
Middlesbrough PCT[2]	171	169
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[2]	167	168

[1] The term knee/hip 'operation' has been classed as too broad by Information Centre for health and social care clinical coders. As a result we have provided waiting times for hip/knee replacements as this is a term requested frequently in other parliamentary questions.

[2] Information Centre for health and social care are unable to break the data down by Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland, but have data for Middlesbrough PCT and Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services: Disadvantaged

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 875W, on breastfeeding, what steps are being taken to promote the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative to maternity units in areas of high social deprivation. [251307]

Dawn Primarolo: We are investing £4 million in 2008-09 for primary care trusts to develop local interventions to promote breastfeeding. These include implementing the principles of the Baby Friendly Initiative in both hospitals and community settings. As part of this initiative, training will be provided to all frontline staff. The overall aim is to increase breastfeeding rates, maximise the coverage of numbers of non-breastfeeding mothers in England and address inequalities.

Medical Treatments: EC Countries

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many European Health Insurance Cards *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other issuers within the UK have issued to non-UK nationals in each of the last 11 years, broken down by member state. [250880]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom has issued around 30 million UK European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) to date. A breakdown by year can be found in the following table. The EHIC was only introduced across the European Economic Area in September 2005, therefore data for 11 years are not available. There is only one issuer of the EHIC within the UK, which is the NHS Business Services Authority. The nationality of the applicant is not recorded during the EHIC application process as this is irrelevant: entitlement to free national health service treatment and also to an EHIC, is based on being ordinarily resident in the UK rather than on British nationality or the previous payment of taxes to the UK.

	EHIC cards issued
September 2005-March 2006	5,592,334
April 2006-March 2007	7,189,876
April 2007-March 2008	4,160,935
April 2008-December 2008	2,961,485

Note:

As part of the transition to the EHIC from the E111, E111 applicants could automatically apply for an EHIC by indicating so on the application. 11,477,178 EHICs have been issued in this way.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the report of Interphone. [251747]

Dawn Primarolo: Interphone is a multinational collaborative population study set up to help determine whether the radio frequency radiation emitted by mobile phones contributes to a cancer risk. It is not in the gift of the Department to publish the results. The study team, based at the International Centre for Research on Cancer in France issued an update on its website in October 2008. This can be found at:

www.iarc.fr/en/ResearchGroups/ClustersGroups/BiostatisticsandEpidemiologyCluster/Radiation-Group/INTERPHONE-Results-latest-update-8-October-2008

Although the whole study has not been published in full, many of the collaborating research centres have already published their own individual results in scientific journals. The United Kingdom based Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme has supported two of the interphone centres and details of these studies with a list of publications can be found on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk/research_projects/research.htm

The 2007 MTHR report on the full range of studies supported under the MTHR programme can also be found at this website.

NHS: Debts

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS hospital and community health services which will be in deficit at the end of the financial years *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what projections he has made of future likely deficits. [251071]

Mr. Bradshaw: As discussed in the quarter 2 edition of the departmental publication, *The Quarter*, there are 11 national health service organisations forecasting that they will end the 2008-09 financial year with an operating deficit.

In addition to these eleven organisations, there are six organisations forecasting a technical deficit for the 2008-09 financial year. Five of these organisations have a technical deficit relating to the impairment of assets, which does not form part of their operating position (one of these organisations is also in the list of 11 organisations with an operating deficit). The remaining technical deficit is a phasing issue for a part year foundation trust, relating to the period that it was an NHS trust.

All NHS organisations are currently working to finalise their financial plans for 2009-10. We would expect these financial plans to be in line with the local direction and priorities agreed with their strategic health authorities, and the priorities set out in the Operating Framework for 2009-10.

A copy of the quarter 2 edition of *The Quarter* has been placed in the Library and can be found at the following website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_091230

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to issue guidance on the availability on the NHS of *(a)* Sutent, *(b)* Nexavar, *(c)* Avastin and *(d)* Torisel; [252278]

(2) if he will issue guidance to primary care trusts to the effect that they should make *(a)* Sutent, *(b)* Nexavar, *(c)* Avastin and *(d)* Torisel available on the NHS where clinicians advise they should be used. [252279]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising sunitinib (Sutent), sorafenib (Nexavar), temsirolimus (Torisel) and bevacizumab (Avastin) for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma. We understand that NICE anticipates publishing its final guidance later this year.

NICE is an independent body responsible for the development of robust, evidence-based guidance for the national health service on the clinical and cost effectiveness of new and existing technologies. The Department has no plans to publish separate guidance to the NHS on these treatments in advance of NICE publishing its final guidance.

The NHS Constitution, which was published on 21 January 2009, includes a right for patients to access drugs and treatments that have been recommended by NICE for use in the NHS and also a further right for patients to expect local decisions on the funding of other drugs and treatments to be made rationally following a proper consideration of the evidence.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local involvement networks are not yet operational; and on what date each is expected to become operational. [250716]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. The statutory duty to ensure that local involvement network activities are carried on rests with local authorities (with social services responsibilities).

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the full set of quality measures for acute patient care as referred to on page 50 of High Quality Care for All, Cm 7432. [249154]

Mr. Bradshaw: The assured menu of quality indicators for 2009-10 is being developed in line with the principles of co-production, clinical leadership, subsidiarity and system alignment, set out by David Nicholson in his letter of 5 August 2008.

Specifically, the assured menu of quality indicators for 2009-10 is being developed following a web-based survey run by the Information Centre for health and social care and on the basis of strategic health authority progress reports, requested in a letter to all NHS chief executives, medical directors and nursing directors sent by David Nicholson, Sir Bruce Keogh and Dame Christine Beasley on 18 November 2008. Draft of the assured menu will be shared with NHS colleagues before being presented to the National Quality Board at its first meeting in March 2009 and published following this.

Oxygen: Medical Equipment

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England were dependent on a domiciliary oxygen system in their homes in each of the last 10 years. [250162]

Mr. Bradshaw: Accurate data on the number of patients using home oxygen are only available from 1 November 2006 onwards.

The following table shows the number of users of the integrated home oxygen service.

Period	*Estimated number of patients*
1 November 2006 to 31 March 2007	79,000
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	82,000
1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008	83,000

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each health trust on each type of prescribed domiciliary oxygen therapy in each of the last 10 years. [250163]

Mr. Bradshaw: The budget for the Home Oxygen Service is held within the national health service. Accurate expenditure data on home oxygen are available from 1 November 2006 onwards.

Providing information in the requested format would breach commercial confidentiality.

The following table summarises spending on home oxygen by region:

£

Region name	*1 November 2006 to 31 March 2007*[1]	*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008*[1]
North West	4,428,660	11,575,379	10,183,134
West Midlands	3,587,287	9,487,444	8,609,073
Yorkshire and Humberside	3,063,742	7,719,610	6,974,471
London North	2,184,778	5,548,612	4,922,569
East Midlands	2,495,034	6,307,825	5,824,480
South West	4,044,487	17,165,947	13,145,760
Eastern England	4,772,468	13,989,942	12,061,541
South East London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex	3,205,077	9,168,251	7,782,469
South West London, Thames Valley, Hampshire and Isle of Wight	2,626,450	7,615,627	6,198,207
North East	3,358,987	9,507,091	8,077,418
Total	33,766,971	98,085,727	83,779,123

[1] Not full year.

Note:

Includes VAT

Patient Choice Schemes

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of first outpatient appointments made through Choose and Book in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) direct and (ii) indirect method used. [252335]

Mr. Bradshaw: In November 2008 which is the latest month for which data are available 399,000 referrals to first outpatient appointments were made through Choose and Book, 50 per cent., of all general practitioner referrals to first outpatient appointment. Of these, 305,000 (76 per cent.) used the direct method and 94,000 used the indirect method of booking.

PatientPak

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with representatives of PatientPak Limited to discuss the use of its products by patients in the last 12 months; [251014]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* undertaken on the merits of patient-provided products to prevent viral and bacterial infections in hospitals. [251015]

Ann Keen: The Department has not had any meetings with representatives of PatientPak Ltd. within the last 12 months. However, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency run product surgeries to offer advice to manufacturers of health care products.

The Department has not undertaken any work on the efficacy of patient-provided products in preventing viral and bacterial infections in hospitals and is not aware of any evidence that these products offer advantages over materials supplied to patients by the national health service.

Our strategy 'Clean Safe Care' draws together the measures required to control infections. Generally, normal soap and toiletries are adequate for patients' personal hygiene during their hospital stay, and hospitals will provide special soap and shampoo to prevent viral and bacterial infections as necessary.

Pharmacy: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what dispensing pharmacies there are in Hampshire; and what volume of products each dispensed in each of the last five years. [250164]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Pigmeat: Labelling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to change the labelling scheme for pork products. [251022]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: The Government have no plans to change the labelling scheme for pork products.

However, the framework EC legislation governing general food labelling is currently being revised in Brussels. This includes a consideration of the tightening of criteria around voluntary country of origin declarations, including on pork products. The Government support this move and are actively involved in these negotiations.

In the meantime and in order to help industry comply with the rules and avoid misleading consumers, the Food Standards Agency has had in place since 2002 best practice guidance, which advises for example, that bacon products from imported pork should be clearly labelled as such. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Ministers are also holding a series of meetings with industry to promote uptake of the guidance.

Tomography

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* magnetic resonance imaging and *(b)* dual energy x-ray absorptiometry scanners there were in the NHS in each year since 1997. [249275]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely collect this data centrally. However, from information supplied by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) the installed base of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners in the English national health service plus additional scanners supplied each year from 1997 to 2008 are shown in the following table. The installed base for MRI scanners for 1998 and 1999 were not collected.

The total number of installed MRI scanners for each year can only be considered to be approximate, it is not possible to provide data regarding exact numbers for each year since 1997 due to local variations in timescales for centrally funded scanners from award then delivery and installation, as well as different time periods for the removal from clinical service of the scanners being replaced.

Data for dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scanners are not collected.

MRI scanners installed base	*Additional*	*Total (approximate)*
1997	—	110
2000	1	183
2001	19	202
2002	12	214
2003	18	232
2004	31	263
2005	26	289
2006	10	299
2007	0	299
2008	0	299

Note:
The databases of installed equipment held by the HPA contain data supplied periodically by manufacturers and as such can only be considered to be a snapshot in time rather than an absolute position.
Source:
HPA

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Community Safety Forum

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the chair of the Business Community Safety Forum has received in allowances in respect of his chairmanship in the last 12 months. [251814]

Mr. Khan: Since his appointment on 24 October 2008, the chair of the Business and Community Safety Forum has received a day rate of £500 on three occasions and been reimbursed for his associated travel and subsistence expenses.

Chief Fire Officers' Association

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are represented on the board of the Chief Fire Officers' Association. [252185]

Mr. Khan: This Department and its agencies are not represented on the Board of the Chief Fire Officers' Association.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the receipts *(a)* each of her Department's executive agencies and *(b)* each regional development agency will receive from community infrastructure levy; [251801]

(2) who the charging authorities for the community infrastructure levy will be; [251802]

(3) what plans she has to produce an updated impact assessment for community infrastructure levy; [251808]

(4) what proposals her Department has for the *(a)* level and *(b)* rates of community infrastructure levy. [251828]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 206 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out which bodies will be charging authorities for the Community Infrastructure Levy. As part of the consultation on draft CIL regulations, the Government will consult on the use of the section 206(4). Executive agencies and regional development agencies cannot be charging authorities. However such bodies could receive CIL revenue from CIL charging authorities in order to provide infrastructure identified as necessary, through the development plan process, to support development. No estimate has been made of the level of CIL revenue that these specific bodies would receive as this will depend on the infrastructure planning and local decisions about funding priorities made by each CIL charging authority.

The Planning Act together with the CIL regulations will set the framework governing how charging authorities will determine the rate of CIL in their area. The level of CIL will be set locally by each charging authority should they decide to establish a CIL.

Section 211(2) of the Act requires charging authorities to have regard to actual and expected costs of infrastructure; the economic viability of development and other actual and expected sources of funding for infrastructure in setting the rate of CIL.

An updated impact assessment will be produced alongside the CIL regulations which will not come into force before October 2009.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress the Equality and Human Rights Commission has made in convening forums with employers' networks, the CBI and the TUC to formulate action plans on cohesion. [245545]

Mr. Khan: I understand that the Commission will be developing further links with the private sector and the trade unions as part of its broader stakeholder engagement work in support of its Strategic Plan in 2009. This will include work on promoting good relations and community cohesion.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has her Department has provided on whether reports produced by local authorities under their new tension monitoring duties will qualify for an exemption from the provisions of *(a)* the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* the Data Protection Act 1998. [251810]

Mr. Khan: Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring published on 6 May 2008, sets a framework which local authorities can use to monitor local issues that may lead to local community tensions, and does not provide advice on whether reports produced by local authorities are exempt from FOI Act or the Data Protection Act. Tension monitoring for local authorities is not mandatory, and all contributors to the tension monitoring process are required to adhere to the principles of data collection set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. Each organisation that makes a contribution to tension monitoring should have local information sharing protocols in place.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on tension monitoring and the activities of political parties. [251811]

Mr. Khan: Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring published on 6 May 2008, sets a framework which local authorities can use to monitor local issues that may lead to local community tensions and to put plans into operation if a problem is identified. It is up to each local authority to determine the scope of their tension monitoring and contingency planning.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers in her Department plan to organise seminars on issues identified in the National Community Forum's report on Sources of resentment and perceptions of ethnic minorities among poor white people in England. [251901]

Mr. Khan: I plan to hold a seminar to discuss the report's findings later this year.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure her Department incurred on the *(a)* research for and *(b)* production of the National Community Forum report, Sources of resentment and perceptions of ethnic minorities among poor white people in England. [251972]

Mr. Khan: The National Community Forum is funded by Communities and Local Government and has advised that the cost of this research was £10,500.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 46W, on local authorities: community relations, what guidance her Department has published on tension monitoring in relation to the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [252485]

Mr. Khan: 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring', published on 6 May 2008, sets a framework which local authorities can use to monitor local issues that may lead to local community tensions. We are not aware of any local authorities using the powers available under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) to conduct their tension monitoring. This Act is therefore not covered in our guidance.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 46W, on local authorities: community relations, what further guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on tension monitoring. [252487]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not plan to issue further guidance.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251437]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government (CLG) will not be able to provide the information requested regarding correspondence from a hon. Member without bearing disproportionate cost.

CLG are able to inform that the Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

As for correspondence from members of the public, this information could not be provided within disproportionate costs limits but CLG aim to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days.

Departmental Expenditure Limit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-7WS, on the departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), how much the litigation costs in relation to the transfer of £4.3 million to Firebuy were; and what the litigation concerned. [252164]

Mr. Khan: The transfer of £4.3 million to the Firebuy line in the Department's Winter Supplementary Estimates included provision of £2.4 million for defending litigation brought against Firebuy over the procurement of the Integrated Clothing Project.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 786W, on departmental ICT, what her most recent estimate of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* completion date of each of the projects listed is; and if she will make a statement. [251243]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 545-46W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which ICT projects her Department and its predecessors initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if she will make a statement. [251390]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) by the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1420W. The Department has nothing further to report by way of abandoned ICT projects since.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department engaged *(a)* Band and Brown, *(b)* Connect PR and *(c)* Blue Rubicon PR in 2008 to undertake public relations work; and for what reasons such work was not undertaken by her Department. [251779]

Mr. Khan: I can confirm that Band and Brown were engaged to provide PR support for publicity on home information packs, Connect PR were engaged to provide PR support for publicity on regeneration and sustainable communities policy, including the sustainable communities conference, and Blue Rubicon PR were engaged to provide PR support for publicity on the introduction of the energy performance in buildings directive.

The above agencies were engaged to support and extend the work conducted by the Department's Press Office.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department's executive agencies spent on services procured from each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months. [251818]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* public affairs (i) companies and (ii) consultants and *(b)* external public relations firms have been commissioned by each of her Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies in the last 24 months; and at what cost. [251822]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Staff

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251301]

Mr. Khan: The Department has spent the following amounts on agency staff in each of the last four years.

	Amount spent (£)
2005-06	8,780,495
2006-07	7,952,576
2007-08	16,267,091
2008 (to December)	12,734,932

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in her Department attended at least one such training course. [252261]

Mr. Khan: The Department has not commissioned any digital media training courses through the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008.

Deprivation Indicators

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the geographical barriers score of each local authority in the Indices of Deprivation for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007 was, ranked from highest to lowest in each year. [251734]

Mr. Khan: Geographical barriers is a sub-domain of the Indices of Deprivation which is published at Lower Super Output Area level (geographical units with an average of 1,500 population).

The Government do not produce a score for this at local authority level.

I have placed a table of the LSOA score and rank for this sub domain for 2004 and 2007 in the Library. The table also shows which local authority each LSOA is within, and shows all of England's 32,482 LSOAs.

LSOAs with the highest score, face the greatest geographical barriers (The LSOA with a rank of one is the most deprived on this sub domain, and 32,482 the least deprived).

The geographical barriers sub-domain is calculated from data on road distance to: GP premises; supermarket or convenience store; primary school; and post office.

Derelict Land

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of levels of brownfield development in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* Hampshire and *(d)* Romsey constituency. [251037]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on development on previously developed or brownfield land is taken from the Land Use Change Statistics.

In the period 2003-06,

(a) 58 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in England was previously developed.

(b) 62 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in the South-East was previously developed.

(c) 68 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in Hampshire was previously developed.

(d) 79 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in the constituency of Romsey was previously developed.

"Brownfield" development has been interpreted as all development on previously developed land, not just residential development. Information on residential development can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Domestic Waste

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department *issues (a)* guidance and *(b)* instructions to local authorities on the monitoring of household waste for items relevant to community cohesion monitoring exercises. [252302]

Mr. Khan: 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring', published on 6 May 2008, sets a framework which local authorities can use to monitor local issues that may lead to local community tensions and to put plans into operation if a problem is identified. This guidance does not make specific mention of the monitoring of household waste. It is up to each local authority to determine the scope of their tension monitoring and contingency planning. All contributors to the tension monitoring process are required to adhere to the principles of data collection set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. Each organisation that makes a contribution to tension monitoring should have local information sharing protocols in place.

Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 125W, on fire services, whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Firebuy holds a copy of the minutes of meetings of the FireGuard Project Board. [252216]

Mr. Khan: Firebuy, the national procurement body for the English Fire and Rescue Service, undertook the procurement process for the Fireguard project at the request of 33 fire and rescue authorities, led by the Chief Fire Officers Association. As a consequence, Firebuy was represented on the board, and received minutes of its meetings produced and distributed by the Chief Fire Officers Association.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 340W, on fire services, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the level of fire and rescue authority participation in the project; and what arrangements for emergency fire cover there are in the event of a *(a)* local and *(b)* national fire service strike. [252328]

Mr. Khan: The Department has not made any assessment of the reasons for the level of fire and rescue authority participation in the Fireguard project. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 lays down duties for specified 'Category 1 responders', including fire and rescue authorities, to assess, plan and advise in relation to emergencies. For a fire and rescue authority, an emergency includes a period of industrial action.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 487W, on fire services, if she will place in the Library a copy of the full research report. [252429]

Mr. Khan: The full research report cannot be disclosed as it is internal advice for the purposes of assisting the development of policy. A summary of the research has already been placed in the Library.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance her Department has given to fire and rescue authorities on whether private contractors *(a)* can and *(b)* should cross picket lines in the event of a strike in order to utilise fire equipment and appliances owned by fire and rescue authorities. [252182]

Mr. Khan: The Department has not issued advice to fire and rescue authorities on these matters.

Fire Services: Military Aid

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the armed forces will provide emergency fire cover in the event of *(a)* a local and *(b)* a national fire strike, with reference to the FireGuard project. [252179]

Mr. Khan: The 2003 White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service", made it clear that no party should proceed on the basis that the armed forces will be available to provide emergency cover in the event of industrial action.

Fire Services: Vaccination

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place to provide antiviral medicines to firefighters in the event of an influenza pandemic. [252281]

Mr. Khan: There are no specific arrangements for distributing antiviral drugs to fire fighters during an influenza pandemic. The Secretary of State for Health announced that the Government would be increasing the antiviral stockpile to meet the needs of 50 per cent. of the population, so that there would be an antiviral course available for every person infected during a pandemic, even in the UK's reasonable worst-case scenario.

FiReBuy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Gateway Review of the Firebuy integrated clothing project was completed; and what the outcomes of that review were. [251860]

Mr. Khan: The Stage 3 Gateway Review on the Firebuy integrated clothing project was completed on 1 August 2007. It is not general practice to make available the outcome of Gateway Reviews.

FiReBuy: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remuneration each board member of Firebuy receives. [252082]

Mr. Khan: The chair of Firebuy Ltd. Receives £22,000 per annum for 11 days per month. Each of the other six board members receives £4,000 per annum for two days per month.

FireGuard

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were represented on the board of FireGuard. [252184]

Mr. Khan: Firebuy, the national procurement body for the English Fire and Rescue Service, undertook the procurement process for the Fireguard project at the request of 33 fire and rescue authorities, led by the Chief Fire Officers Association. As a consequence, it was represented on the Fireguard Board. The Department itself was not represented.

Green Belt: Windsor and Maidenhead

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* representations and *(b)* instructions the Government Office for the South East has given to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on the review of its Green Belt as part of its Local Development Framework. [252300]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government Office for the South East (GOSE) made representations on the Preferred Options (9 March 2006) and Submission (15 December 2006) versions of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Core Strategy.

At the Preferred Options (9 March 2006) stage it commented:

> "It is assumed that as part of the evidence base the Council will be able to demonstrate that it will be possible to accommodate all likely required development within the Borough over at least the plan period and hence there is no need to review the location and extent of the Green Belt at this time."

GOSE also sought clarification as to whether proposed policies CS19 and CS27 were intended to diverge from national policy in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 "Green Belts", and if so what the reasoning for this was.

GOSE's representations on the Submission Core Strategy (15 December 2006), included the following:

> "We are ... concerned that the policy and text regarding any potential Green Belt review is somewhat vague. It would be helpful if the Core Strategy could be more-precise as to the circumstances that may trigger the need for a review. In this context we make no assumptions that a review of Green Belt will axiomatically result in the amendment of any particular boundary."

GOSE has not given the Council any instructions on the review of its Green Belt as part of its Local Development Framework.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 952W, into home information packs, if she will undertake research on the typical maximum period within which a local authority search in a home information pack will be accepted as valid by a mortgage lender. [251959]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 8 December my right hon. Friend the Housing Minister (Margaret Beckett), announced that she had asked Ted Beardsall (ex-deputy director of the Land Registry) to convene a working group to consider local property searches. This group will consist of industry and consumer representatives and will consider consumers needs, utility and presentation of existing property searches information within home information packs. A representative from the Council of Mortgage Lenders has agreed to join this group.

Homebuy Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to extend the opportunities for social tenants to purchase and part-purchase their homes; and whether Social Homebuy remains a pilot scheme. [251816]

Mr. Iain Wright: As announced by the Government in December 2007, Social HomeBuy is continuing as a voluntary scheme to increase opportunities for social housing tenants to access home ownership following the ending of the pilot period on 31 March 2008.

Social tenants are also able to purchase their rented homes through the Right to Buy or Right to Acquire schemes and have priority access to the HomeBuy products.

Homelessness: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homelessness applications were made in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(c)* Southampton city in each of the last three years. [251095]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected by the Department. Authorities provide data on the number of applications for housing assistance (including those by ineligible households), as well as the number of households who are accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

Figures are collected at local authority level. The following table shows the number of applicants who have applied for housing assistance in each local authority within the ceremonial county of Hampshire (which includes Test Valley borough and Southampton city council).

Applications for housing assistance under homelessness legislation in local authorities within Hampshire (including ineligible households)—2005-06 to 2007-08

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Basingstoke and Deane	166	135	54
East Hampshire	259	193	80
Eastleigh	175	127	123
Fareham	177	82	68
Gosport	359	286	192
Hart	—	16	12
Havant	816	769	672
New Forest	155	188	179
Portsmouth	954	470	456
Rushmoor	44	51	40
Southampton	705	450	265
Test Valley	135	50	30
Winchester	—	47	46

'—'= Data not reported

Housing: Regeneration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the most recent demolition output targets are for each housing market renewal pathfinder. [251824]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table summarises the main demolition output targets agreed by HMR partnerships in their funding agreements with DCLG for 2008-09.

HMR Partnership	*Demolition 2008-09*
Birmingham/Sandwell	157
East Lancashire	365
Hull and East Riding	241

HMR Partnership	*Demolition 2008-09*
Manchester Salford	648
Merseyside	563
Newcastle Gateshead	400
North Staffordshire	500
Oldham Rochdale	174
South Yorkshire	572
Tees Valley	74
West Cumbria	0
Total	3,694

Interreg Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which European Union Interreg *(a)* IVA, *(b)* IVB and *(c)* IVC projects have been approved for implementation in the United Kingdom to date. [251862]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Land Use: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will request that Castle Point borough council sends local residents full documentation relevant to the Core Strategy consultation before the consultation process commences; and if she will make a statement. [250952]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted authorities with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

The Castle Point Core Strategy will be subject to independent examination by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, and a key test of the plan's 'soundness' at the examination will be whether the council has taken sufficient steps to engage the local community and other stakeholders.

The Secretary of State has received formal notification from Castle Point borough council that consultation on the latest version of the Castle Point Core Strategy, the "Core Strategy Proposed Publication Statement", "Key diagram" and "Indicative Site Plans for Castle View, Manor Trading Estate, Stadium Way Employment and West Canvey" commenced on 9 January 2009 and will conclude 20 March 2009.

The documentation is published on the website and available in hard copy form at the borough council's offices.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will request that Castle Point Borough Council publishes details of brownfield sites in Castle Point. [251054]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted authorities with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

The Core Strategy Consultation documents include details set out in broad locational terms and shown diagrammatically on the key diagram for development on brownfield sites. The "Canvey Area Action Plan" and the "Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley Plan" will when published make detailed brownfield site allocations of land for various forms of development.

The "Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document" includes a housing trajectory which identifies a five year supply of deliverable housing sites and an 18 year supply of developable sites. The Spatial Strategy seeks to ensure 70 per cent. of new homes are on previously developed land estimated to be provided as in the following table;

Source of capacity	*Previously developed land*
2008-13	820
2013-18	1,129
2018-26	1,023
Total	2,972
Proportion (percentage)	77.8

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with Castle Point borough council on procedures for development of green belt land in Castle Point when brownfield land remains to be developed; and if she will make a statement. [251055]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted authorities with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

The "Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document" provides a clear indication of how regeneration and growth will be distributed within the borough. The existing settlement structure will be maintained by concentrating development within existing settlements with limited peripheral development.

Sustainable growth is proposed that achieves at least 70 per cent. of new homes on previously developed land and safeguards the stated purpose of the metropolitan green belt until 2031. The residual need (approximately 300-500 dwellings to 2026) will be provided for in urban peripheral locations that have limited impact on the openness and function of the greenbelt as set out in Planning Policy Guidance 2. These locations will be identified as site allocations in the "Canvey Area Action Plan" and the "Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley Plan".

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will request that the Chief Executive of Castle Point Borough Council publishes the authority's plans to develop land given to the people of Canvey Island around the Cornelius Vermuyden School and Canvey Village. [251060]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted authorities with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

I understand from Castle Point borough council that no planning application has yet been made to them in respect of this proposal. When an application has been made, the council will be required to publicise it in order that the public and other interested parties may make known their views. Before reaching their decision, the council must take into account: the provisions of the development plan for the area; any relevant views expressed by neighbouring occupiers, local residents and other third parties; and any other relevant material considerations which fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned. They should also be guided by the policies and advice set out in the Department's Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Statements (PPGs and PPSs) and planning circulars.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of external legal services engaged by her Department was in 2007-08. [251362]

Mr. Khan: External legal costs paid by CLG in the financial year 2007-08 were £1.33 million.

Local Government Finance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances a local council may transfer assets to community organisations. [250753]

John Healey: Local authorities' power to dispose of surplus assets at less than best consideration is governed by the General Disposal Consent 2003 under the Local Government Act 1972. This provides that an authority will not be required to seek specific consent from the Secretary of State for the disposal of land or buildings which the authority considers will help it to secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area as defined in the Local Government Act 2000, and where the 'undervalue' (the difference between the unrestricted value of the interest and the consideration accepted) is less than £2 million.

A local authority will need to demonstrate that the tangible and intangible community benefits accruing from the disposal at less than best consideration outweigh the opportunity costs of not pursuing other options, including the capital receipt that could be obtained from open market sale. The authority will also need to ensure it holds the land under correct powers, that the disposal does not contravene state aid regulations, and that it has obtained a realistic valuation.

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects elections for directly-elected mayors to take place in each of the next 10 years. [250783]

John Healey: The following table details the expected election years for directly-elected mayors over the next 10 years, including the Mayor of London:

Local authority	*Mayoral election years*		
Bedford	2011	2015	2019
Doncaster	2009	2013	2017
Hackney	2010	2014	2018
Hartlepool	2009	2013	2017
Lewisham	2010	2014	2018
Mansfield	2011	2015	2019
Middlesbrough	2011	2015	2019
Newham	2010	2014	2018
North Tyneside	2009	2013	2017
Torbay	2011	2015	2019
Watford	2010	2014	2018
Greater London authority	2012	2016	[1]2020

[1] Outside of the 10-year time frame.

Local Government: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* planning and *(b)* other powers the interim authority established for Shrewsbury in the period between the abolition of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council in March 2009 and the elections for new town councillors in June 2009 will have; and if she will make a statement. [250882]

John Healey: The parish council of Shrewsbury, as established on 1 April 2009 will have the normal range of powers available to parish councils from that date. Prior to the parish councillors taking office after the elections in June 2009, the parish council will consist of the councillors elected for the electoral divisions of Shropshire which cover the new parish area.

Mortgages: First-Time Buyers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 446W, on mortgages: first-time buyers, what estimate she has made of the number of first-time buyers, excluding sitting tenants, in England who took out mortgages of 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property in *(a)* each year from 1979 to 2005 and *(b)* 2007. [251865]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage are available from the Regulated Mortgage Survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders from 2005. Before this we collected the data ourselves via the Survey of Mortgage Lenders. However, as the survey is a sample, data on the number of FTBs for England are unavailable. However we can derive proportions and these are presented in the following table back to 1980.

Estimated proportion of first time buyers, excluding sitting tenants, that took out 100 per cent. mortgages, in England

	Percentage
1980	0.60
1981	1.97
1982	13.17
1983	13.09
1984	10.13
1985	18.65
1986	26.05
1987	22.96
1988	11.02
1989	22.29
1990	27.81
1991	15.94
1992	6.34
1993	1.61
1994	1.27
1995	1.14
1996	1.05
1997	0.94
1998	0.79
1999	0.80
2000	1.01
2001	0.82
2002	0.54
2003	2.38
2004	6.25
2005	6.77
2006	8.29
2007	9.84

Notes:

1. Cases where the mortgage taken out is more than the purchase price have been filtered out due to concerns over data quality.

2. Data from 1982 to 1993 are included although there are concerns over the quality of the data.

Source:

Regulated Mortgage Survey

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates *(a)* the hon. Member for Eastleigh and *(b)* Eastleigh Borough Council made submissions to her Department in respect of each draft of the South East Plan. [251858]

Mr. Khan: The hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) submitted his response to the Secretary of State's proposed changes on 22 October 2008. Eastleigh borough council submitted their response on 23 October 2008.

Eastleigh borough council also submitted a further response to the Examination in Public Panel in June 2006.

Previous rounds of consultation were handled by the South East England Regional Assembly during the preparation of the draft plan. Eastleigh borough council are represented on the Assembly and would have been involved in the preparation of the draft.

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the use of credit scoring by the private rented sector on households who have had their property repossessed in obtaining alternative rented accommodation. [251805]

Mr. Iain Wright: Landlords are entitled to seek financial references from potential tenants and may use credit scoring in that context. Assuming that they have kept up to date with rent payments, we would not expect a tenant's credit score to be affected by the repossession of a home in which they were staying since, in those circumstances, it is the landlord, not the tenant, who is in default and whose credit rating might be affected.

Rented Housing: Repossession Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of buy-to-let landlords in each region who have had property repossessed in each of the last three years. [250196]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Council of Mortgage Lenders collects data on the number of buy-to-let mortgage possessions. However, these data are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole. Data are only available currently for 2006 and 2007.

Buy-to-let mortgages taken into possession in period, UK

	Number
2006	1,100
2007	2,000

Source:

CML

Supporting People Programme

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government has for the future of the Supporting People initiative. [250475]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's plans for the Supporting People programme were set out in a written ministerial statement on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 90WS.

Urban Areas: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 978W, on urban areas: parking, if she will make it her policy to undertake research into the effects on town centre economies of levels of car parking charges. [251896]

Mr. Iain Wright: Charges are a matter for individual car park owners and their impact on local economies will depend on many local factors.

The Government will continue to monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of planning policy for town centres from a national perspective, drawing upon annual monitoring reports and other quantitative and qualitative evidence. Local authorities should develop the evidence base for their parking policies in their development plans and local transport plans, undertaking what research they need.

Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether consideration for compensation payments for householders whose bins are not collected on time falls within the scope of the Redress Review. [251721]

Mr. Khan: The Empowerment White Paper Communities in Control: Real people, real power announced that there would be a concise review of the current arrangements across public services, the private sector and in other countries to look at the feasibility and practicality of introducing and extending the idea of redress for citizens where their council services fail to meet agreed standards. The Secretary of State asked David Cook, Chief Executive of Kettering borough council to chair this independent review, which will consider a range of issues—including the potential role of compensation—and produce recommendations to ensure that local services are putting the consumer at the heart of everything they do. The review is expected to report in spring 2009.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department carried out checks with Companies House before awarding Greensward Charitable Trust the sponsorship of academies in Essex. [251698]

Jim Knight: As a trust set up by a maintained school, Greensward Charitable Trust was not required to provide any financial sponsorship and no checks were carried out with Companies House before awarding them the sponsorship of academies in Essex.

Boosting Language Auditory Skills and Talking Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Boosting Language Auditory Skills and Talking programme. [251333]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Boosting Language and Auditory Skills and Training programme is a package designed to enhance and enrich the speech, language and communication skills of three to four-year-olds. The programme is being used in over 900 settings, mainly in nurseries as well as playgroups, crèches, parent toddler groups etc. It operates in a number of local authorities mainly in the North East and we understand it has been effective their early years settings.

BLAST is one of many programmes providing early years settings with training and resources to improve the quality of communication and language provision. These programmes have contributed to improving practitioners' knowledge and understanding of early language development as well as creating a rich language environment within settings.

Early language development is a key factor for a child's future success both academically and socially. Through Every Child A Talker we are providing support and funding for early years practitioners in young children's speaking and listening skills. Local authorities are able to use their Every Child a Talker funding flexibly, so that practitioners can take advantage of a range of professional development on early language including BLAST.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Finance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on the Building Schools for the Future programme since its launch; and how much funding is allocated to the programme over the next five years. [252661]

Jim Knight: Over the spending period 2005-06 to 2007-08 the following conventional allocations were made for Building Schools for the Future projects: £824 million through supported borrowing allocations, and £514 million of capital grant. In addition, £3,750 million of PFI credits were allocated to the programme.

For the current spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11, the BSF and academies capital resources are being managed together. New resources for these programmes made available from the comprehensive spending review 2007 exercise are: £5,615 million of capital grant and some £3,700 million of PFI credits. In addition, £888 million of committed capital grant for BSF was carried forward from the previous spending period, which is available to be spent in the current period. The resources that will be available from 2011-12 for BSF and academies, and other capital programmes, will be decided as part of the next spending review exercise.

Care Proceedings

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost of obtaining a care order. [244555]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: Loughborough university has conducted research into the costs of providing children's services. The costs calculated for children's services of obtaining a court order at 2006/07 prices were £2,765.

The fees (in current prices) charged by the courts for obtaining a care order are shown as follows in relation to three stages:

	Fees for obtaining a care order (£)
On an application for a care or supervision order under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989	2,225
Where an issues resolution hearing or pre-hearing review has been listed	700
Where a final hearing has been listed	1,900

Castle View School: Playing Fields

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on discussions which have taken place between *(a)* officers, *(b)* Members and *(c)* actual or potential developers under the auspices of Castle Point Borough Council and Essex County Council on development of Castle View School playing fields; and if he will make a statement. [250949]

Jim Knight: As part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and its delivery agents—Partnerships for Schools (PfS), have not engaged in any discussions with Castle Point borough council and Essex county council regarding the development of Castle View School playing fields, and therefore do not hold any information on discussions between officers, Members and actual or potential developers.

Children In Care

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in each local authority area were *(a)* looked after and *(b)* adopted in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [250307]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number and proportion of children in each local authority who *(a)* were looked after and *(b)* adopted in the years 2006-08 can be found in tables LAA1 and table LAE1, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008". These show the number of looked after children at 31 March for 2004 to 2008 and also the number of looked after children who were adopted during the years ending 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2008.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table LAA1 can be found within the excel link labelled first set of additional tables and table LAE1 can be found within the excel link labelled third set of additional tables.

Children in Care: Reading

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what programmes his Department has put in place to provide one-to-one reading tuition for looked-after children. [248870]

Beverley Hughes: Looked-after children will benefit from the Every Child a Reader programme, which was established by the KPMG Every Child a Chance Trust in 2005. From September 2008 this programme is being rolled out by the National Strategies on behalf of Government. By 2010/11 it aims to support the bottom 5 per cent. (approximately 30,000) of children aged five and six, some of whom may be looked after, who are struggling to read. Looked-after children who meet the criteria will also benefit from one-to-one tuition which is being introduced on a national basis and which will draw on the lessons learned from the Making Good Progress pilots.

In order to provide targeted support for looked-after children we have also introduced Personal Education Allowances of £500 per annum for looked-after children who are at risk of not reaching national levels of achievement which can be used to provide a range of educational support to meet their needs. This may include one-to-one tuition out of school to help them with their reading.

Through the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme we are funding the Letterbox Club, a two year pilot programme managed by Booktrust, to work with over 1,500 looked after children and their foster carers across 52 local authorities. As part of the Letterbox Club initiative looked-after children aged seven to 11 in foster families receive a parcel of books and mathematics activities every month for six months to help their carers work with them to improve their literacy and numeracy.

Children: Abuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were abused whilst subject to a child protection plan in each of the last five years in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [250600]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The available figures cover children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan and include information on category of abuse which let to the plan being put in place and re-referrals. These are available in the annual statistical first release "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England". The latest figures can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml.

Children: Cancer

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on the flexible education provision for childhood cancer survivors. [247217]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department is involved in ongoing discussions with the Department of Health looking at how we can work together to improve services for children and young people with, or recovering from, cancer as part of the Children and Young People Survivorship initiative.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on ContactPoint in the last two years; [248766]

(2) what the implementation timetable for ContactPoint is; [248767]

(3) in which local authorities ContactPoint will be first implemented; and what assessments his Department has carried out of their capability to use ContactPoint. [248768]

Beverley Hughes: We have provided, through our Local Authority Readiness Assessment (LARA) system, a wide range of guidance both for local authorities and local and national partners that covers legal, technical and operational issues. For example, we have issued guidance under section 12(12) of the Children Act 2004, which sets out the key statutory requirements of section 12 and the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007. We have also issued guidance that covers project management and communications, the use of enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (eCRB) disclosures as part of an individual's application to become a ContactPoint user and guidance on shielding records on ContactPoint.

We announced, in August 2008, that ContactPoint would be deployed from January 2009. We are on track to deploy the first phase from that date and will continue to keep Parliament informed of key developments.

Local authorities have been undertaking work with relevant local partners to identify children whose records may need to be shielded on ContactPoint. For the purpose of shielding only, ContactPoint will be deployed to all local authorities in England from January 2009. Wider ContactPoint functionality will be deployed first to the ContactPoint early adopters. The early adopters are 17 local authorities and two national partners, whose purpose is to test deployment and experience operational processes in a real environment. This will allow the national ContactPoint team to evaluate the processes and make any necessary adjustments, prior to full deployment of the system to other local authorities and national partners.

The 17 early adopter local authorities are Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Cheshire, Cumbria, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Sefton, St. Helens, Stockport, Warrington and Wigan. Two national partners, Barnardo's and KIDS, are also early adopters.

All local authorities and national partners have been required to work through a series of detailed 'readiness assessment' checks and satisfy specified threshold levels, before progressing to the next stage. They are also completing monthly assessments of their progress. Early adopter local authorities have all completed nine readiness assessment checks to date. Other areas will complete a further readiness assessment before being accredited to grant ContactPoint access to users.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for entering children's data into the ContactPoint database; and whether such individuals are required to have had a Criminal Records Bureau check before their appointment. [249010]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* ContactPoint will be populated from existing national and local data sources. The persons and bodies who are required and those who are permitted to supply information to ContactPoint are set out in the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007. Securing data directly from existing practitioner systems will avoid the need for double data entry on the part of practitioners. Where direct data feeds are not possible, practitioners may be required to enter the information directly into ContactPoint by logging on via a secure web link or indirectly via an authorised user.

Everyone with access to ContactPoint, including operators and administrators, will be subject to stringent security checks, including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance which will be renewed every three years.

Children: Day care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment, based on the local authority childcare sufficiency assessments, he has made of the adequacy of standards of childcare achieved; and what recent steps the Government has taken to ensure that local authorities meet requirements to provide childcare services by 31 March 2008. [251902]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to the highest possible standards for all child care providers. The Childcare Act 2006 outlined the regulatory regime which is being enforced through a programme of regular inspection against published criteria by Ofsted.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessments published by each local authority are helping to identify and address any gaps in the provision of child care appropriate to the needs of working parents and those looking to work in their areas. The Government provide support to local authorities through Government offices in meeting the requirement to secure sufficient child care in the area, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Children: Obesity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initiatives the Government has introduced for children of pre-school age to reduce childhood obesity in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249829]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives strategy, published in January 2008, set out the Government's plans to reduce obesity, initially focusing on children. Every child should grow up eating well and enjoying being active and we want parents to have the knowledge and confidence to make this happen. There is no single, simple solution to reducing rates of overweight and obesity and therefore the Government are taking action on a number of fronts.

At a national level, the Government are promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The updated Child Health Promotion Programme was published in March 2008. It prioritises obesity prevention and physical activity by promoting positive parenting during pregnancy and the early years of children's lives. We are working to support as many mothers as possible to breast feed and to continue to breast feed for longer—helped by children's centres, health and other services, all promoting healthy weight. The Healthy Start initiative provides free vitamin supplements, vouchers for milk, fruit and vegetables for low income pregnant women and children up to age four.

The introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage for 0 to five-year-olds means that all early years education providers must promote the good health of children, by providing healthy, nutritious food and active play. The Play Strategy, launched in December 2008, sets out how Government will invest £235 million over 2008-09 to 2010-11 to develop play facilities for children of all ages. Ofcom have introduced restrictions on advertising foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) to children.

At a local level, primary care trusts, working with local authorities, are responsible for co-ordinating work to tackle childhood obesity. PCT plans, developed alongside local authority Children and Young People's Plans, will feed into local area agreements agreed with the Government offices. Local areas will develop and implement their own initiatives based on local needs and circumstances. 130 LAs have chosen to include in their local area agreement at least one child obesity indicator from the National Indicator Set.

Middlesbrough is also one of the nine towns that have been awarded healthy town status as part of the Governments £30 million Healthy Community Challenge Fund. The money will be used to build on existing work and test out ideas on what further action needs to happen to make physical activity and healthy food choices easier for people.

All this is supported by the Change4Life movement at a national and local level which aims to help families eat well, move more and live longer and which is initially focused on families with young children. Change4Life is working with a range of commercial and voluntary sector partners, signing up to play their part and deliver concrete commitments to change both nationally and locally.

Children: Protection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made in its communications campaign on children's safety; and if he will make a statement. [247010]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: One of the key commitments of the Staying Safe: Action Plan was to launch a major communications campaign on children's safety. This commitment was supported with a £9.0 million investment over the CSR 2008-11. It covers all safeguarding priorities in support of PSA 13 (to Improve Children and Young People's Safety) and is aimed at both the children and young people's work force and the general public.

Since April 2008, we have been working across government and the third sector to strengthen and promote messages that promote the safety of children. Such initiatives include a national home safety campaign, a campaign to reduce cyber-bullying, information to schools to help promote fire safety, and support of the established BERR campaign to reduce accidents using fireworks.

We are currently undertaking preparatory work to widen our communications approach for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with Reading Local Education Authority on the level of protection it provides for vulnerable children. [248866]

Beverley Hughes: In response to Reading's Joint Area Review and 2008 Annual Performance Assessment, Department for Children, Schools and Families officials have held discussions with representatives of Reading borough council, including with the director of children's services, the chief executive and the lead member for children's services, to explore the issues raised in the Joint Area Review report and discuss improvement measures for the council's safeguarding services for vulnerable children and young people. As a result of those discussions, the Department and Reading borough council are commissioning a package of tailored external support which will begin in February, to support necessary improvements in the council's services.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the target for annual efficiency gains by 2007-08, referred to on pages 107-108 of his Department's Annual Report, was achieved. [247201]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The former DFES 2004 Spending Review Efficiency target of £4.35 billion was overachieved with gains of £4.57 billion reported in the 2008 Autumn Performance Report (published December 2008). Within the report there is full disclosure of how the gains were achieved.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of contractors and suppliers to his Department has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245310]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1 July 2008 all new contracts with contractors have included appropriate clauses to ensure that they are compliant with the Government's security standards. We are also assessing contracts that were let prior to 1 July 2008 to address any security issues. An answer to the percentage question could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Higher Civil Servants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249853]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Since then 80 bonuses have been awarded for the performance year 2007/08 worth a total of £780,000.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Supply Estimates

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which budget he has allocated the £2,500,000 moved from non-voted unallocated provision for Sure Start in his written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 49WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2008-09). [251423]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The non-voted unallocated provision was transferred to voted provision. The £2,500,000 was allocated to 'Sure Start Current Grants not through Local Authorities' in Request for Resources (RfR) 2 Line A.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons are for the time taken to make education maintenance allowance payments in Kent in 2008-09. [251689]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Wansdyke

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many residents of the Wansdyke constituency were in receipt of education maintenance allowance during 2007-08. [251833]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education: Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ranking of Newcastle upon Tyne Local Education Authority in relation to the other local education authorities in the results of the most recent national challenge measurement of achievement at GCSE was; and what bids for funding in respect of the national challenge he has received from Newcastle Local Education Authority. [251766]

Jim Knight: Newcastle has 18 per cent. of its schools attaining fewer than 30 per cent. 5 A*-C including English and mathematics. When ranking local authorities according to percentage of schools below the 30 per cent. threshold in proportion to all schools in local authorities, Newcastle upon Tyne local authority has the 43rd highest proportion of schools below the threshold. However, this ranking is relatively insensitive for those authorities with a small number of schools, since a single institution may represent a large proportion of the authority's schools.

Newcastle upon Tyne has received £380,000 of National Challenge funding. This funding will support schools below 30 per cent., help those in danger of falling below and consolidate ~~recent~~ improvements.

GCSE: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of eligible pupils passed five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C in Cleethorpes constituency in each of the last 10 years. [252784]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Pupils[1] at maintained schools located in Cleethorpes constituency passing five or more GCSEs or equivalent[2] at grade A to C, 1998/99 to 2007/08*

	Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency	
	Number	Percentage
2007/08[3]	968	62.5
2006/07	930	59.9
2005/06	830	53.6
2004/05	755	48.9
2003/04	776	48.0
2002/03	645	43.1
2001/02	694	45.2
2000/01	673	44.2
1999/2000	632	43.1
1998/99	638	42.9

[1] Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year.

[2] From 1998/99 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[3] Figures for 2007/08 are based on revised data.

Mathematics: Teaching Methods

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the innovative Key Stage 3 mathematics lesson materials funded by his Department and the Bowland Trust have been made available to schools. [247401]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The DCSF funded the development of the Bowland maths materials and the Bowland Trust funded the production and distribution. The Bowland materials were completed in summer 2008 and distributed to all state schools by the National Strategies in the autumn 2008 term. The materials have now reached all state schools in England. Any school or college in England can either access the materials online or request copies of the five DVDs by completing an online form. Materials are also available for download free of charge for schools in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

National Assessment Agency: Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time officials worked at (i) the National Assessment Agency and (ii) the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the 2007-08 tax year; how many in each case received bonuses in that year; and if he will make a statement. [251848]

Jim Knight: The number of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time officials that worked within the National Assessment Agency (NAA)[1] and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) for the 2007-08 tax year, and ~~the~~ number of bonuses related to that year, is shown in the following table.

[1] The NAA was part of the QCA, so the figures for NAA are also included within those for the QCA.

	NAA		*QCA (which includes the NAA)*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Employees	124	6	483	26
Number who received a bonus	113	6	457	26

Source:
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (31 March 2008).

Parents: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the provision of interpreters for deaf parents attending parents' evenings. [251232]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government recognise the additional difficulties disabled parents face in effectively engaging at school-parent communication events such as parent evenings. The provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the advice to schools and local authorities are primarily around how schools provide services for disabled pupils. Through practice guidance for schools on parent evenings the Department encourages schools to use a number of ways to enhance the relationship with parents and carers, including asking parents what they want and what would encourage them to come into the school.

The Government committed in the Children's Plan Progress Report published in December 2008 to providing guidance for schools and other settings on working with parents, which will include meeting the specific needs of deaf parents and the implications of the DDA for schools work with parents.

Pre-School Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the early years foundation stage specification included guidance on how and when children should learn to grip a pen or pencil. [251051]

Beverley Hughes: The early years foundation stage includes an early learning goal that a child should use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. Supporting practice guidance suggests a range of activities, appropriate to their age that children can do to develop both the large and fine motor skills needed to hold a pencil and write. The guidance indicates that most children would be able to achieve this goal between 40-60 months of age.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans the Government have to assess the effects of the introduction of the early years foundation stage on childcare settings. [252059]

Beverley Hughes: We are assessing the effects of the introduction of the early years foundation stage through a variety of different methods, including research and work with our colleagues in the national strategies. The results from this work will be used to identify and address any issues relating to implementation. We have also started work on the independent post-implementation review of the EYFS for 2010.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department have made of the number and proportion of local authorities which did not meet their requirement to provide a sufficient supply of childcare in the latest period for which figures are available. [252073]

Beverley Hughes: Since April 2008 each local authorities must secure, so far as is "reasonably practicable" sufficient childcare to allow parents in their area to work or undertake education or training leading to work.

The sufficiency duty operates progressively, with local authorities looking both to meet gaps identified in sufficiency assessments and to reduce constraints on sufficiency over time. Local authorities will, themselves, be able to test the sufficiency of childcare through their sufficiency assessments and childcare sufficiency will, of course, form part of the normal performance management arrangements for local authorities.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1495W, on pre-school education, how many and what proportion of children in the 30 per cent. most deprived areas of each local authority were working securely within the 13 assessment areas of the foundation stage profile in each year since 2005. [252076]

Beverley Hughes: Information is only readily available for seven of the 13 assessment scales; these are personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy. Further information on the proportion of children working securely within the additional six assessment scales and for earlier years can be compiled and checked only at a disproportionate cost.

The latest published foundation stage profile results for children working securely in these seven scales, in the 30 per cent. most deprived areas within each local authority, can be found in table D of the additional information for statistical release 25-2008:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml

Pre-School Education: Labour Turnover

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average staff turnover rate in daycare settings in England in the last 12 months. [252071]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on turnover rates for child care and early years providers in England. The data in table 1 are from the 2007 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The information is not available for the past 12 months, therefore the average turnover rate for 2007 has been provided. The turnover rate gives the number of staff that have left as a proportion of all staff who would have been employed at the start of the 12 month period covered by the survey.

Table 1: Turnover rate for child care and early years providers

	2007 (percentage)
Full day care	15
Full day care in children's centres	11
Sessional	11
After school clubs	23
Holiday clubs	22
Nursery schools	5
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	6
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	5

Pre-School Education: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of people who worked in the childcare sector in each year since 1997. [252072]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the number of people working in the childcare sector in England. The data in the following table are from the 2007 and 2001 Childcare and Early Years Providers Surveys. The information is not available for years preceding 2001.

Table 1: Number of staff working in childcare providers

	Number of paid and unpaid staff				
	2007	*2006*	*2005*	*2003*	*2001*
Full day care	165,200	159,300	148,200	124,200	106,500
Full day care in children's centres	14,000	10,500	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sessional	64,500	75,100	77,100	90,800	109,500
After school clubs	50,400	54,500	n/a	29,500	32,200
Holiday clubs	51,200	68,200	n/a	26,600	n/a

n/a = Data were not collected from these providers during these years.

Note:

1. An individual may work for more than one provider.
2. Base: Childcare providers 2007, 2006, 2005, 2003, 2001. Staff in early years provision in maintained schools are not included.

Pre-School Education: Teachers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department provides for the training of childcare staff to level 3. [252067]

Beverley Hughes: Funding is provided to local authorities to improve the quality of practice and the capability of the workforce in early years settings within the Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion strand of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. This funding may be used to support the continuous professional development of staff, helping more of them to build up to Level 3.

For the CSR period April 2008 to March 2011 this funding for outcomes, quality and inclusion totalled £438 million. This funding is not exclusively for staff training but, as its name suggests, is to raise quality in general. As funding in main revenue is not ring-fenced, the authority is free to decide how much to spend on each area supported by the grant, in line with local priorities.

Primary Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to amend the primary education syllabus to reduce the workload of *(a)* children and *(b)* teachers. [248134]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, appointed Sir Jim Rose to undertake an independent review of the primary curriculum. The review is looking at amending primary curriculum programmes of study with a view to reducing the level of prescription, where possible, in order to make the primary curriculum more manageable for schools.

Sir Jim Rose's interim report was published on 8 December 2008, this can be viewed at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/

We look forward to receiving his final report in the spring.

Pupils: Diabetes

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to schools on administering of insulin to pupils with diabetes during school hours; what steps it takes to ensure that the guidance is adhered to; and if he will make a statement. [251036]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This Department issued, in 2005, guidance entitled 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings'. This guidance was published jointly with the Department of Health, and specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with diabetes and other medical conditions.

Although there is no legal duty on schools to administer medication, or to support a child with self-medication, the guidance encourages schools to develop policies on the management of pupils' medicines and supporting pupils with medical needs. It also encourages schools to draw up, in consultation with parents and medical professionals, individual health care plans for children with medical needs.

Pupils: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each local authority area have been referred to an educational (i) psychiatrist and (ii) psychologist in the last 12 months. [250709]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Government funding was provided per *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupil in each local authority area in 2007-08. [252087]

Jim Knight: The per pupil revenue funding figures for each local authority for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are shown in the following table. Since 2006-07 the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding and is distributed from central Government. A primary/secondary split is not available. The figures in the table are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are provided in cash terms:

	DSG + Grants per pupil	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
England	4,530	4,690
Barking and Dagenham	5,110	5,270
Barnet	5,010	5,200
Barnsley	4,370	4,480
Bath and North East Somerset	4,270	4,430
Bedfordshire	4,250	4,410
Bexley	4,550	4,730
Birmingham	5,050	5,240
Blackburn with Darwen	4,900	5,040
Blackpool	4,480	4,620
Bolton	4,480	4,600
Bournemouth	4,190	4,300
Bracknell Forest	4,360	4,500
Bradford	4,710	4,870
Brent	5,450	5,700
Brighton and Hove	4,530	4,660
Bristol, City of	4,920	5,050
Bromley	4,400	4,590
Buckinghamshire	4,340	4,510
Bury	4,280	4,430
Calderdale	4,420	4,570
Cambridgeshire	4,110	4,280
Camden	6,730	6,910
Cheshire	4,240	4,430
Cornwall	4,170	4,340
Coventry	4,670	4,790
Croydon	4,740	4,910
Cumbria	4,320	4,430
Darlington	4,420	4,550
Derby	4,500	4,660
Derbyshire	4,210	4,450
Devon	4,120	4,280
Doncaster	4,480	4,630
Dorset	4,200	4,350
Dudley	4,350	4,510
Durham	4,520	4,730
Ealing	5,400	5,620
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,100	4,270
East Sussex	4,420	4,560
Enfield	4,950	5,100
Essex	4,290	4,450
Gateshead	4,600	4,740
Gloucestershire	4,150	4,370
Greenwich	5,980	6,260
Hackney	6,900	7,250
Halton	4,840	4,960
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,390	6,490
Hampshire	4,120	4,320
Haringey	5,710	5,940
Harrow	4,850	5,170
Hartlepool	4,660	4,830
Havering	4,490	4,670
Herefordshire	4,160	4,320
Hertfordshire	4,290	4,500
Hillingdon	4,820	4,990
Hounslow	5,210	5,380
Isle of Wight	4,570	4,660
Islington	6,540	6,660
Kensington and Chelsea	6,450	6,530
Kent	4,350	4,520
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	4,700	4,870
Kingston upon Thames	4,670	4,850
Kirklees	4,440	4,650
Knowsley	4,920	5,080
Lambeth	6,460	6,780
Lancashire	4,370	4,520
Leeds	4,450	4,620
Leicester	4,750	4,860
Leicestershire	3,950	4,150
Lewisham	6,150	6,330
Lincolnshire	4,270	4,410
Liverpool	4,960	5,140
Luton	4,800	4,960
Manchester	5,280	5,440
Medway	4,450	4,600
Merton	4,850	5,010
Middlesbrough	4,910	4,960
Milton Keynes	4,520	4,710
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,680	4,840
Newham	5,730	5,970
Norfolk	4,250	4,410
North East Lincolnshire	4,660	4,850
North Lincolnshire	4,280	4,420
North Somerset	4,150	4,310
North Tyneside	4,380	4,520
North Yorkshire	4,260	4,440
Northamptonshire	4,170	4,360
Northumberland	4,270	4,400
Nottingham	5,200	5,330
Nottinghamshire	4,220	4,390
Oldham	4,670	4,820
Oxfordshire	4,260	4,410
Peterborough	4,580	4,790
Plymouth	4,390	4,540
Poole	4,130	4,250
Portsmouth	4,490	4,650
Reading	4,790	4,870
Redbridge	4,650	4,820
Redcar and Cleveland	4,560	4,750
Richmond upon Thames	4,570	4,750
Rochdale	4,740	4,900
Rotherham	4,580	4,730
Rutland	4,330	4,400
Salford	4,940	5,050
Sandwell	4,780	4,890
Sefton	4,460	4,590
Sheffield	4,460	4,650
Shropshire	4,110	4,240
Slough	4,950	5,130
Solihull	4,110	4,270
Somerset	4,130	4,350
South Gloucestershire	4,010	4,150
South Tyneside	4,700	4,910
Southampton	4,590	4,750
Southend-on-Sea	4,480	4,620
Southwark	6,480	6,650
St Helens	4,520	4,640
Staffordshire	4,130	4,290
Stockport	4,220	4,410
Stockton-on-Tees	4,530	4,620
Stoke-on-Trent	4,660	4,800
Suffolk	4,160	4,320
Sunderland	4,520	4,680

	DSG + Grants per pupil	
	2007-08	2008-09
Surrey	4,270	4,450
Sutton	4,630	4,810
Swindon	4,150	4,310
Tameside	4,410	4,560
Telford and Wrekin	4,400	4,510
Thurrock	4,550	4,700
Torbay	4,330	4,460
Tower Hamlets	7,100	7,350
Trafford	4,230	4,400
Wakefield	4,400	4,550
Walsall	4,580	4,700
Waltham Forest	5,210	5,330
Wandsworth	5,740	5,980
Warrington	4,140	4,320
Warwickshire	4,160	4,320
West Berkshire	4,420	4,570
West Sussex	4,210	4,370
Westminster	6,160	6,260
Wigan	4,360	4,510
Wiltshire	4,100	4,250
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,470	4,630
Wirral	4,500	4,630
Wokingham	4,210	4,360
Wolverhampton	4,740	4,940
Worcestershire	4,110	4,300
York	4,160	4,360

Notes:
1. Price Base: Cash
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10

Religion: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to develop a national curriculum for religious education; and if he will make a statement. [248017]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have no plans to develop a statutory national curriculum for Religious Education (RE). There is a non-statutory National Framework for Religious Education that all major faith groups have endorsed in 2004. Religious Education is already a statutory subject and every maintained school must provide religious education (RE) for all its pupils. It is the responsibility of the head teacher, governing body and the local authority (LA) to ensure that this is done. Local Standing Councils for Religious Education (SACREs), established by the LA, have the responsibility to ensure that local RE syllabuses, taking account of national guidance, reflect the make up of the local community.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reason the words in paragraph 1.65(d) of the School Admissions Code requiring parents' preferences for the school of their choice to be met to the maximum extent possible have been removed from the revised Code. [247030]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have taken the opportunity afforded by the revised code to remove areas of duplication in the text and therefore to improve clarity for admission authorities. The right of parents to apply for any school they want their child to attend and the duty on admission authorities to ensure that their preferences are met to the fullest possible extent are enshrined in section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirement to offer a place, where one is available and where such an offer would not prejudice the provision of efficient education or the use of resources, at the school that is the parents' highest preference is fundamental to the system and is reflected throughout the code and regulations, for example at paragraphs 1.37, 1.42 and 3.15(d).

Schools: Sport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of 5 to 16-year-olds in each School Sport Partnership participated in a minimum of two hours of high quality physical education and sport each week in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [247475]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The PE and School Sport survey collects data relating to young people's participation in PE and sport. The most recent survey found that an average of 90 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds in England participated in at least two hours high quality PE and sport each week in 2007/08.

The following table sets out pupils' participation in each School Sport Partnership. Copies of the full findings of the survey have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by Partnership

	Total	Years 1 - 2	Years 3 - 6	Years 7 - 9	Years 10 - 11
Abraham Guest	93	100	100	99	67
Aireville	95	94	100	98	85
Alderman Peel	86	93	93	82	75
Alderman Smith	91	99	97	93	70
All Hallows RC	91	91	93	88	90
All Saints	87	94	98	87	64
Angley	94	100	100	93	82
Angmering	93	95	98	96	78
Anthony Gell	92	100	100	90	77
Archbishop Beck	89	88	95	89	77
Archbishop Lanfranc	89	97	99	88	53
Arrow Vale	95	100	100	97	78
Ash Manor	91	97	98	92	69
Ashington I (Ashington)	88	90	93	90	73
Ashington II (Blyth and Bedlington)	92	100	97	87	79
Ashington III (Cramlington and Seaton Valley)	92	100	98	100	72
Ashton on Mersey	93	99	99	92	75
Ashton Park	89	100	98	80	67
Astley (Tameside)	86	97	99	87	56
Astor of Hever	86	94	90	86	71
Avon Valley	89	90	95	93	68
Aylesford	94	100	100	81	84
Bacons	87	90	96	90	59
Balby Carr	80	94	97	67	58
Barking Abbey	92	100	100	90	68
Barlby	92	98	96	100	68
Barnet East	90	100	100	96	56
Barnet South	88	89	92	100	60
Barnhill	96	100	94	100	90

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by Partnership

	Total	*Years 1 - 2*	*Years 3 - 6*	*Years 7 - 9*	*Years 10 - 11*
Barstable	81	92	84	89	49
Baverstock	96	93	99	100	89
Baysgarth	83	90	94	92	46
Beacon/North Wealdon	91	100	100	90	70
Bebington	89	86	94	93	77
Beckfoot	93	94	96	100	77
Benfield	93	98	97	100	72
Benfield II (Newcastle)	90	100	100	90	67
Berry Hill (Stoke on Trent)	86	88	98	92	54
Bexley	94	100	100	100	71
Biddenham	98	100	99	99	90
Biddick	91	100	99	96	63
Biddulph	90	98	97	93	67
Birchwood	93	95	96	100	76
Bishop Barrington	95	99	99	100	78
Bishop Challoner	89	94	92	96	66
Bishop Wand	91	99	100	91	65
Bishops	88	100	96	83	74
Bitterne Park	84	100	100	75	59
Blacon	92	98	99	100	65
Blakeston Community	89	98	99	93	62
Blessed George Napier	95	96	96	100	85
Blessed Trinity (St. Theodores)	90	96	100	89	68
Bognor Regis	85	100	100	72	58
Borden Grammar	81	90	89	73	70
Boston	90	93	98	97	59
Bosworth	87	99	97	80	66
Bowring	89	91	96	100	58
Bracknell Forest/ Brakenhale	89	98	97	93	58
Bramcote Hills	92	96	99	100	68
Bridgemary	95	88	99	100	86
Bridlington	94	100	100	99	74
Brierton	93	98	99	94	78
Brighton Hill	94	100	99	97	69
Brinkburn	90	100	98	95	60
Broad Oak / Bury	95	95	99	100	77
Brookfield (Derbyshire)	88	100	100	97	48
Brookfield (Knowsley)	88	98	99	85	65
Brooksbank	80	96	98	71	53
Brookway	86	98	98	82	50
Brownedge St. Marys	91	90	94	100	73
Buckingham	96	99	100	94	89
Bulmershe	95	100	97	100	77
Burleigh	88	85	95	98	63
Burnham Upper	94	92	94	100	88
Burnholme	93	86	98	100	79
Buxton	93	96	96	98	79
Caistor	90	97	100	90	71
Callington	96	100	99	100	78
Calthorpe	93	87	95	100	81
Canterbury	94	98	99	93	84
Capital City Academy (Brent)	88	100	100	79	60
Cardinal Heenan (1)	90	95	97	100	60
Cardinal Langley	86	91	94	97	54
Carisbrooke	85	100	89	78	76
Carr Manor	90	94	96	100	61
Carres	93	99	100	95	76
Carshalton	90	97	98	93	63
Castle (Kent)	86	100	100	85	57
Castle (Somerset)	91	91	94	100	72
Caterham	82	85	76	100	66
Cavendish	95	97	99	100	81
Central Technology	90	98	97	98	59
Chadsgrove	86	100	100	74	65
Charlton	79	75	83	79	72
Charters	91	96	92	98	75
Chasetown	87	90	96	82	76
Cherry Willingham	87	89	99	85	65
Cheshire Oaks	91	99	100	100	57
Cheslyn Hay	88	96	93	95	65
Chessington (Kingston)	92	100	100	93	65
Chesterfield/Sefton	94	99	99	97	78
Chesterton	79	79	90	88	44
Childwall	88	97	99	89	59
Chipping Norton	88	93	98	89	63
Christ College	89	97	98	90	65
Churchill Community	87	100	100	82	53
Cirencester Kingshill	96	100	100	97	86
City Academy (Bristol)	89	82	96	93	80
City of Lincoln	90	98	100	94	60
Cliff Park	88	100	98	80	70
Collegiate/Palatine	91	95	98	99	66
Colmers	98	100	100	97	95
Colne	92	82	90	100	94
Comberton Village	93	98	98	94	74
Consett	89	97	95	86	75
Coopers Company and Coborn	87	99	84	91	77
Copeland	92	100	99	98	66
Copleston	87	96	94	81	72
Corby	92	97	99	100	63
Coseley	83	99	97	80	50
Countesthorpe	84	95	97	85	47
Counthill	94	96	96	100	78
Crown Hills	85	89	87	91	66
Cumberland (Newham)	86	95	97	77	67
Davenant	95	98	99	100	77
Dayncourt	93	95	99	100	69
Deanes	96	96	96	98	93
Denbigh	96	97	100	100	78
Derby Moor	89	97	91	94	71
Devizes	92	96	98	87	84
Dorothy Stringer	90	92	97	95	68
Dr Challoners	89	99	100	86	71
Droitwich Spa	96	100	100	100	76
Earlham	90	98	98	88	73
Easington	87	98	99	91	53
Eastwood	94	98	99	98	76
Ellis Guilford	89	96	99	88	64
Ellowes Hall	93	93	96	99	79
Eltham Green	86	94	99	90	49
Emerson Park	83	100	100	81	47
Enfield	94	100	100	96	70
Epsom and Ewell	82	88	91	82	56
Evesham (South Worcestershire)	88	100	100	93	46
Failsworth	93	92	96	100	79
Farnborough	85	98	99	80	56

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by Partnership

	Total	*Years 1 - 2*	*Years 3 - 6*	*Years 7 - 9*	*Years 10 - 11*
Farringdon	92	97	99	94	72
Fearns Community	88	95	98	90	63
Featherstone	90	92	96	93	66
Feltham	92	100	100	89	72
Fleetwood	92	94	95	100	74
Flixton Girls	80	90	96	65	55
Framingham Earl	92	96	98	100	66
Freman	97	100	100	100	85
Furness/Thorncliffe	95	98	100	100	76
Gilesgate (Durham)	88	100	99	95	50
Glenburn	85	89	92	94	54
Golden Hillock	98	100	100	100	88
Grange (Dorset)	90	100	100	98	53
Grange (South Gloucestershire)	89	100	96	81	78
Granville	85	93	89	94	55
Great Baddow	91	99	99	90	74
Great Torrington	90	100	100	97	53
Greenacre	81	91	96	81	55
Hackney Free and Parochial	82	90	93	72	51
Hagley Park	88	96	98	87	63
Hailsham	95	96	100	100	78
Hamble Community	92	100	96	87	84
Hammersmith and Fulham	91	100	100	86	72
Hamstead Hall	92	82	96	99	84
Handsworth Grange	91	100	99	97	59
Hanley Castle	98	87	99	100	100
Hanson	84	92	99	82	44
Harlington	87	88	89	96	69
Harris (Warwickshire East)	97	96	100	97	93
Harris Academy Merton	92	100	100	91	69
Harris Girls	88	99	99	85	54
Harrogate	90	90	95	98	73
Harrow High	85	99	96	82	47
Hartford	91	93	97	99	66
Hartismere	92	95	100	95	69
Hartshead	86	99	98	87	51
Harvey Grammar	87	95	99	91	46
Haverstock	86	95	98	91	48
Haydock	94	98	99	98	79
Haydon Bridge II (North Northumberland)	87	100	100	100	32
Haydon Bridge III (Morpeth and Ponteland)	93	100	100	92	77
Haydon Bridge/ Tynedale	92	100	100	97	67
Hayesbrook (Tonbridge)	88	92	99	91	61
Henry Cort	94	100	100	100	69
Herne Bay	93	100	100	98	66
Heysham	99	95	99	99	100
Heywood	92	92	98	95	74
High Ridge/North Lincolnshire	95	98	99	98	81
Hillingdon	84	98	99	84	50
Hinchingbrooke	89	94	97	100	56
Hipperholme and Lightcliffe	91	97	97	99	62
Holden Lane	95	98	97	100	79
Holgate	85	92	99	82	57
Holmfirth High	95	99	99	100	72
Holy Cross	89	92	96	100	57
Houghton Kepier	92	95	99	86	86
Howard	79	85	85	87	51
Hurstmere	85	87	93	86	69
Idsall	96	99	99	100	81
Isleworth and Syon	90	99	99	90	69
Islington CEA	89	92	99	84	66
Ivybridge Community	99	100	100	100	96
John Fisher	97	100	100	100	86
John Madejski	89	92	93	100	56
John Spence	96	100	100	92	90
Joseph Whitaker	93	87	97	100	81
Kelsey Park	87	97	97	81	63
Kenilworth	88	92	98	90	64
Kineton	87	88	98	90	64
King Alfreds (Oxfordshire)	97	99	100	96	89
King Alfreds (Somerset)	94	98	98	97	77
King Arthurs	88	93	95	97	57
King Edmund	90	96	100	89	66
King Edward VI	97	100	100	96	90
King Edward VI Aston	87	79	89	100	74
King Edward VII	90	98	100	84	73
King Edward VII (Leicestershire)	89	94	95	91	67
King George V/South Tyneside	87	100	100	86	63
Kingdown Community	97	98	99	100	89
Kings	95	98	100	100	77
Kings Manor	93	95	98	100	73
Kingsbury	86	95	94	88	59
Kingsbury (Birmingham)	82	92	97	70	68
Kirk Hallam	87	97	97	94	51
Kirkby (Nottinghamshire)	85	100	98	84	51
Kirkby Stephen	88	96	100	87	62
Kirkley	91	98	97	94	71
Knights Academy (Lewisham/ Haberdashers)	88	97	98	87	54
Knights Templar	90	89	90	100	79
Knottingley	90	98	99	100	54
Lacon Childe	97	99	99	100	89
Lady Lumleys	96	94	100	100	85
Lakelands	88	75	95	97	73
Lakes	89	97	100	95	58
Lancaster	89	92	94	98	62
Langdon Park	88	90	95	82	77
Langdon School	97	100	100	97	88
Laurence Jackson	83	100	100	85	44
Lea Valley	94	100	100	87	84
Lees Brook	92	98	97	93	77
Leon	92	97	99	85	82
Lewisham	87	95	97	88	51
Leytonstone	93	100	100	92	72
Lode Heath (South Solihull)	89	87	99	92	70
London Nautical/ Lambeth	89	94	98	82	65
Longfield	89	94	93	99	60
Longfield Melton	99	99	99	97	100

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by Partnership

	Total	*Years 1 - 2*	*Years 3 - 6*	*Years 7 - 9*	*Years 10 - 11*
Longslade	86	95	99	95	40
Lord Williams	79	74	80	92	64
Lordswood Boys	88	90	95	93	70
Lowton/Wigan	89	96	97	92	64
Lymm	97	99	100	100	83
Lyng Hall	85	86	88	84	83
Madeley	94	99	100	99	72
Mandeville	93	99	96	100	71
Manor (Nottinghamshire)	93	89	97	94	89
Manor (Raunds)	90	95	97	94	65
Mark Hall/Harlow	90	88	97	89	78
Marple Hall	92	95	100	95	73
Marriotts	94	96	100	100	76
Mayfield	83	84	92	95	50
Meopham	86	92	97	87	60
Middlecott	93	100	99	85	88
Minster (Herefordshire)	95	99	100	90	88
Mountbatten	92	98	99	94	72
Mounts Bay	87	87	94	91	68
Mowbray	96	100	100	100	88
Netherhall (Cambridgeshire)	93	94	95	100	76
Netherhall (Cumbria)	85	100	97	85	56
Newmarket	91	96	97	100	66
Newsome High	87	98	98	79	65
Nicholas Breakspear	94	92	99	98	82
Ninestiles	87	85	95	99	56
Norden	87	80	93	96	67
Norlington Boys	89	100	98	90	59
Northampton Academy	94	95	99	92	87
Northfield	92	97	97	99	69
Northfields Technology	82	99	92	71	62
Oakbank	88	91	96	90	63
Oasis Academy Wintringham	91	90	92	98	78
Oldbury College	83	88	93	79	64
Oldfield (5)	95	100	100	93	85
Oldfield (9)	90	93	100	94	68
Our Lady (Manchester)	79	91	96	70	42
Our Lady and St Chad	90	100	100	84	64
Our Ladys Lancashire	90	95	98	98	60
Outwood Grange	94	100	100	100	72
Paignton	90	100	99	93	65
Park High (Wirral)	91	100	99	89	68
Park House	96	99	98	100	86
Parklands	88	99	100	96	51
Pendle	89	94	95	99	62
Penryn	95	92	97	100	87
Pensby	87	98	98	92	51
Perins	91	98	100	92	66
Phoenix	95	97	100	97	78
Pickering High	94	100	100	94	78
Pindar	88	96	87	96	73
Plymstock	92	94	98	97	75
Poltair	98	95	99	100	93
Portchester Boys	90	93	98	94	68
Portway	91	94	96	90	76
Priesthorpe	90	100	100	97	57
Priory (Barnsley)	91	99	100	98	61

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by Partnership

	Total	*Years 1 - 2*	*Years 3 - 6*	*Years 7 - 9*	*Years 10 - 11*
Priory (Bromley)	92	99	100	97	67
Priory (Portsmouth)	88	100	94	88	69
Queen Elizabeths (Dorset)	92	100	95	94	73
Queen Elizabeths Girls	96	100	100	98	84
Queens	91	93	96	97	70
Radcliffe	99	100	100	100	96
Ramsey	95	98	100	100	75
Rawlett	88	90	92	95	69
Rawmarsh	87	100	100	79	66
Redborne	96	100	100	94	89
Redbridge Community	84	95	96	82	51
Retford Oaks	86	89	97	89	60
Rickmansworth	92	96	97	95	73
Risedale	93	96	100	92	79
Roade	91	93	95	98	68
Robert Sutton	86	85	98	96	55
Rodillian	93	93	99	96	76
Roseberry	98	100	98	100	95
Rossington	82	97	97	73	57
Rossmore	95	100	100	94	84
Roundwood Park	92	98	99	90	79
Royal Alexandra and Albert	89	97	99	89	59
Rush Croft	96	100	98	100	79
Ruskin	92	91	97	100	71
Rutland	88	96	99	77	65
Rye Hills	92	100	93	95	81
Saffron Walden	93	87	99	100	77
Saints Peter and Paul (Halton)	87	93	92	91	65
Samuel Cody	89	99	99	87	63
Sandbach	94	94	97	100	79
Sandown	88	95	94	91	65
Sandy Upper	94	100	99	100	68
Sedgefield	91	98	98	93	68
Sele	95	100	100	96	77
Selhurst High	90	86	97	90	80
Shaftesbury	98	100	100	100	89
Sharnbrook Upper	94	100	100	100	69
Shelfield	88	83	97	97	56
Shenfield	90	100	100	100	59
Shoeburyness (Southend/Thorpe Bay)	100	100	100	100	100
Siddal Moor	94	94	97	93	89
Sion-Manning	92	97	99	86	78
Sir Frederic Osborn	93	91	97	100	75
Sir John Hunt	90	94	99	93	62
Sir William Borlase	90	93	99	93	69
Skegness Grammar	91	97	96	98	69
Smestow	86	94	94	87	59
Smiths Wood	89	73	83	100	91
South Dartmoor	89	99	100	87	63
South Hunsley	88	93	95	97	60
South Wigston	88	98	97	87	65
Southfield	94	89	95	100	86
Southfields/Ernest Bevin	88	93	96	91	60
Spalding High	92	100	100	96	68
Spen Valley	91	95	93	87	89
St. Aidans	92	100	100	99	62
St. Ambrose Barlow	89	100	99	85	65

Percentage of pupils who participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week—analysis by Partnership

	Total	*Years 1 - 2*	*Years 3 - 6*	*Years 7 - 9*	*Years 10 - 11*
St. Bedes/Blackburn with Darwen	89	91	93	95	70
St. Edmunds	96	100	100	96	86
St. James	78	93	92	76	28
St. John Fisher	80	88	98	63	49
St. Josephs	90	95	98	93	67
St. Lukes (Exeter)	98	100	100	100	89
St. Lukes (Swindon)	86	83	92	90	69
St. Marys (Hull)	84	100	100	76	59
St. Marys (Leeds)	91	93	99	98	69
St. Pauls	92	99	98	100	65
St. Thomas More Catholic	95	96	100	100	75
Stafford	84	96	98	83	53
Stanground	86	86	94	94	57
Stanley	91	99	99	92	70
Staunton Park	87	99	100	81	62
Stockport	83	97	99	79	50
Stopsley	92	98	96	99	67
Stowmarket	85	100	97	79	55
Streetly	91	86	95	99	78
Sudbury	89	97	96	87	73
Sundorne	94	96	100	99	75
Sutton High	90	100	100	93	59
Swadelands	83	92	100	76	49
Swan Valley	94	96	97	99	78
Swanwick Hall	86	97	96	88	57
Taverham	99	100	100	100	98
Testwood	93	99	96	97	78
Theale Green	86	92	92	99	54
Therfield	87	91	96	88	65
Thirsk	93	96	98	100	70
Thomas Bennett	86	98	98	90	47
Thomas Keble	89	90	96	95	65
Thornleigh Salesian	89	88	96	98	60
Thornton Grammar	83	98	96	74	45
Thorpe St. Andrew	95	100	100	100	71
Thurstable	95	99	100	95	83
Tibshelf	90	100	97	87	72
Tongs	95	94	98	100	83
Tower Hamlets	85	100	97	77	53
Toynbee	88	96	97	90	62
Tulketh (Preston)	86	80	94	94	65
Tupton Hall	90	97	98	100	57
Turnford	97	97	98	100	90
Ursuline College	84	98	100	73	61
Vandyke Upper	100	100	100	100	100
Wallingford	93	98	99	91	79
Wayland	99	96	100	100	97
Weald	80	91	96	74	42
Wentworth	86	93	95	82	70
West London Academy	96	100	100	97	82
Westbourne	90	100	96	90	72
Westcroft	99	100	100	100	96
Westfield (Points Sheffield)	79	97	92	78	39
Westminster	93	96	97	99	71
Wexham	87	76	89	96	80
Wey Valley	93	98	99	89	84
Wheldon	94	100	99	100	75
Whickham	86	98	98	87	52
Whitecross	95	99	99	100	79
Whitton (Richmond)	93	100	97	92	76
Wickersley	87	93	97	87	62
Willenhall	91	98	98	93	67
William Beamont (Warrington)	94	100	97	99	78
William de Ferrers	87	99	100	92	45
William Edwards	91	93	99	81	84
William Parker	90	96	97	90	72
Wilmslow	92	96	99	98	68
Wilson Stuart	91	95	99	100	60
Windsor (Dudley South)	91	100	99	100	55
Windsor Boys and Girls	94	100	100	97	74
Winston Churchill	87	95	97	79	73
Wisewood (Arches)	83	92	93	83	54
Witchford	87	97	98	79	64
Wolverley	97	100	99	100	87
Wood Green (Sandwell)	88	89	96	91	64
Woodcote	86	100	99	88	48
Woodhey	91	99	100	95	64
Woodlands (Coventry)	88	89	92	99	63
Woodside High	87	94	88	94	66
Worden	87	96	100	79	69
Wright Robinson (Manchester East)	91	89	92	98	81
Wye Valley	95	98	98	89	90
Wyvern	90	98	96	94	68
York High	95	100	100	98	74

Schools: Wansdyke

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on the salaries of *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff in Wansdyke constituency in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2007-08. [251835]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Wansdyke constituency is not available. The figures provided in the following table are for Bath and North-East Somerset, City of Bristol and South Gloucestershire local authorities as each of these authorities are responsible for schools located in Wansdyke constituency.

Staffing expenditure by local authority maintained schools for 1996-97 and 2007-08

	1996-97				*2007-08*			
Local authority name	*Teaching staff*	*Education support staff*	*Other support staff*	*Total*	*Teaching staff*	*Education support staff*	*Other support staff*	*Total*
Bath and North East Somerset	32,153,000	3,260,000	3,447,000	38,860,000	60,998,000	11,476,000	9,991,000	82,466,000
Bristol, City of	72,936,000	10,878,000	7,998,000	91,812,000	111,017,000	28,917,000	20,104,000	160,038,000

Staffing expenditure by local authority maintained schools for 1996-97 and 2007-08

Local authority name	1996-97 Teaching staff	Education support staff	Other support staff	Total	2007-08 Teaching staff	Education support staff	Other support staff	Total
South Gloucestershire	50,463,000	5,074,000	5,302,000	60,839,000	93,382,000	18,600,000	14,172,000	126,154,000

Notes:

1. Includes expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation for all teachers and supply teachers employed directly by the school, including supernumerary/peripatetic teachers on short-term contracts. This relates to all contracted full time and part-time teachers paid within the scope of the Education Act 2002. Also includes threshold payments and other payments relating to teacher pay reforms and also any agency costs for teaching staff that have been brought in to cover teacher absence.

2. Includes expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including of bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation for education support staff employed directly by the school in support of students' learning. Includes:

Childcare staff

Classroom assistants/learning support assistants

Exam invigilators

Foreign language assistants

Librarians

Nursery assistants

Pianists

Residential child care officers at a residential special school

Supply education support staff

Workshop and technology technicians

Educational welfare officers

3. Expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, inclusive of bonus, overtime and allowances, and the employer's contribution to national insurance and superannuation for premises staff, administrative and clerical staff, catering staff and any other staff employed directly by the school. Also includes the cost of all staff employed directly by the school for extended community activities that cannot be funded from the delegated budget.

4. Financial data for the 1996-97 financial year are drawn from Local Authority Revenue Outturn (RO1) forms submitted to the CLG (formerly ODPM). Figures for the 2007-08 financial year are drawn from Local Authority Section 52 Outturn returns submitted to the DCSF.

5. 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.

6. Cash figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.

Secondary Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools there were at the latest date for which figures are available. [251923]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of secondary schools in England at 26 January 2009. These figures do not include special schools.

Number of secondary schools in England

	Number
Secondary Schools	2,993
Middle deemed Secondary Schools	231
City Technology Colleges	3
Academies	133
Total (state funded secondary sector)[1]	3,360

[1] Included are a small number of all-through schools.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245710]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's new corporate branding has strict guidelines for the application of colour. For all corporate publications text should be:

Black on white for large blocks of text

A bold colour on white for headings or short snippets (for example quotes)

In black or white, on a bold block of colour

Our corporate design guidelines specifically prohibit the use of any colour text on any colour background.

Although not specifically formulated to address colour blindness, we believe these design principles should avoid it being an issue for our corporate publications.

Social Services: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints were made against children's social services departments in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [249829]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally. However, local authorities are required to keep a record of each representation or complaint received; the decisions made in response and any action to be taken; and whether there was compliance with the time limits. The local authority must produce an annual report drawing on this information. This should not contain personal information that is identifiable about any individual complainant.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools have (i) two to four per cent., (ii) four to six per cent., (iii) six to eight per cent., (iv) eight to 10 per cent. and (v) more than 10 per cent. of its pupils in care. [247862]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is shown in the table. This is based on data obtained via the school census.

The census shows 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools who are classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, shows 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. The school census does not cover all looked-after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage partly explain the difference in the numbers from each source. It is possible that the school census undercounts the number of looked-after children in primary, secondary and special schools where they are unaware of a child's looked-after status. The improvements in care planning arrangements and increased focus on education through the implementation of the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 will ensure that schools have the information they need about a child's looked-after status. In particular, all maintained schools will be required to appoint a designated teacher for looked-after children on the school's roll. Through our wider Care Matters programme, the Department is funding 11 local authorities to pilot the role of a virtual school head to work with schools which have looked-after children on roll.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3], percentage of pupils in care per school[4] as at January 2008, England

	Primary schools[1]		*Secondary schools[1, 2]*		*Special schools[3]*	
Percentage of pupils in care per school	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*
0%	10,451	60.74	383	11.32	120	11.43
0.1% to 2%	6,229	36.20	2,939	86.88	130	12.38
2.1% to 4%	456	2.65	49	1.45	225	21.43
4.1% to 6%	50	0.29	11	0.33	188	17.90
6.1% to 8%	12	0.07	1	0.03	126	12.00
8.1% to 10%	3	0.02	0	0.00	79	7.52
More than 10%	4	0.02	0	0.00	182	17.33
Total	17,205	—	3,383	—	1,050	—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes hospital schools.

[4] Pupils classed as being in care in a particular school as at January 2008 expressed as a percentage of the headcount of all pupils in the same school, includes both sole and dual (main) registrations.

Source:

School Census.

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked-after children have a statement of special educational needs. [251783]

Beverley Hughes: In 2007, there were 9,300 looked-after children (who have been looked after for at least 12 months) with a statement of special educational needs. This figure can be found in table A of the 'Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England' Statistical First Release accessible via

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/SFR08_2008_NationalTables2.xls

Young People: Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the management of those under 16 years who become homeless as a result of running away. [251161]

Beverley Hughes: Guidance to local authorities on how to respond appropriately to the needs of young people who run away was published by the Department of Health, the Department which then had responsibility for children's services, in 2002. As part of the commitments made in the Young Runaways Action Plan, this guidance is currently being updated, and a draft version is out for formal consultation, in advance of publication later this year.

Running away should be seen as an indicator of an underlying problem for a young person which may need further intervention. Many children who run away from home are likely to be children in need requiring support and services provided by local authorities or by voluntary organisations acting on their behalf. Most runaways will return home; where it is inappropriate for them to do so, it is for the local authority to ensure that they are appropriately cared for.

The new guidance will clearly set out local authorities' responsibilities relating to providing emergency accommodation for young people who have run away. It will reflect the emerging findings of the current review into the provision of emergency accommodation for young people. This review will help local authorities identify successful and cost effective forms of provision, and young people's perceptions of different types of emergency accommodation.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Birth Rate

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many births there were in England in each year since 1979. [250775]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated January 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your request for information on how many births there were in England in each year since 1979. I am replying in her absence. (250775)

Birth statistics for England and Wales are published according to the area of usual residence of the mother. The attached table shows the number of live births for the years 1979 to 2007 (the latest year available) to mothers who were usually resident in England.

Live births to mothers usually resident in England[1],1979 to 2007

	Live births
1979	601,316
1980	618,371
1981	598,163
1982	589,711
1983	593,255
1984	600,573
1985	619,301
1986	623,609
1987	643,330
1988	654,363
1989	649,357
1990	666,920
1991	660,806
1992	651,784
1993	636,473
1994	628,956
1995	613,257
1996	614,184
1997	608,202
1998	602,111
1999	589,468
2000	572,826
2001	563,744
2002	565,709
2003	589,851
2004	607,184
2005	613,028
2006	635,748
2007	655,357

[1] Refers to births taking place in England and Wales to mothers who are usually resident in England.

Children: Disadvantaged

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of children lived in families claiming out-of-work benefits in 2008, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [249369]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 702W.

Death: Carbon Monoxide

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Test Valley borough in each of the last five years. [251033]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Test Valley Borough in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (251033)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death for people in *(a)* Southampton unitary authority and *(b)* Test Valley local authority district, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1] Southampton unitary authority and Test Valley local authority district[2] 2003 to 20073

		Deaths (persons)
	Southampton	*Test Valley*
2003	0	0
2004	3	2
2005	1	1
2006	1	1
2007	0	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248800]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2004-05 a lifecycle programme covering the maintenance and decoration of the majority of the Cabinet Office's buildings has been in place. Information on maintenance and decoration costs prior to then and for wallpaper is not held separately. The cost of maintenance and decoration work has been as follows:

	(£)
2004-05	1,368,000
2005-06	1,331,000
2006-07	1,446,000
2007-08	1,292,000

Maintenance and decoration work will continue to be done as part of the lifecycle programme. Information about capital expenditure on improving Cabinet Office buildings is included in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much has been spent on designing 10 Downing Street-branded *(a)* mouse mats and *(b)* desktops in each of the last five years; [252358]

(2) what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last five years; [252359]

(3) how much was spent on products featuring departmental or Government branding by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last five years. [252360]

Kevin Brennan: For these purposes the Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office, like all departments, uses various forms of branding in publications and printed material to differentiate itself from other Government departments.

The information is not held in a format that would enable the questions to be answered without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of *(a)* the Cabinet Office's and *(b)* No. 10 Downing Street's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251535]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Research

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* terms of reference are and *(b)* timescale is of the review by the right hon. Member for Darlington into social mobility and elitist professions. [250512]

Kevin Brennan: The panel's work will focus on identifying barriers to access to the professions and look at the contributions the professions, supported by Government where required, could make to widen access. The work will not touch on aspects of social mobility covered elsewhere in the New Opportunities White Paper, and will not look at employment law, illegal discrimination, or wider issues of equality such as race or gender.

The panel is expected to report on its findings in the summer.

Employment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in employment aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18 are employed by (i) small and medium-sized employers, (ii) large private employers and (iii) the public sector. [251125]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 28 January 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in employment aged (a) 16, (b) 17 and (c) 18 are employed by (i) small and medium-sized employers, (ii) large private employers and (iii) the public sector. I am replying in her absence. (251125)

The available information is provided in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The estimates by size of employer are based on respondents' understanding of the number of employees in their workplace. This may not equal the employer's total employment as it may have more than one site.

The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include this detailed age breakdown.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People in employment by public and private sector and by age and number of employees at workplace[1]—three month period ending September 2008—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

	Private sector[2, 4, 5]		
Age	*1 to 499 employees[6]*	*500 or more employees[6]*	*Public sector[2, 3, 5]*
16	**143	****—	****—
17	**295	****—	***23
18	*364	***22	***23

[1] Employees at the respondent's workplace This will exclude those working for the same employer on different sites

[2] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates,

- are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
- do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for Public Sector Employment estimates.

[3] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

[4] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[5] Excludes those whose type of employer was not known.

[6] Excludes those whose number of employees at the workplace was not known

[7] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes and have not been provided

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department has issued guidance to other departments on the practice of holding departmental away days outside departmental buildings. [250326]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has not issued guidance to other departments on the practice of holding departmental away days outside departmental buildings, as policy on this area is a matter for individual departments to establish.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the life expectancy of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) the North East and (ii) the UK; and what the life expectancy of each was in (A) 1997 and (B) 2001. [250057]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of the life expectancy of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) the North East and (ii) the UK; and what the life expectancy in each was in (A) 1997 and (B) 2001. (250057)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. The table attached provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) males and (b) females for (i) the North Last government office region, and (ii) the United Kingdom, for (A) 1996-98, (B) 2000-02 and (C) 2005-07 (the latest period available).

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], North East government office region and United Kingdom[2], 1996-98, 2000-02 and 2005-07[3]

				Years of life
Area	*Sex*	*1996-98*	*2000-02*	*2005-07*
North East	Males	73	75	76
	Females	78	79	80
UK	Males	75	76	77
	Females	80	80	82

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2008 for all the years shown.

[3] Three year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

Public Bodies: Lobbying

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the Answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1364W, and the Answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 949W, on public bodies: public relations, whether guidance or advice has been produced in relation to public bodies hiring public affairs firms for lobbying purposes, as opposed to public relations media activity. [250253]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies: A Guide for Departments" provides guidelines on the use of consultants by non-department public bodies (NDPBs). Copies of the publication have been placed in the Libraries.

Risk Capital Fund

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effect on social enterprises of the Risk Capital Fund; and what steps his Department is taking to draw the attention of social enterprises to the fund's existence. [250879]

Kevin Brennan: The Risk Capital Fund has not yet been launched. The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) is currently in the process of appointing a fund manager or managers for the Fund. The announcement of this appointment will be made in the coming weeks. As a consequence, no assessment of the effect of the Fund on social enterprises can be made.

We have regularly publicised the Fund's development, including consulting on our proposals, since its announcement in the Social Enterprise Action Plan.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 29 January 2009

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from *(a)* brewers and *(b)* owners of public houses on the effects of alcohol duty on their businesses; and if he will make a statement. [252957]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Banks: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1630W, on banks: Government assistance, what the discount rates and maturities are of the Treasury Bills issued in accordance with paragraph 6.9 of the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008-09 in order to make finance available to the Bank of England to purchase corporate assets from banks. [252892]

Ian Pearson: As announced by the Debt Management Office (DMO) in the "DMO financing remit: impact of the financial intervention package: 19 January 2009", the financing to support the asset purchase facility will initially be raised by the DMO through a combination of Treasury bill sales and cash management operations.

Gradually, the cash management operations will be replaced by funding raised through Treasury bill issuance. The Treasury bills that will be issued to fund the asset purchase facility will be issued consistent with the Debt Management Office's cash management objective as set out in paragraph 6.5 of the "Debt and reserves management report" for 2008-09.

Building Societies: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consideration his Department has given to modifying the allocation of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme levies to reflect the differences in levels of risk associated with bank and building society business models; [252997]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of whether the Financial Services Compensation Scheme levies paid by *(a)* banks and *(b)* building societies reflect the relative risk associated with the two business models; [252998]

(3) what criteria are used to assess the level of risk in *(a)* banks and *(b)* building society business models in determining Financial Services Compensation Scheme levies for each. [253001]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) levies are statutory levies. They are allocated to classes of levy payers and apportioned within those classes in accordance with rules made by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Chelsea Building Society

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Chelsea Building Society approached the Financial Services Authority (FSA) for consent to establish a banking subsidiary in Guernsey; on what dates meetings were held between the building society and the FSA; what matters were discussed at each such meeting; what conditions the FSA attached to the establishment of the subsidiary; and which of these conditions provided for protection of depositors. [252768]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Credit: Interest Rates

Dr. Kumar: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to ensure that interest rates charged by high street credit schemes are reasonable. [242380]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government introduced reforms in statutory instruments in 2005 and in the Consumer Credit Act 2006 to strengthen the regulation of consumer credit. These ensure that consumers are given clear and transparent information to enable them to shop around with confidence and that the OFT can take targeted and effective enforcement action against rogue lenders. The Act also replaced previous provisions which gave consumers a right to challenge extortionate credit bargains with a new wide-ranging right for consumers to challenge before the courts any aspect of their relationship with a lender which is unfair. This could include, but is not limited to, the level of interest charged.

The Government recently held a summit with the credit card industry on risk based re-pricing - the practice that was leading to some consumers facing significant interest rate increases at short notice. As a result of this, the credit card industry agreed a statement of principles for risk based re-pricing. This ensures that consumers are fairly treated when a card lender seeks to increase their individual interest rate on the basis that their risk profile has deteriorated. These principles come into force on 1 January 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [251674]

Angela Eagle: No new occupations or refurbishments have been undertaken in the last 24 months.

EU Countries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his European counterparts he has met in the last two months. [251658]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much gold the Government has sold in each year since 1997. [251657]

Ian Pearson: The Government undertook a gold sales programme from 1999 to 2002. In that time, 395 tonnes of gold have been sold: 75 tonnes in 1999; 150 tonnes in 2000; 130 tonnes in 2001; and 40 tonnes in 2002. The Government have not conducted an official gold sales programme since 2002.

Jobcentre Plus

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many visits on official business he has made to Jobcentre Plus offices in the last 12 months. [251663]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers' official duties entail visits throughout the United Kingdom.

Mortgage Interest Deferral Scheme

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of households likely to *(a)* qualify for and *(b)* take up the mortgage interest deferral scheme; and what his estimate is of the cost of the scheme in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [240769]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

As part of a wider package of real help for homeowners, the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme, will enable ordinary hard-working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee to lenders they will get the payments back in return for them participating in the scheme.

Homeowners remain responsible for repaying the mortgage in the long term but the scheme will result in more affordable monthly payments. This will give them the breathing space they need to get their finances back on track, and help ensure they can stay in their homes.

This is a consumer and lender-led scheme, supported by a Government guarantee. The Government want to see this scheme help as many struggling homeowners as possible. We will publish a full impact assessment when the scheme description has been finalised.

Tax Credits: Conditions of Employment

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department provides to employers on whether employees on extended periods of sabbatical leave on part pay are eligible for tax credits. [251119]

Mr. Timms: Entitlement to Working Tax Credit (WTC) is dependent upon whether the claimant meets the condition of being in qualifying remunerative work. Entitlement during a period of paid sabbatical work would depend on the circumstances in the individual case.

Guidance for customers with changing working patterns is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/changes-work.htm

UK Financial Investments: Manpower

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff have been employed by UK Financial Investments Ltd in salary bands of *(a)* up to £25,000, *(b)* £25,000 to £50,000, *(c)* £50,000 to £75,000, *(d)* £75,000 to £100,000 and *(e)* over £100,000; [249664]

(2) what the estimated cost of remuneration for staff at UK Financial Investments Ltd, including guaranteed bonuses and pension contributions will be in the next 12 months; [249665]

(3) what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* total remuneration and title of post is of each of the five highest paid employees of UK Financial Investments Ltd; [249666]

(4) what consultancy arrangements have been entered into by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) in connection with UKFI's activities; and what the (i) cost and (ii) nature of work under each contract is; [249667]

(5) how much the establishment of UK Financial Investments Ltd has cost to date, broken down by category of expenditure. [249668]

Ian Pearson: UKFI was established on 3 November 2008 under the Companies Act, with HM Treasury as sole shareholder. The UKFI board is responsible for governing the company's activities and will, by the end of February 2009, recommend to the Treasury a budget and funding plan appropriate to ensure the fulfilment of UKFI's remit.

The company's annual report and audited accounts will be laid before Parliament.

Additionally, the chairman and chief executive of the company will, as required, attend meetings of relevant parliamentary committees for scrutiny and answer questions.

Valuation Office: Rent Service

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) will be permitted to access data previously available to the Rent Service upon the transfer of the Rent Service's functions to the VOA. [251722]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, regarding Valuation Office Reorganisation.

VAT

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of re-pricing products as a result of the reduction in value added tax to 15 per cent. [251916]

Mr. Timms: Estimated costs to businesses from re-pricing products are published in the impact assessment of changes to the standard rate of VAT. This is available on the HM Treasury website.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure his Department incurred in promulgating the 15 per cent. value added tax rate. [251917]

Mr. Timms: HMRC sent a summary guide on dealing with the temporary reduction in the VAT rate to all 2 million VAT registered businesses immediately after pre-Budget report 2008. More detailed guidance was produced and published on the HMRC website. Additional staff were made available in the National Advice Service to answer questions on the rate change. A full evaluation of all the associated costs is not readily available.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by the House, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250143]

Nick Harvey: No cars are owned, leased or hired on a regular basis. Cars with drivers are hired for the Speaker and Deputy Speakers in connection with their official duties. Taxi services are regularly used for print service deliveries and under certain conditions, for example when there are late night sittings, by House officials and staff.

Parliament: Buildings

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* specifications and *(b)* cost of (i) carpets, (ii) office furniture, (iii) building materials and (iv) light fittings in (A) 1 Parliament Street and (B) Portcullis House are. [248233]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows:

No. 1 Parliament street

The refurbishment of the buildings that now form No. 1 Parliament street was carried out by the Property Services Agency of the Department of the Environment. Details of the costs and specification are not available.

The most recent works carried out were the refurbishment of the Bellamy's Bar and Clubroom and security works at a cost of £0.86 million. Day-to-day building and furniture maintenance and minor improvements costs in 2007-08 were £0.6 million.

Portcullis House

The final cost of the construction and fitting out of Portcullis House was £23 5 million (including VAT and fees). This figure includes the loose office furniture contracts which cost £1.7 million. The cost of the light fittings cannot be readily identified as they were included in a number of contracts.

The Accommodation and Works Committee's reports recommended a long life building, which in terms of British Standards meant 150 years. This was the basis of the specifications for the individual contracts, which in turn were based on BSI or DIN standards or other appropriate industry standards.

Since the building was completed the only major works have been the replacement of the escalators at a cost of £0.45 million, and improvements to the fire alarm system to reduce the number of false alarms at £0.2 million. Day-to-day building and furnishing maintenance and minor replacement costs in 2007-08 were £0.9 million.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Baseball: World Cup 2009

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* Sport England have taken to ensure that the UK baseball team can compete in the 2009 World Cup; and if he will make a statement. [251019]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The issue of the GB national baseball team competing in the 2009 World Cup is a matter for UK Sport not Sport England, as Sport England does not lead or fund baseball's elite programme.

On March 10, 2008 the Secretary of State approved Sport England's outline strategy to focus resources on building the foundations of sporting success through the creation of a world leading community sports system. One of the key outcomes of this system is the development of well-defined, appropriate talent support systems to underpin NGB—national governing body—elite programmes, resulting in more talented performers moving through to world class programmes and success.

Sport England has recently announced four year funding awards to 46 national governing bodies, including the sports of baseball and softball. Sport England has advised that they will be meeting with the sport imminently to discuss the award, which interventions will be funded and to agree how the sport will contribute to Sport England's strategic outcomes, such as the above, over the next four years.

UK Sport has advised that its current investment strategy does not provide funding to baseball and has therefore made no estimate of the cost of sending a British baseball team to the final 2008 Olympics qualification event in Taiwan. The sport will not receive world class funding in the future as it is not on the competition programme for London 2012.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252370]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent £40,625 plus VAT on works and refurbishments to offices allocated to ministers in the last 12 months. This cost also includes work to offices occupied by private office staff.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which external organisations his Department have engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252227]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the last three years the National School of Government (NSG) have provided specific training for fast stream staff in DCMS.

Fast stream staff are also entitled to, apply for and attend, other learning and development interventions open to all staff in DCMS. Many of these are provided by external organisations but they are not exclusive to fast stream civil service staff.

Information is not available to say how many civil servants in DCMS have participated in the provision of training for external organisations in the last three years.

Film: Licensing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what grounds local licensing authorities may *(a)* amend the classification of a film classified by the British Board for Film Classification and *(b)* withhold a licence for a film to be shown. [252476]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The only mandatory requirement imposed by the Licensing Act 2003 is the imposition of a condition to be included in the premises licence or club premises certificate requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with the film classification given by the BBFC.

However, licensing authorities must also take into account the guidance issued under the Licensing Act which recommends that they should not duplicate the effort underpinning the BBFC's classification, and only classify films themselves if there are good reasons for doing so.

The guidance is clear that children should not be allowed access to regulated entertainment 'of a clearly adult or sexual nature' and draws the licensing authorities' attention to the BBFC's classification scheme. The guidance recommends that:

(i) where the licensing authority itself is to make recommendations on the admission of children, the venue operator must submit the film to the licensing authority at least 28 days before it is to be shown to allow the licensing authority time to classify the film and ensure that the licence holder adheres to its own age restrictions;

(ii) the BBFC's classification shall be shown on screen for at least five seconds before the film (or any trailers);

(iii) where a licensing authority recommends restriction of admission of children, visible notices should be displayed both inside and outside the venue.

(b) A licence or certificate for a film to be shown could be revoked or withdrawn on an application for review by an interested party (e.g. local resident or business) or responsible authority (e.g. police or local body with responsibility for child welfare) if the licence or certificate owner breached the mandatory or any additional conditions or acted in a way that contravened the objectives of the Licensing Act.

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 244W, on playing fields: planning permission, for what reasons the statistics for 2006-07 were not published in December 2008; and when he expects them to be published. [251308]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that they are still collating the statistics on planning permission affecting playing fields for 2006-07. These statistics are due to be finalised and published in the spring of 2009. The last statistics for planning applications affecting playing fields were published in spring 2008.

South Bank Centre: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England paid to the South Bank Centre for managing its collections in each year since 1997. [249412]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that it has the information requested only for the years since its merger with the Regional Arts Boards in 2002-03. Before this date, the Regional Arts Boards maintained their records according to their own systems and requirements. As a result, any figures relating to periods before 2002-03 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The figures for the period from 2002-03 are set out in the following table.

	£
2002-03	149,500
2003-04	150,500
2004-05	160,000
2005-06	160,000
2006-07	257,000
2007-08	257,000

Arts Council England advises that these figures represent costs separately identified in the funding agreement with the South Bank for particular storage facilities. The ongoing general costs of the collection are covered by the overall grant in aid allocation to the South Bank. The increase in 2006-07 was due to a significant expansion of these storage facilities.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her office's media and communication unit has spent on public surveys since its inception. [248029]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) commissions an annual poll, to help inform the Government of the general public's views on London 2012 and ensure their views are accounted for in developing plans for London 2012.

The total expenditure for each of the last three years is:

	£
2006-07	[1]—
2007-08	58,855
2008-09	53,475

[1] Nil return

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost of her Office's contracts with press monitoring services has been since it was established. [251198]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive shares Media monitoring with DCMS provided by EDS Media through a contract that began in April 2008. The total cost to the Department to-date is £36,283.33. It is not possible to break down the exact proportion of this contract used by the Government Olympic Executive.

In addition, the Department pays an annual subscription charge to the Media Monitoring Unit (this is part of the Central Office of Information, previously part of the Cabinet Office). A breakdown of this cost is unavailable as the annual charge includes a number of services including some press monitoring.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether contractors at the Olympic site with business continuity plans are required to comply with BS25999 on business continuity management. [250567]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority applies a 'balanced scorecard' approach to evaluating bids. 'Cost', 'delivering on time' and 'quality' are paramount scorecard factors. While compliance with the BS25999 is not a specific requirement, contractors' ability to comply with this standard for business continuity management is a consideration when reviewing contractor tenders.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hits the 10 Downing street website has received since its most recent redesign. [249903]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1481-82W. Further information requested is available on the Downing street YouTube channel at:

http://uk.youtube.com/user/DowningSt.

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

Employment Summit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the cost to the public purse of catering at the employment summit held on 12 January 2009 was; and what suppliers were used for catering at the event; [249908]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of attendees at the employment summit held on 12 January 2009; [249916]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of the employment summit held on 12 January 2009. [249917]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply

The employment summit was held in London on 12 January. It was led by the Prime Minister and was attended by over 120 key figures from business, trade unions, academia, work-place providers and representative bodies.

The summit provided an opportunity to discuss how Government and employers could best work in partnership to help people and business through the downturn fairly and get people and business in the best possible shape for the up-turn.

The list of attendees has been placed in the Library.

The total cost of the event was £162,076.18, of which the cost of the catering was £5,641.82. The catering was provided by Mustard Catering.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which of the schemes outlined in the New Opportunities White Paper, Cm. 7533, will entail a Barnett consequential for Wales in *(a)* each year to 2010-11 and *(b)* the period of the next comprehensive spending review; and which have been identified as entailing no such consequential payments. [252770]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Spending measures in the New Opportunities White Paper are funded from within departmental budgets and therefore there are no new Barnett consequentials beyond those announced in the comprehensive spending review.

WALES

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 600W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251322]

Mr. David: One Minister in the Wales Office has taken a personal training course at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Action Learning Set—National School of Government.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251868]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not record individual journeys made in ministerial cars. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement; [252007]

(2) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252008]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales Office employees may be given time off in lieu for any overtime taken at the individual line manager's discretion, staff are actively encouraged to take the minimum of half-hour for lunch on a daily basis.

Time off in lieu is not recorded centrally by the Wales Office. As such the answer cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251217]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has spent the following amounts on media monitoring with the companies listed:

COI

2006-07: £8,401

2007-08: £11,045

Meltwater News UK Ltd.

2006-07: £4,136

2007-08: £3,309

TNS Media Intelligence

2005-06: £6,650

2006-07: £9,868

2007-08: £13,700.

We do not hold records in this form before 2006-07.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250134]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office leases three vehicles from the Government Car and Dispatch Agency (GCDA). I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on mental health services for prisoners in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* health authority area in Wales in each of the last five financial years; and how many prisoners received such treatment in each such year. [251942]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Welsh Assembly Government does not collect centrally how much of the ring-fenced mental health allocation is spent in respect of prisoners in Wales.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made in implementing the provisions of the National Carers Strategy, published in June 2008, which relates to *(a)* the provision of support for carers by Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* flexible provision of skills training for carers and *(c)* a review of the benefits for which carers may be eligible. [250813]

Mr. McNulty: The National Carers Strategy committed Jobcentre Plus to improvements to the support it offers to carers by improving information about flexible job vacancies; introducing Care Partnership Managers in every district; introducing specialist training for Jobcentre Plus advisers who work with carers; funding replacement care for those who are participating in approved training; ensuring carers have access to appropriate employment programmes and investigating the feasibility of providing return to work support through third sector organisations. It is expected that recruitment for the Care Partnership Managers will begin in April 2009 and that the remaining support will be available by the end of the year.

The National Carers Strategy committed the Department to providing skills training in a flexible manner so it is accessible for carers. A training pilot in the west midlands is currently looking at the best way to deliver flexible training to Jobcentre Plus customers and we are currently developing plans for a Great Britain wide roll-out.

In the National Carers Strategy, the Department also committed to examining carers' benefits in the context of our wider ambitions for the welfare state, and the future of the care and support system.

In December, we published the White Paper, "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support: Reforming Welfare for the Future" (Cm 7506), in which we outlined our views for the future of the benefit system, and gave a commitment that the needs of carers would be a central consideration in these changes.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on commissioning Jobcentre Plus training programmes for carers; and if he will make a statement. [248131]

Mr. McNulty: Carers currently have access to Jobcentre Plus approved training through a range of New Deal programmes. As part of the National Carers' Strategy, Jobcentre Plus is examining the most effective ways of supporting carers into training. Some carers may need more specialist support because of their caring responsibilities or the length of time they have spent caring. It is envisaged that Jobcentre Plus staff will identify gaps in the provision and work with experienced third sector providers to meet this demand.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made for the reasons for increases in expenditure on disability living allowance for children since 1992-93; and if he will make a statement; [251976]

(2) for what purposes disability living allowance is paid in respect of children; and if he will make a statement. [251977]

Jonathan Shaw: Disability living allowance provides a contribution towards the extra costs faced by severely disabled people as a result of a long-term disability. Broadly, entitlement depends on the extent to which the person needs help with personal care, needs supervision or, from the age of three years, has difficulties with walking. In the case of children under the age of 16, disability living allowance can only be paid if their needs are substantially in excess of the typical requirements of a child of the same age.

The increase in expenditure on disability living allowance paid to children broadly reflects the overall increase in disability living allowance expenditure. The reasons for that increase are complex but are mainly attributable to demographic changes, greater awareness of the benefit, improvements in diagnosis for childhood conditions and an extension of the higher rate mobility component to children aged three and four in 2001.

Employment

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to undertake an assessment of employment retention assessments as referred to in his Department's White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future". [248546]

Mr. McNulty: As outlined in the White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future", we will work across Government and with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to consider including appropriate references to employment retention assessments in the guidance and code(s) of practice that will accompany the Equality Bill.

In addition, DWP and the Office for Disability Issues will examine options to deliver a cross-Government employment retention strategy for disabled people as part of the development of the Independent Living Strategy.

EU Grants and Loans

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what allocation of funding the UK has received from the European Social Fund (ESF) for the next 12 months; and what allocations of funding from the ESF have been made. [252127]

Mr. McNulty: The allocation of funding for the UK from the European Social Fund (ESF) for 2009 is €645.93 million. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has responsibility for ESF funding in England. The €449.555 million for England for 2009 has been allocated to the Department, the Learning and Skills Council and other funding bodies within their ESF plans for 2007-10. The devolved Administrations have responsibility for ESF funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Industrial Health and Safety: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to *(a)* improve employers' understanding of deafness and *(b)* ensure employers do not discriminate on grounds of health and safety against (i) deaf British Sign Language users and (ii) employees who become deafened during the course of their employment. [247571]

Jonathan Shaw; Through the "Employ ability" programme, we are engaging with employers to improve their understanding of disability and their attitudes towards employing disabled people.

The key aims of "Employ ability" include challenging negative assumptions about the skills and talent that disabled workers, and those with long-term health conditions, have to offer, building the confidence of employers in recruiting and retaining disabled workers. "Employ ability" activity is aimed at small to medium-sized employers and is being rolled out to Scotland, Wales and seven regions between 24 March 2008 and 27 February 2009.

To ensure that employers do not discriminate against deaf people, we support and uphold the principles of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Act provides protection from discrimination for a person who has a hearing impairment, provided that the person meets the definition of a disabled person under the Act. The Act requires an employer not to discriminate against a disabled person by treating the person less favourably for a reason related to the person's disability, unless that treatment can be justified.

People who are deaf or who become deaf in the course of their employment, and their employers may also receive support from Access to Work. Support is tailored to the individual customer's needs but can include funding for British Sign Language Interpreters, Lip Speakers or Palantypists; whether as support workers in the work place or for communication support at job interviews.

Access to Work could also provide indirect support to a deaf person by funding awareness training to help the person's work colleagues, including their employer, gain a better understanding of their condition.

Jobcentre Plus: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the former Jobcentre Plus office at Wick lane, Christchurch, will be brought back into use; and what the liability of his Department is for empty property rates on the premises. [248850]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking when the former Jobcentre Plus office at Wick lane, Christchurch will be brought back into use and what the liability of his Department is for empty property rates on the premises. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Christchurch Jobcentre Plus was closed on 28 March 2008 as a result of the review of our service delivery plans in the South West region. As a part of the review the new Bournemouth Jobcentre Plus was future proofed to cope with any downturn in the economy and consequent increase in Jobcentre Plus business volumes. There is no intention to bring the Jobcentre Plus office at Wick lane, Christchurch into use.

I can confirm the property used in Christchurch by Jobcentre Plus was provided for the Department by Landsecurities Trillium under the PRIME contract, and upon completion of the formal vacation actions, the Department has no further liability (Landsecurities Trillium hold all the leases). The Asset manager for Trillium has confirmed the lease for part of the space has expired and it was "returned" to the landlord in the summer. The remaining part of the space is unoccupied and is currently being marketed. However, they have had no firm interest and the building remains vacant. Trillium is meeting the business rates payable on the property. The Department has had no liability for empty property rates since the property was formally disposed of on 1 July 2008.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* used the services of and *(b)* found work through the Nairn Jobcentre Plus office in each of the five years before it was closed. [251472]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each local authority area has been over the last 12 months. [249692]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what courses his Department offered to claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Chelmsford in the last 12 months; and what the cost was per person of each course completed. [249834]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what courses his Department offered to claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance in Chelmsford in the last 12 months; and what the cost was per person of each course completed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Eligible customers in Chelmsford receiving Jobseeker's Allowance have had access to a range of training provision over the last twelve months through our training programmes including New Deals, Access to Work, Programme Centres, Workstep, Workprep and through our Rapid Response Fund. We have also purchased individually tailored training for eligible customers. Jobseeker's Allowance customers have also accessed training by other partners including The Learning and Skills Council, Local Authorities and Colleges.

Specific information is not available for all training courses completed by our Jobseeker's Allowance customers in Chelmsford, nor on what the cost was per person of each course completed.

My District Manager for Essex, Neil Brettell, will be delighted to brief you in more detail on the range of provision available in the Chelmsford area. Neil can be contacted on 01245 214242, by post at Government Buildings, Beeches Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2RT or by email at:

Neil.Brettell@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

Pensioners: Carers

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate, on the basis of household surveys supported by his Department, how many people over state pension age are engaged in caring for *(a)* at least 20 hours per week and *(b)* at least 35 hours per week for a person over pension age who is in receipt of either attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [250397]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Poverty: Children

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1685W, on poverty: children, how many children were living in poverty in Scotland in January *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [252650]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 563W.

2006-07 data is still the latest available information.

Social Fund

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans from the Social Fund were (i) approved and (ii) refused in each of the last 10 years. [252610]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following tables.

Community care grants for Great Britain

Thousand

	Initial awards	*Initial refusal*
1998-99	225	944
1999-2000	219	426
2000-01	225	362
2001-02	233	346
2002-03	245	346
2003-04	256	330
2004-05	261	307
2005-06	275	299
2006-07	271	324
2007-08	247	288

Budgeting loans for Great Britain

Thousand

	Initial awards	*Initial refusals*
1998-99	935	442
1999-2000	1,017	647
2000-01	1,145	531
2001-02	1,240	460
2002-03	1,251	466
2003-04	1,250	428
2004-05	1,200	377
2005-06	1,217	371
2006-07	1,298	411
2007-08	1,168	352

Crisis loans for Great Britain

Thousand

	Initial awards	*Initial refusals*
1998-99	866	247
1999-2000	939	336
2000-01	930	342
2001-02	991	317

Social Security Benefits: Databases

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the error rate in benefit system data; and what factors he has identified as the most common causes of such error. [251719]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to tables 4A, 4B and 5B, 5C, and 5E in "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2007 to March 2008" (ISBN: 978-1-84763-691-1), a DWP National Statistics publication, a copy of which is in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce instances of fraud and error in the benefit system which arise from cases where mail has been misdirected. [251720]

Mr. McNulty: The Department and local authorities have in place an agreement with Royal Mail whereby any mail that is returned to the postal system because the customer is not, or no longer, at the delivery address is returned to the Department or local authority and not redirected to any forwarding address.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that payments made by his Department in sterling to UK pensioners resident abroad can be made by direct deposits into overseas sterling accounts; and if he will make a statement. [248819]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Pension payments to UK pensioners resident abroad are paid directly into an account overseas in local currency. This is more convenient for the majority of customers and the rates the Government have negotiated to convert from sterling to the relevant currency are more competitive than those that could be obtained by individual customers.

Customers can choose to have their payments made in sterling to a UK bank account if they wish.

Take Up Taskforce: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff make up the Take Up Taskforce. [249452]

Kitty Ussher: The taskforce membership comprises 15 representatives from local authorities and business, public and third sector bodies, and key voluntary organisations. Members are giving their time free of charge and bringing a wealth of existing expertise and research from within their organisations.

The secretariat for the Take Up Taskforce is provided by one full-time equivalent member of staff who has been seconded to the joint child poverty unit from a local authority. The secretariat also has some analytical support from within the child poverty unit.

TRANSPORT

A435

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what investigations the Highways Agency has undertaken into the state of the culvert under the A435 in Ashchurch parish; and if he will make a statement. [251920]

Paul Clark: The A435 through Ashchurch has now been renumbered the A46. The culvert has been the subject of CCTV investigation to identify its condition.

Debris which had collected at the southern outfall of the culvert has been cleared and the location is regularly monitored and clearance work undertaken as appropriate. The CCTV survey has shown that there is a problem with disjointed pipework and blockages within the culvert and a scheme is currently being costed by the Highways Agency and will be added to a future works programme.

Bus Services: Concessions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will reimburse local authorities for the full cost to them of implementing the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [252290]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* The Government are confident that there is sufficient funding in total for statutory concessionary fares.

The statutory concession was improved from April 2008 to provide free off-peak concessionary bus travel throughout England. An additional £212 million is being provided to local authorities by special grant in 2008-09, rising over the next two years, solely to pay for this improvement of the statutory concession.

In autumn 2007 the Department for Transport consulted widely on the formula used to distribute the grant. The distribution is based on generous assumptions about fares, bus pass take-up, extra journeys and additional costs, taking account of the likely demand in visitor hotspots such as coastal towns, urban centres and tourist destinations.

The special grant is solely to cover the additional cost of the new concession. Funding for the existing elements of the concession, which make up the bulk of the costs, will continue to be provided through Revenue Support Grant and is not separately identified.

The Department proposes to begin consulting shortly on possible changes to the way concessionary travel is administered. Any changes may provide an opportunity to consider how best to distribute the totality of funding.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247371]

Mr. Hoon: A complete list of contributions to voluntary organisations and charities within the last five years could be made only at disproportionate cost. However, I can provide details over the last three years of contributions made within the third sector over the last three years. Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Table A sets out expenditure made by the Central Department. Table B sets out expenditure made by the Department's agencies; details of expenditure of less than £100 could only be provided at disproportionate cost and these costs are therefore shown as an amalgamated total.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the operator of the Dartford-Thurrock crossing has made under its contract with the Department in each year since 2002; and how much revenue has accrued to the Department from the operation of the crossing in each such year. [252597]

Paul Clark: The current operator, Le Crossing Company Ltd., has been managing the operation of the crossing since 1 April 2003. Prior to this the crossing was managed by Dartford River Crossing Ltd. Details of their accounts are available through a search at Companies House.

The Highways Agency does prepare an annual account for the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme. Copies of the accounts for the years from 2003-04 to 2006-07 have been placed in the House Library and include details of the amounts paid to the managing agent for operating the crossing and the gross/net revenue. The 2007-08 accounts were laid today.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251400]

Mr. Hoon: As part of the fiscal stimulus the Department for Transport has brought forward £700 million from 2010-11 to 2009-10. £400 million will be used by the Highways Agency to bring forward high value schemes on the strategic roads network. £300 million will be used for the procurement of diesel unit rolling stock as part of the Department's High Level Output Specification for Britain's rail network.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252272]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many holding answers his Department has given in response to parliamentary questions for written answer in the last 12 months; and of those how many are still awaiting a final answer. [252679]

Mr. Hoon: In the 12 months to 28 January 2009 the Department for Transport gave 363 holding answers. As of 28 January 2009 three await substantive answer.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of external legal services engaged by his Department in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [251360]

Mr. Hoon: In the past two years the Department for Transport (including its agencies) has spent the following on external legal fees.

2006-07: £3,143,937

2007-08: £3,285,778

M5: Land

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what land the Highways Agency owns between junctions 8 and 9 of the M5; and if he will make a statement. [251919]

Paul Clark: Between Junctions 8 and 9 of the M5, the Highways Agency owns land within the highway boundary that was originally purchased to construct the motorway. Generally these boundaries are fenced from the adjoining land.

M5: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies the Highways Agency has undertaken into possible improvements to the culvert of the Carrant Brook under the M5 between junctions 8 and 9; and if he will make a statement. [251918]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 1007W, to his previous question, which gave details of the work carried out by the Highways Agency to clear culverts and drains between Junctions 8 and 11a of the M5. This work identified maintenance requirements which are now being carefully monitored, but did not show a particular problem at the Carrant Brook culvert. As a result, the Highways Agency does not consider that a further specific study of this culvert is necessary at this stage.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent works to improve drainage have been undertaken between junction 8 of the M5 junction and junction 1 of the M50; and if he will make a statement. [251921]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has carried out the following investigatory work at this location:

Schemes to repair damaged drainage systems have been identified and are currently being priced and will be entered into future programmes;

Problems were identified with a Severn Trent water main being located within the present drainage system and the company has been contacted. They are programming work to remove this;

Removal of tree roots within the drainage system to improve capacity; and

Liaison with local land owners has resulted in them increasing drainage capacity on their land to prevent run-off onto the motorway.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age of the rail rolling stock operated by Northern Rail is; and if he will make a statement. [252051]

Paul Clark: Northern Rail can provide the most accurate answer. However, our calculations indicate the average age of the fleet is 19.78 years. The life of diesel and electric rolling stock is assumed to be around 30-35 years. During the life of the rolling stock it will undergo a number of major examinations and will normally have improvements made to the interiors of the vehicles.

Operon

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department gave to Operon facilities management to supplement Operon employee wages in 2008. [252676]

Mr. Hoon: Nothing

Railway Stations: Crime

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of staff presence at rail stations on rates of *(a)* ticket fraud and *(b)* other crimes at stations. [251909]

Paul Clark: Whether and how to staff stations are primarily matters for individual operators. The Department for Transport has not therefore carried out any recent study of the effect of staffing on crime. However, the National Passenger Survey includes a question about how safe passengers feel when using stations. In the most recent survey, in autumn 2008, only 8 per cent. of those questioned were dissatisfied with station security.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents resulted in a fatality in Crosby constituency in each of the last five years. [253184]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fatalities resulting from personal injury road accidents in Crosby constituency in each of the last five years is given in the following table:

	Number of fatalities
2003	1
2004	2
2005	1
2006	4
2007	0

Note:
Based on 2004 boundaries

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in road traffic accidents in the north-west in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority area. [253195]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of casualties that were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed resulting from personal injury road accidents in the north-west in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority area are given in the following table.

Number of casualties

Policy authority area		*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cumbria	Injured	2,641	2,685	2,685	2,421	2,373
	Killed	54	57	45	59	45
Lancashire	Injured	7,413	7,749	7,937	7,908	7,650
	Killed	86	58	93	63	55
Merseyside	Injured	7,406	7,312	7,243	6,426	5,737
	Killed	67	62	59	45	30
Greater Manchester	Injured	14,018	13,449	12,718	11,705	10,609
	Killed	126	94	87	90	93
Cheshire	Injured	6,180	5,915 67	5,481	5,205	4,838
	Killed	72	67	78	64	48
North West	Injured	37,658	37,110	36,064	33,665	31,207
	Killed	405	338	362	321	271

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* died and *(b)* were injured in road accidents where the cause of the accident was drink-driving in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority. [253288]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport publishes estimates of the number of casualties in drink-drive accidents where one or more of the motor vehicle drivers or riders involved was over the legal alcohol limit. These estimates are calculated on a national basis. Police force area estimates are not available. Figures for Great Britain are shown in the following table.

Number of casualties

	Killed	*Injured*
2003	580	18,410
2004	580	16,400
2005	550	14,850
2006	560	13,810
2007[1]	460	14,020

[1] Provisional data. Final figures will be published in August 2008.

The drink-drive estimates are published in an article entitled "Drinking and driving" in "Road Casualties Great Britain—Annual report 2007". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and it is also available at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which projects in the proposed public works schedule he proposes to bring forward as part of the programme of accelerating public works; and when he expects work on each accelerated project to begin. [251172]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* In November 2008 the Chancellor announced, as part of his pre-Budget report, that £700 million of fiscal stimulus funding was being brought forward by the Department for Transport.

£400 million of this will be used by the Highways Agency in 2009-10 to bring forward high value schemes on the strategic roads network. This includes, subject to completing statutory processes and confirmation of co-funding from the region, bringing forward by two years the start of construction for the scheme to dual the A46 from Newark to Widmerpool. In addition the funding will allow us to bring forward work to strengthen hard shoulders in advance of the implementation of hard shoulder running as well as other high value structure and asset renewal projects.

The exact schemes that will benefit from the fiscal stimulus is being developed as part of developing the Highways Agency's 2009-10 Business Plan.

The remaining £300 million is to be used for the procurement of diesel unit rolling stock as part of the Department's High Level Output Specification for the British rail network. The first part of the procurement process has begun.

Transport: Employment

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the up to 100,000 jobs the Government expects to be created he expects will result from transport capital projects; and if he will make a statement. [251841]

Mr. Hoon: Preliminary estimates suggest that approximately 37,500 jobs will be created over the next two years as a result of expenditure of £15 billion on transport capital projects. The figures are based on the Department's evidence base of analyses of previous capital projects.

Transport: Expenditure

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in respect of which transport infrastructure projects with a forecast cost of more than £5 million the Highways Agency has carried out feasibility studies; how much these studies have cost; how many of the schemes subject to a feasibility study were approved; and if he will make a statement. [252060]

Paul Clark: Since being established in 1994 the Highways Agency has conducted a significant number of feasibility studies which are carried out routinely for projects that are estimated to cost in excess of £5 million. This covers all major infrastructure projects categorised into widening, bypass, junction and technology schemes, consideration of high occupancy vehicle lanes and, more recently, managed motorway improvements. Historically the Highways Agency's operating protocols and governance arrangements have not required discrete tracking of the costs associated with feasibility work but have been managed within overall resource budget allocations provided by central Government.

Taking into account the number of feasibility studies undertaken since 1994, the amount of work required and the need to access a large number of archived records, it has been concluded that the cost associated with identifying the cost of each study is considered disproportionate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of levels of *(a)* PM10, *(b)* PM2.5, *(c)* O3, *(d)* NO2 and *(e)* NO in each of the 20 largest cities and towns in England by population size for each year between 2005 and 2012; and if he will make a statement; [249760]

(2) which cities and towns in England are currently in breach of air quality laws on *(a)* nitrogen dioxide, *(b)* ozone and *(c)* other nitrogen oxides; and if he will make a statement; [249761]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of maps of the following air pollutants for each of the 20 largest cities and towns in England by population site showing the latest estimate he has for levels of *(a)* PM10, *(b)* PM2.5, *(c)* nitrogen dioxide, *(d)* ozone and *(e)* nitrogen oxide. [249782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: For the purposes of assessing and reporting exceedences and breaches of air quality limit values, the UK is divided up into 43 agglomeration zones (areas with a contiguous population of over 250,000 as specified by the air quality directives) and non-agglomeration zones. There are 23 agglomeration zones in England and eight non-agglomeration zones; the latter are based on Government office regions in England.

The air quality framework directive (1996/62/EC) and four daughter directives (1999/30/EC, 2000/69/EC, 2002/3/EC, and 2004/107/EC) set out our current obligations in relation to various pollutants in ambient air. Of the pollutants mentioned, the limit values currently in force are for particles measured as particulate matter (PM_{10}). There are also limit values for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), but these specifically do not apply to urban areas, or to areas near busy roads.

The limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) do not come into force until 2010. The levels set for ozone (O_3) are in the form of either target values, which do not have the same strict compliance criteria as limit values, or long term objectives, which have no compliance date. Other than those for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems, there are no additional limit values for other oxides of nitrogen. A new Council directive on ambient air and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) consolidates existing legislation and introduces new controls for $PM_{2.5}$. The limit values for this pollutant are not yet in force.

Under the EU legislation set out above, the UK is required to monitor the air continuously for levels of PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, NO_x (from which levels of NO can be derived), O_3 and a number of other pollutants. These data are freely available from the National Air Quality Archive

http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/index.php

This archive contains all the monitoring data collected for and by the Government in relation to air quality since 1962. It also contains details of the monitoring sites currently in use. In addition, the UK was one of a small number of member states to report modelled data alongside monitoring data. The national model used complies with the relevant data quality criteria set out in the various air quality directives, and is validated against monitored data. The annual report complied to accompany the UK submission to the European Commission on air quality is also held on the air quality archive:

http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat09/0807231621_dd12006mapsrep_v2.pdf

This contains maps of roadside and background levels of PM_{10}, and NO_2/NO_x, although these are not given on a city by city basis; such information is not readily available. Maps for O_3 are held in a separate report on the same site:

http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat09/0807301054_DD3_mapsrep2006_v2.pdf.

These reports also contain a map showing the location and extent of the UK agglomeration and non-agglomeration zones.

The model used to produce these reports is also used to provide projections of future air quality. This is a complex process and is generally only carried out in response to specific policy needs. In predicting future air quality, a "baseline" is constructed to show what effect currently planned measures and policies will have on air quality. Such a baseline has been prepared for 2010, 2011 and 2012 for PM_{10} and NO_2, to support potential applications for time extensions for these pollutants, allowed under the 2008 directive, for compliance with the limit values. A consultation on the application for PM_{10} will be published shortly; it is planned to initiate a consultation on the application for NO_2 towards the end of 2009. One of the outputs from this baseline is an assessment of the agglomeration and non-agglomeration zones predicted to contain locations where the air quality is above the relevant limit value level.

For NO_2, the limit value is predicted to be exceeded in all but three zones in England in 2010, all but four in 2011 and all but five in 2012. The zones in compliance are predicted to be Brighton/Worthing/Littlehampton, Blackpool Urban Area, and Preston Urban Area in 2010, additionally Bournemouth Urban Area in 2011, and additionally Coventry/Bedworth in 2012.

The outcome of the baseline assessment for PM_{10} was that two zones—Greater London and the West Midlands were predicted to be in exceedence in 2010, reducing to one (Greater London) in 2011 and 2012. The extent of the predicted exceedence in 2011 was a total 40km of roads, mainly in central London. However, the baseline assessment had not taken into account all of the traffic and transport measures planned for implementation by the Greater London Authority and Transport for London. Nor did the assessment use the more accurate traffic growth projections prepared by Transport for London for the London area, relying instead on national data. Sensitivity analysis including these measures reduced the total road length exceeding to around 6km, which is well within the uncertainties of the model. Using this additional analysis, there is no exceedence predicted for 2012.

Birds: Nature Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of strengthening controls on the sale of those non-CITES species of birds removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [252762]

Huw Irranca-Davies: All non-CITES species of birds removed from Schedule 4 are subject to the sales controls provided in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The removal of certain species from Schedule 4 has not affected the fact that it will remain an offence to possess or sell a wild bird that has been illegally taken.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the £5 million spending on the infrastructure of British Waterways announced in the pre-Budget report will be included in the allocation for British Waterways for 2010-11; [251696]

(2) what budget his Department plans to provide for British Waterways in 2010-11. [251697]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The £5 million brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 is a movement of indicative budget from one year to another and will not be double-counted. Final allocations for the constituent parts of the DEFRA budget for 2010-11 have not yet been made. The intention is to agree 2010-11 budgets by the spring of 2009.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of British Waterways' projected funding shortfall for 2010-11 in relation to the funding requirement identified by the steady state model. [252092]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is working with British Waterways to agree a sustainable and affordable strategy for the waterways in order to get the best public benefits from the resources available.

The KPMG report published in September last year concluded that British Waterways has a significant funding gap in relation to the requirements of the steady state model. This has led to a review by British Waterways into its overall funding and initiatives to raise more income from a variety of sources and to see additional efficiencies and savings in its expenditure. These will feed into its consultation on future strategy later this year. We will discuss with British Waterways the conclusions of its review and its implications for future strategy and funding requirements for its waterways.

Carbon Emissions: Water

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* industrial, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* agricultural uses of water; what steps he is taking to reduce levels of carbon dioxide emissions from heavily intensive water usage in each sector; and if he will make a statement. [251692]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A carbon footprint for the UK water industry was published for the first time in 2008 in "Future Water", the Government's water strategy for England. The industry emits around five million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year, as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e). There are no separate figures for different end-uses, however, the non-domestic sector that includes the industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors is estimated to use 23 per cent. of the public water supply. The industrial sector also uses significant quantities of direct abstractions but it is difficult to estimate the associated carbon emissions due to variability in the extent of treatment and in pumping distances.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment will bring about reductions in carbon emissions from across the economy, including from the water industry. In addition, we have received a commitment from Water UK that the water companies will seek to ensure that at least 20 per cent. of all energy used by the UK water industry comes from renewable sources by 2020.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts to which his Department is a party continue beyond 1 July 2010. [242150]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department is compiling this information for publication in its departmental report for 2009, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House. The report is published normally in May of the named year.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251440]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

The 2008 DEFRA Departmental Report contains the 2006 and 2007 performance figures for the handling of all types of correspondence. The 2009 report will contain the figures for 2008 and will be published as soon as it is ready. The report can be found on the DEFRA website.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* external contractors and *(b)* other non-departmental staff were employed by his Department in London in each of the last five financial years; and at what cost were such staff employed in each year. [251074]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information on how many external contractors and other non-departmental staff were engaged by the core-Department in London and their costs in each of the last five financial years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The core-Department's expenditure on consultancy and professional services for the financial years 2003-04 through to 2007-08 is set out in the following table.

Expenditure

£ million

Category	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
IT and Telecommunications	53	99	131	163	130
Management and Business Consultancy	20	79	44	29	17
Programme and Project Management	23	24	18	4	10
Research and Development	10	18	20	33	35
Specialist Consultancy	40	36	37	54	56
Temp Staff	9	10	10	7	5

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 727-28W, on departmental official residences, whether the council tax bills for departmental residential accommodation are paid from departmental funds; and what his Department's policy is on responsibility for paying charges for the collection of household waste associated with the property. [252210]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department has a limited number of dwellings used to accommodate key workers. These premises are usually let on formal tenancies which require the occupiers to discharge council tax among the usual occupational outgoings.

With regard to a policy for the responsibility for paying charges for the collection of household waste, this is yet to be considered. However as an occupier cost it would not be unreasonable for any such charges to be borne by the occupiers.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252267]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, there is no vendor 'Internet Advertising Bureau' registered on the core-Department's financial system.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251878]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 5W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249139]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department strives to answer all parliamentary questions with the relevant information as accurately and as concisely as possible having regard to the disproportionate cost threshold. The Department does not keep records of occasions on which Ministers have used their discretion to overrule the application of the cost threshold.

Floods: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Lancashire county council has bid for funding to protect against future flooding. [247015]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has received no bids for funding from Lancashire county council this financial year and the council has not applied for funding for the resilience grants pilots.

Lancashire, as a county, benefited from grant funding from the resilience grants pilot project through the Sunderland point pilot. This was run by Lancaster city council in collaboration with the Environment Agency from 2007 to 2008, with a project with a budget of £110,000. The results of this work are available in a report on the DEFRA website.

Floods: Montgomeryshire

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of flooding on the Pylon development scheme in Kerry, Montgomeryshire; and if he will make a statement. [251614]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Flooding in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

Rodents

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the latest English Condition Survey data on rodent presence in domestic dwellings. [252402]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has published on its website the latest report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the size of the rat population in the country. [252640]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department does not hold data on the size of the UK rat population. However, the latest report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is now available on DEFRA's website. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

Water Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has made an impact assessment of new site area-based charges for surface drainage on *(a)* sports clubs, *(b)* churches and *(c)* other voluntary groups. [252621]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat, the independent economic regulator for the water industry, is responsible for approving charging schemes. The Government are aware of the affordability issues faced by some customers as a result of the switch from charging based on rateable value to site area and are currently reviewing their position.

Water Supply

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1626W, on water supply, for what reason the original timetable for water companies to prepare their statement of response to the consultation was not met. [252078]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The overriding requirement of section 37 of the Water Industry Act 1991 is that a water company must provide a coherent plan that demonstrates how it will ensure a supply and demand balance for water.

In their statements of response, water companies must respond to the representations they received and say how these have been reflected in their plans and any changes that have been made to the plan in light of the representations.

The original timetable was extended to allow water companies additional time, which they needed in order to provide the evidence required to demonstrate the impacts any changes made to the plan will have on their subsequent appraisal, and selection, of the preferred water supply and demand options necessary to maintain their statutory water supply duties over the next 25 years.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what Government Equalities Office assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if she will make a statement. [251677]

Maria Eagle: As recorded in its Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2007-08 the Government Equalities Office does not own any fixed or intangible assets.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what websites the Government Equalities Office *(a)* funds and *(b)* part-funds. [251670]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has overall responsibility for one website:

www.equalities.gov.uk.

The GEO has also made a financial contribution to the Ethnic Minority Foundation to develop a website aimed towards issues of concern to young people.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in the Government Equalities Office attended at least one such training course. [252238]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on digital media training courses.

Domestic Violence: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many recorded incidents of domestic violence there have been in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* Nottinghamshire in each of the last three years; and how many of these resulted in a successful prosecution. [250763]

Maria Eagle *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: Government figures from 2006-07 and 2007-08 show the number of domestic violence cases being reported has increased. This is a testament to the growing confidence victims have that they will be listened to and their reports effectively investigated coupled with the specialist and practical support victims receive.

The available data on domestic violence incidents are based on domestic violence arrest rates taken from the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPI 8a) suite used in police force performance assessments for 2007-08. The following table shows the number of recorded incidents of domestic violence in Nottinghamshire for each of the last three years. The Government do not hold discrete figures for Bassetlaw.

Nottinghamshire domestic violence incidents

	Number
2005-06	15,279
2006-07	17,534
2007-08	19,166

The following table shows the outcome of prosecutions for domestic violence from the records held by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The figures are for Nottinghamshire as a whole. No discrete figures are held in respect of Bassetlaw.

Nottinghamshire Crown Prosecution Service domestic violence outcomes

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Convictions	691	801	815
Unsuccessful	467	555	364
Total	1,158	1,356	1,179

The figures represent the number of defendants whose case was completed in each year and are divided into convictions, (including guilty pleas), and unsuccessful outcomes which represent all outcomes other than where a conviction is recorded.

There has been an improvement in the proportion of post-charge proceedings for domestic violence resulting in a conviction over recent years. Nationally, convictions increased from 63.5 per cent. of completed cases in 2006 to 72 per cent. in 2008. The improvement in CPS Nottinghamshire over the same period was from 59.7 per cent. to 69.1 per cent.

Domestic Violence: Victims

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government have taken to support women and children who are subject to domestic violence in the last two years. [250058]

Maria Eagle: Independent domestic violence advisers provide invaluable support to victims of domestic violence and their families. Evidence shows that incidents of victimisation decrease and victims are less likely to withdraw from cases. This is why we have provided over £6 million this financial year to support the extension of Advisors and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences across England and Wales. Also, in 2006-07, local authorities spent over £61 million of their funding allocated through the Supporting People programme on housing-related support services for women at risk of domestic violence. Further, last financial year we provided funding to local authorities worth £47.2 million through the Homelessness Strategy and Support Directorate's grant programmes a proportion of which can be used to develop outreach and other innovative models, such as the sanctuary scheme.

Females: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will work with the Secretary of State for the Home Department to bring forward proposals for a commissioner with the remit of reducing the trafficking of women to the UK for sexual exploitation. [251266]

Maria Eagle: We believe that existing mechanisms (the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking and the Home Office NGO Stakeholder Group) provide appropriate forums for discussion and advocacy on issues surrounding trafficking for sexual exploitation, as well as allowing for close scrutiny of progress on the Action Plan and the Council of Europe Convention.

As Minister for Women and Equality, I ensure all Government departments are considering the specific concerns of vulnerable women. The Home Office and the UK Border Agency continue to work with our international partners both to raise awareness of human trafficking and further strengthen our ability to prevent this crime taking place.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on improving security in Afghanistan in the last year; and if he will make a statement. [252001]

Mr. Hutton: In 2008 progress was made across Afghanistan but the insurgency remains resilient and 2009 will continue to present significant security challenges in certain areas of the country, particularly in the south and east.

In Helmand, successful military operations by ISAF and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have allowed more of the province to come under the control of the Afghan Government. The recent Operation SOND CHARA saw Task Force Helmand, supported by ANSF, successfully clear Taleban from the town of Nad-e-Ali and its environs creating a secure environment to promote stabilisation and economic growth.

Aircraft Carriers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the date for the completion of the Royal Navy aircraft carriers has been delayed; and if he will make a statement. [252897]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence made on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS.

Armed Forces: Married People

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of personnel in each service who were *(a)* divorced and *(b)* separated in each year between 1997 and 2006. [251962]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For the number and proportion of divorced personnel, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 51W.

Figures on separation rates for this time period could be provided only at disproportionate cost and no such estimates have been made.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of personnel in each service who were *(a)* divorced and *(b)* separated in each month in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [251963]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records on the number of serving military personnel by marital status for this time period are not held centrally, following the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits of each sex have joined each unit of each of the armed forces at each rank in each of the last 10 years. [252098]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on armed forces recruitment by sex can be found in United Kingdom Defence Statistics (UKDS) 2008, Table 2.19 Intake to UK regular forces from civil life by Service and sex. UKDS is published annually; the most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 31 March 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS2008/c2/table219.html

Intake to UK regular forces from civil life by unit could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The majority of personnel recruited into the armed forces do so at the lowest level rank of either the officer or other ranks rank structure. Only professional personnel (for example doctors and lawyers) are recruited at any other than the lowest rank and therefore data has not been provided.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the next stage in the Future Rapid Effects System procurement will be; and whether his Department has plans for off-shelf procurement of reconnaissance vehicles. [252096]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Outline plans for the procurement of the Future Rapid Effects System were announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS. The MOD is currently considering how to take forward the procurement of the Utility Vehicle element of the Future Rapid Effects System (FRES) programme in order to ensure we provide Defence with the best possible capability at the best value for money.

The Specialist Vehicle element of the FRES programme continues to make good progress and received Initial Gate approval to enter its Assessment Phase in June 2008. A range of programme options are currently being considered for the Reconnaissance variant, FRES Scout. A recommendation as to the preferred option will be made to the Department's Investment Approvals Board upon completion of the Assessment Phase.

Army : Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions the *(a)* heavy and *(b)* light artillery regiments have been deployed in each of the last 10 years; and (i) to which locations and (ii) on which operations they were deployed. [252100]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The deployments of the heavy and light artillery regiments over the last 10 years are shown as follows:

Heavy artillery units

Unit	*Operation name*	*Location*	*Date*
1 Regt RHA			
AS90 (Heavy)	Op Palatine	Bosnia	1998-99
	Op Agricola	Macedonia and Kosovo	1999
	Op Palatine	Bosnia	[1]2000
	Op Palatine	Bosnia	[1]2000
	Op Palatine	Bosnia	[1]2002
	Op Telic 4	Iraq	2004
	Op Tosca	Cyprus	2005
	Op Telic 10	Iraq	2007
3 Regt RHA			
AS90 (Heavy)	Op Palatine	Bosnia	[1]1998-99
	Op Resolute	Kosovo	[1]2001
	Op Telic 1	Iraq	2003

Heavy artillery units

Unit	*Operation name*	*Location*	*Date*
	Op Tosca	Cyprus	2003-04
	Op Telic 7	Iraq	2005-06
	Op Telic 11	Iraq	[1]2007-08
	Op Herrick 8	Afghanistan	[1]2008
	Op Telic 12	Iraq	[1]2008
4 Regt RA			
AS90 (Heavy)	Op Agricola	Macedonia and Kosovo	1999
	Op Tosca	Cyprus	[1]2001
	Op Fresco	UK	2002-03
	Op Banner	Northern Ireland	2003
	Op Telic 5	Iraq	2004-05
	Op Tosca	Cyprus	2006
	Op Herrick 7	Afghanistan	2007-08
19 Regt RA			
AS90 (Heavy)	Op Agricola	Macedonia and Kosovo	[1]1999
	Op Palatine	Bosnia	2000
	Op Fingal	Afghanistan	[1]2002
	Op Banner	Northern Ireland	[1]2003
	Op Telic 6	Iraq	2005
	Op Herrick 6	Afghanistan	2007
26 Regt RA			
AS90 (Heavy)	Op Agricola	Kosovo	1999-2000
	Op Palatine	Bosnia	[1]2000-01
	Op Agricola	Kosovo	[1]2000-01
	Op Telic 1	Iraq	[1]2003
	Op Telic 3	Iraq	2003-04
	Op Tosca	Cyprus	2004-05
	Op Telic 8	Iraq	[1]2006
	Op Herrick 9	Afghanistan	[1]2008-09
	Op Telic 13	Iraq	[1]2008-09

Light artillery units

Unit	*Operation name*	*Location*	*Date*
29 Cdo Regt RA			
L118 (Light)	Op Silkman	Sierra Leone	2000
	Op Jacana	Afghanistan	2001
	Op Telic 1	Iraq	2003
	Op Herrick 5	Afghanistan	2006-07
	Op Herrick 9	Afghanistan	2008-09
40 Regt RA			
L118 (Light)	Op Banner	Bosnia	1999
	Op Agricola	Macedonia and Kosovo	2001
	Op Telic 1	Iraq	[1]2003
	Op Telic 2	Iraq	2003
	Op Tosca	Cyprus	2004
	Op Telic 9	Iraq	2006-07
7 Para RHA			
L118 (Light)	Op Banner	Northern Ireland	1999-2000
	Op Agricola	Macedonia and Kosovo	1999
	Op Silkman	Sierra Leone	[1]2000

Light artillery units

Unit	Operation name	Location	Date
	Op Agricola	Macedonia and Kosovo	[1]2001
	Op Jacana	Afghanistan	2001-02
	Op Telic 1	Iraq	2003
	Op Agricola	Kosovo	[1]2004-05
	Op Herrick 4	Afghanistan	2006
	Op Herrick 8	Afghanistan	2008

[1] Elements of regiment deployed

All deployments are at Regimental Scale of Effort unless otherwise specified.

Departmental Land

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* estimated monetary value, *(b)* location and *(c)* size is of each land asset owned by his Department. [252097]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all land owned by the Ministry of Defence are held on a property database, including the last valuation based on the rolling five year revaluation programme undertaken by the Department. Valuations are stated at either replacement cost or existing use value rather than market or sale value and thus do not take account of the possibility of any development potential or any costs associated with the decontamination of the land.

An extract has been taken from the database and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on departmental public relations, which areas of work and projects the external public relations firm worked on; and for what reasons such work was not conducted in-house. [252214]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1673W.

Gulf War: Veterans

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission further research into the diagnosis and treatment of Gulf War veterans' illnesses; and if he will make a statement. [251121]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Medical Research Council (MRC) has provided independent advice on our Gulf research programme. In 2003, the Ministry of Defence asked the MRC to undertake an independent scientific review of all the UK research work that has been carried out into Gulf veterans' illnesses in an international context and to advise on whether there are any areas appropriate for future research. The MRC's recommendations were published on 22 May 2003 and are available at:

www.mrc.ac.uk/index.htm.

A key recommendation was that future research work should focus on improving the long-term health of veterans with persistent symptoms and proposals on rehabilitation therapies were sought. A contract for research into ways of rehabilitating unwell Gulf veterans was awarded to an expert group at Cardiff University last summer and work is expected to be complete by April 2012. In the event of any new research proposals being made that would add to our knowledge on Gulf health issues then the Ministry of Defence will consider funding any proposal for research which has been formally considered and approved by the MRC.

HMS Plymouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will seek to provide an open berth for HMS Plymouth in a British port. [252390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The former HMS Plymouth is a privately owned vessel. While the Ministry of Defence would always wish to see a dignified and appropriate use for the vessel, it has no practical role in her placement or usage.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether HMS Richmond will be deployed to duties pertaining to the arms embargo on the Gaza Strip before Operation Telic ends. [251891]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are considering the provision of naval resources to counter the smuggling of weapons into Gaza. No decisions have yet been taken.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Lockheed Martin have been asked to postpone the completion date for the Joint Strike Fighter. [252898]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have never asked Lockheed Martin to postpone the completion date for JSF. We have not even declared an In Service Date for this programme in the UK and will only do so when the programme is sufficiently mature. We are one of nine participant nations in the JSF programme and its completion date cannot be determined by one participant in isolation.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Joint Strike Fighter to enter service. [252899]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We will not be setting in-service dates for the Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) until we take the main investment decision, and we will take that decision when the project is sufficiently mature. The Joint Strike Fighter remains our preferred solution to meet the JCA requirement and our current plans for JCA remain coherent with the CVF programme.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251223]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information is only available for the last four financial years. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1177W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of helicopter pilots did not undertake the required 15 hours individual flying training per month in the last year. [251748]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: NATO guidance recommends that helicopter aircrew undertake 15 hours flying training per month in order to maintain competency. While this is an accepted guideline across the MOD it is not interpreted as an absolute requirement for Army and RAF helicopter pilots.

Information on individual flying training hours for Army and RAF helicopters is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Royal Navy regulations require that Royal Navy helicopter pilots undertake 15 hours flying training per month. Figures for the number and proportion of Royal Navy pilots who did not complete 15 hours training per month in the last year are shown in the following table.

			Sea King force					
	Merlin force		*SK5*		*SK7*		*Lynx force*	
2008	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
January	14	31	17	65	2	16	10	20
February	14	32	3	12	0	0	7	14
March	13	30	14	50	3	24	7	14
April	11	24	1	3	3	24	11	22
May	14	31	5	17	2	16	8	16
June	14	30	3	10	3	24	4	8
July	14	30	2	7	2	16	7	14
August	28	61	6	23	9	72	23	47
September	5	11	1	4	4	21	3	6
October	11	24	2	7	1	7	5	10
November	7	15	4	15	6	42	5	10
December	18	40	6	21	5	35	11	22

Note:
These figures only represent the data requested in the question and do not reflect the number of aircrew in current flying practice and therefore ready for duty. Three month rolling currency requirement and currency checks ensure the number of aircrew ready for duty is maximised.

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Royal Navy assets will form the UK contribution to CTF-151, broken down by asset type. [251890]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Portland will conduct counter-piracy missions around the Horn of Africa, as and when required, through the newly established Combined Task Force 151. HMS Portland will also continue to carry out broader maritime security operations through Combined Task Force 150, which operates in the same region.

We continue to work with our international partners to ensure all activities are co-ordinated through the UK maritime component command in Bahrain and the EU operation headquarters at Northwood.

Submarines: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have received *(a)* wet training and *(b)* dry training at the submarine escape training tank at Gosport in (i) each year from 2005 to 2007 and (ii) each month since January 2008. [251646]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of armed forces personnel who completed wet and dry training at the submarine escape training tank at Gosport for the period requested are as follows:

	UK wet qual.	*UK wet requal.*	*UK dry qual.*	*UK dry requal.*	*Foreign wet*
Year					
2005	395	165	—	207	40
2006	363	278	—	218	90
2007	245	336	—	236	61

	UK wet qual	UK wet requal	UK dry qual	UK dry requal	Foreign wet
Month					
January 2008	20	33	—	27	—
February 2008	39	17	—	45	—
March 2008	27	19	—	28	16
April 2008	34	18	—	19	—
May 2008	41	9	—	36	56
June 2008	29	17	—	32	40
July 2008	43	23	—	59	22
August 2008	—	—	—	—	—
September 2008	—	—	64	57	—
October 2008	—	—	87	33	—
November 2008	—	—	34	41	43
December 2008	—	—	35	29	14
January 2009	—	—	21	28	—

Wet training refers to those individuals who complete pressurised ascents during the training course. The figures given for dry training are for those trainees who only complete the non-pressurised elements of the course, this includes tower acquaint drills and surface survival.

Qualifying trainees would have undertaken, in order, 2 x 9 m buoyant exhaling ascents, 1 x 18 m buoyant exhaling ascent and 1 x 30 m suited ascent. Those trainees requalifying conducted, in order, 1 x 30 m suited ascent and 1 x 9 m buoyant exhaling ascent.

The information provided for foreign students undertaking wet training during November and December 2008 relates to training provided under a contract which had been agreed prior to the Royal Navy's decision to suspend such training.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of personnel in each corps of the Territorial Army is; and what the percentage shortfall for each corps is. [251749]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 780W.

Defence Analytical Services and Advice figures as at 1 September 2008 show the overall Territorial Army liability requirement as 34,620 and the strength as 28,890 personnel. This represents an overall percentage shortfall of 16.5 per cent.

Figures for each corps of the Territorial Army are not held in the format requested.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of the trained strength personnel complement of the Territorial Army were unavailable for deployment under his Department's policy of deploying individuals for one year in every five *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [251897]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 12 December 2008, approximately 6,600 Territorial Army personnel were unavailable for further deployment, in line with the Department's policy of deploying individuals for one year in every five following operational deployments. This figure represents approximately 38 per cent. of the trained Territorial Army strength.

In the past five years (January 2003-April 2008) more than 15,000 Territorial Army personnel have deployed on operations. Accordingly, each period of individual service has attracted an exemption from additional service in the following five year period.

Tristar Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 554W, on TriStar aircraft, when the process of fitting glass cockpits to the RAF Tristar fleet is due to commence. [251932]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The trial installation on the first aircraft is already under way and is due to be completed in May 2009.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bosnia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the terms of the Odzak agreement signed on 8 November 2008 in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [240836]

David Miliband: The Odzak agreement sends a positive signal and demonstrates that common ground can be found between the political parties. The agreement covers important issues, including constitutional reform and some of the requirements for closure of the Office of the High Representative.

We urge all political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to build a wider consensus which will lead to concrete follow up to the agreement.

Burma: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken in *(a)* the UN Security Council, *(b)* the UN Human Rights Council, *(c)* the UN General Assembly and *(d)* other United Nations bodies on the sentencing of pro-democracy activists in Burma in November 2008. [251192]

Bill Rammell: The UK has consistently supported firm action in all relevant UN bodies on human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese regime. We played an important role in securing a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly on 21 November 2008. The resolution called on the Burmese authorities to desist from further politically motivated arrests and release, without delay or conditions, of all political prisoners, including the 88 Generation group leaders and others detained as the result of the autumn 2007 protests.

On 5 December 2008, the UK Permanent Representative to the UN underlined the UK's deep concern at the harsh sentencing of opposition activists at a meeting of the Group of Friends, chaired by the UN Secretary General. The UK will continue to work with partners in New York to keep Burma on the Security Council agenda.

The UN Human Rights Council has not been in session since this latest round of sentencing began, but the UK will raise the issue as a priority at the Council's 10th session in March.

Burma: Political Prisoners

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the access of Red Cross officials to political prisoners in Burma following the partial lifting of restrictions by the government of Burma; and if he will make a statement. [250944]

Bill Rammell: We have received no reports that the International Committee of the Red Cross has been permitted to visit any political prisoners since 2005, despite our consistent calls for this much needed access through the Security Council, UN human rights bodies, the EU and directly to the Burmese authorities.

Over 200 opposition activists have been given severe sentences since November 2008, some with prison terms of up to 105 years, and placed in prisons in remote parts of the country away from the support of their families. This brings the total number of political prisoners in Burma to over 2,200.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1794W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251330]

Gillian Merron: As well as the training received by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary detailed in my reply of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1794W, from January to July 2008, my hon. Friend the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, received training in the Spanish language.

No personal training courses have been undertaken by the other Ministers in this Department since 1 January 2008.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242114]

Gillian Merron: The following tables provide information on how many individuals have worked in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the FCO, on paid and unpaid work experience or internship placements in each of the last three years.

FCO

	Paid	*Unpaid*	*Average hours worked per week*
2006	38	10	36
2007	39	10	36
2008	51	10	36

FCO Services

	Paid	*Unpaid*	*Average hours worked per week*
2006	0	16	14:48 over two days
2007	0	16	14:48 over two days
2008	0	16	14:48 over two days

Work experience students work on projects and areas associated with various FCO departments. This could include writing briefs and research work.

Of the 158 individuals undertaking work experience at the FCO, 138 were still in full-time education, 20 were recent graduates. All individuals undertaking work experience at FCO Services were in full-time education.

We do not hold statistics on the proportion of individuals who completed their set period of work experience in 2006 and 2007. All individuals completed their periods of work experience in 2008.

Individuals on the FCO's undergraduate work placement scheme are given allowances to cover hotel accommodation, travel and expenses. In 2006, these averaged £321 per week. In 2007 and 2008 this average increased to £341 per week.

Diplomatic Service: Public Appointments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK *(a)* embassies, *(b)* high commissions and *(c)* other overseas missions have a politically-appointed head of mission. [252111]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has two political appointees as high commissioner:

The right hon. Paul Boateng, high commissioner in South Africa, took up the post in June 2005.

The right hon. Helen Liddell, high commissioner in Australia, took up the post in July 2005.

India: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 532-3W, whether the next EU-India Human Rights Dialogue will take place before the end of 2008; and what subjects are on the agenda for the next dialogue. [243352]

Bill Rammell: We had hoped the EU/India Human Rights Dialogue would take place before the end of 2008. We now understand that it is due to take place in 2009, although the date has not yet been finalised by the EU presidency and the Indian government.

We expect religious freedom and minority rights in India, including the recent attacks in Orissa state, to be included on the agenda.

Iran: Diplomatic Relations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on holding high-level direct discussions with the government of Iran. [252112]

Bill Rammell: We are fully prepared to engage Iran in direct discussions. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has met his Iranian counterpart on several occasions. These discussions allow us to make clear that we want a constructive relationship with Iran, but that this depends on its addressing issues of serious concern to the international community, including its nuclear ambitions and its failure to live up to its international human rights commitments.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings Ministers in his Department have had at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with groups of British Muslims on events in Gaza since 27 December 2008; and what the names were of the individuals who attended each meeting. [252091]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: Since 27 December 2008 the following meetings have been held:

On 6 January 2009 my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PUSS) at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and I met with representatives and individuals from a number of organisations including the Quilliam Foundation, Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, the Sufi Muslim Council, the Al Khoei Foundation, the UK Ismaili Council and the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation.

On 8 January 2009 we met with members of the Muslim Women's Advisory Group.

On 12 January 2009 my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Communities Secretary met with representatives and individuals from a number of organisations including the Quilliam Foundation, Muslim Council of Britain, British Muslim Forum, the City Circle, British Muslims for a Secular Democracy, the Sufi Muslim Council, the Al Khoei Foundation, the UK Ismaili Council and the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation.

On 13 January 2009 my hon. Friend the PUSS at DCLG and I met with members of the Young Muslims Advisory Group.

Palestinians: Detainees

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Israeli Government on the detention without trial of elected members of the Palestinian Parliament. [251615]

Bill Rammell: We continue to restate our call for all elected Palestinian Legislative Council members detained by Israel to be either released or subject to due legal process.

Sri Lanka: Press Freedom

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on the development of independent human rights reporting in Sri Lanka. [251080]

Bill Rammell: In March 2008, my noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, made clear at the UN Human Rights Council UK support for a stronger mandate and presence for the UN human rights mission in Sri Lanka directly with the Sri Lankan Government. He also raised this during his visit to Sri Lanka in July 2008. We continue to emphasise the need for independent human rights reporting in our regular contacts with the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment of press freedom in northern Sri Lanka is; and what recent reports he has received of threats to the personal safety of journalists operating in the region. [251088]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the Written ministerial statement on Sri Lanka by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 29-32WS.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provide for staff. [249069]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office provides directly operated catering facilities for staff at Stormont House, Maghaberry Prison, Magilligan Prison, Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre and the Prison Service college in Millisle, and franchised catering outlets for staff at the Northern Ireland Forensic Science Agency. Staff from the Department also have access to franchised catering facilities at Castle buildings and Dundonald house in Belfast and at its office in Millbank, London, which are shared and managed by other Departments and Agencies.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W, on departmental travel, how much was spent by his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies on (i) staff travel within the UK and (ii) international staff travel in the last 12 months. [244007]

Mr. Woodward: Northern Ireland Office (NIO) agencies spent £1,772,000 in the last 12 months on staff travel. Of this total £5,000 has been identified as international travel.

More than £1,400,000 of this expenditure related to the Northern Ireland Prison Service, their main costs in this area came from training days and staff transfers:

> Almost 9,000 training places were filled by staff at the Prison Service college for which they could reclaim travel expenses. The training college is based in Millisle which is a round trip of 182 and 78 miles respectively from the two main establishments which are Magilligan and Maghaberry. The other operational establishments are Hydebank Wood based in Bangor and PECCS which is also based in Maghaberry.
>
> Excess fares are payable to staff that have been transferred to an establishment which is further from their home address than the one from which they are being transferred, this is payable for a three year period if the official remains in their new establishment.

Information for the Northern Ireland Office's executive non-departmental public bodies is an operational matter for each of the bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives. Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 Departmental Report:

> http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf

Fire Services: Resignations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons five officers resigned from the proposed dedicated road rescue team of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to be established on 1 February 2009. [252958]

Paul Goggins: This is a devolved matter which is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to hold a knife amnesty in Northern Ireland. [252962]

Paul Goggins: Although there are no plans to hold another knife amnesty in the near future in Northern Ireland, I am currently developing a knife awareness campaign on the dangers of carrying knives. The campaign will be focused on young people and will launch in the next couple of months.

Parades

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* political representatives and *(b)* the Parades Commission on the 2009 parades season in Northern Ireland. [252961]

Mr. Woodward: The disclosure of the information requested would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs. In the course of my duties I have discussions with a range of people and organisations to discuss various issues, such as, parading in Northern Ireland.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, on police recruitment in Northern Ireland, whether the 50/50 recruitment policy will be ended when the 30 per cent. Roman Catholic recruitment figure is reached if that takes place before 2011. [252959]

Paul Goggins: We are committed to reaching 30 per cent. Catholic composition within the PSNI regulars. When this target is reached the temporary provisions will lapse.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners in Northern Ireland have absconded in each of the last five years; and how long each spent at large either *(a)* to date or *(b)* before being apprehended. [251273]

Paul Goggins: Since 2004, six prisoners have absconded and not yet returned to custody (one in 2004, one in 2006, one in 2007 and three in 2008).

The following tables provide a breakdown by calendar year of all prisoners who have absconded and returned to custody from 2007 to date. Prior to 1 January 2007 the specific time periods of absence for those abscondees who returned to custody are not available on a central record. To answer this question for those years would incur disproportionate costs.

Calendar year 2007

In 2007 a total of 26 prisoners absconded of which one remains unlawfully at large (UAL).

Numbers of prisoners	*(a) Number of days spent from UAL to date*	*(b) Number of days from UAL to apprehension*
7		0
2		1
4		2
1		1
1		5
2		9
1		10
1		11
1		12

Numbers of prisoners	*(a) Number of days spent from UAL to date*	*(b) Number of days from UAL to apprehension*
1		13
1		31
1		45
1		298
1		310
1	751	
Total prisoners: 26	Total prisoners still UAL: 1	Total prisoners returned to custody: 25

Calendar year 2008

In 2008 a total of 36 prisoners absconded of which three remain unlawfully at large (UAL).

Numbers of prisoners	*(a) Number of days spent from UAL to date*	*(b) Number of days from UAL to apprehension*
12		0
7		1
2		2
2		4
2		5
1		6
1		7
1		9
1		14
1		16
1		21
1	25	
1		25
1		30
1	37	
	307	
Total prisoners: 36	Total prisoners still UAL: 3	Total prisoners returned to custody: 33

Calendar year 2009

In 2009 a total of two prisoners absconded. Both prisoners are now in prison custody.

Numbers of prisoners	*(a) Number of days spent from UAL to date*	*(b) Number of days from UAL to apprehension*
1		0
1		4
Total prisoners: 2	Total prisoners still UAL: 0	Total prisoners returned to custody: 2

Sexual Offences: Prisoners Release

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who had been convicted of a sexual offence in Northern Ireland since 2005 were subjected to MASRAM supervision after release and were subsequently found guilty of a further offence. [252960]

Paul Goggins: In 2005, the latest year for which re-conviction data can be made available, 71 persons were released from immediate custody or disposed of by a community sentence for a sexual offence. All cases would have been risk assessed and managed under the MASRAM arrangements. The latest figures show none of these persons were re-convicted of a further sexual offence within a two year period.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House what her Office's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251445]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is not available in precisely the form requested.

However, we aim to respond to correspondence from hon. Members and peers within 15 working days. In 2008, the Leader's Office answered 94 per cent. of correspondence from hon. Members and peers within deadline. In 2007 this was 94 per cent. and in 2006, 95 per cent.

The Office aims to respond to correspondence from members of the public within 20 working days. In 2008, the Leader's Office answered 96 per cent. of correspondence from members of the public within deadline. In 2007 this was 90 per cent. and in 2006, 95 per cent.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost of her Office's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251196]

Chris Bryant: The press monitoring services for the Leader's Office are provided by the Cabinet Office and costs are therefore not identifiable separately.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Belize: Overseas Aid

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to Belize in each of the last 20 years, expressed in today's prices. [250739]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on Official Development Assistance (ODA) can be found on the OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) website at

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.

The relevant figures are reproduced in the following table.

Total foreign Aid to Belize, 1988 to 2007

	$USD millions, constant prices (2007)
1988	40.6
1989	44.3
1990	43.7
1991	30.7

Total foreign Aid to Belize, 1988 to 2007

	$USD millions, constant prices (2007)
1992	34.2
1993	42.6
1994	41.0
1995	22.7
1996	26.5
1997	17.9
1998	19.5
1999	62.3
2000	21.0
2001	31.1
2002	30.8
2003	13.8
2004	8.1
2005	12.2
2006	7.6
2007	21.7

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of British aid to Burma is delivered via cross-border mechanisms. [250796]

Mr. Michael Foster: Approximately £569,000, 4.6 per cent. of DFID's £12.5 million regular programme for Burma in 2008-09 (excluding £45 million emergency relief following Cyclone Nargis) is being delivered via cross-border mechanisms. This figure breaks down as follows:

£193,000 of DFID's £1 million funding to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) in 2008-09 has been allocated to cross-border humanitarian activities. Since DFID's contribution to TBBC was not earmarked to specific activities, this proportion reflects TBBC's own priorities.

DFID is contributing about £300,000 in 2008-09 to cross-border health assistance to Kachin and Shan States from China.

Around £76,000 of £220,000 provided to three Burmese non-governmental organisations based in Thailand is being used for humanitarian work inside Burma. The remainder of this funding is used to assist Burmese refugees and migrants in Thailand.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds his Department contributed to local authority Preventing Violent Extremism projects in 2008, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [251764]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development did not contribute any funds in 2008 to any local authorities for programmes on preventing violent extremism.

Corporate Communications

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Selby of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W, on public relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the corporate communications strategy provided by the firm Corporate Communications. [250279]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 832W.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251443]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

DFID does not routinely collate data on average time taken to respond to letters from members of the public, and this information cannot be provided within the disproportionate cost limit.

DFID aims to respond to all written correspondence from members of the public within 15 working days. Information on DFID's performance against this target in 2008 is currently being collated and will be published in our 2009 Annual Report. Data for 2007 can be found in our Annual Report, section 10.12, at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/Chapter10.pdf.

Data for 2006 were not published. However in that year DFID's Public Enquiry Point handled 1,754 letters, of which 88 per cent. were answered within the 15 day target.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251384]

Mr. Michael Foster: The ASSIST 2000 programme began in 1999 and completed in June 2004. The total cost of the programme was £4.32 million. The primary contractor was Methods Application Ltd and the contracted cost was £1.33 million.

The Human Resources Database project began in 2001-02. The initial estimated cost and delivery date was £1.18 million and March 2004 respectively. The project was completed in March 2004 at a cost of £1.22 million. The primary contractor was RebusSoftware Limited (now Northgate-Arinso) and the contracted cost was £1.22 million.

The Quest Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRMS) project began in 2001-02. The initial estimated cost and delivery date was £8.98 million and December 2005 respectively. The project was completed in March 2006 at a cost of £11.68 million, which included additional options available under the original contract. The primary contractor was LogicaCMG (now Logica) and the contracted cost was £11.68 million.

The PRISM (Performance Reporting Information System for Management) programme began in 2001-02. The cost at completion was £1.14 million and the programme was completed by March 2005. The programme was carried out largely using in-house resources.

The ARIES Finance, Procurement and Reporting System began in 2004. The initial estimated supplier base cost was £11 million, the initial estimated delivery date was October 2008. The current expected completion date is September 2009 with an estimated supplier cost of £17.6 million. This estimate reflects agreed changes to the scope of the project, a software upgrade, additional consultancy support for change management, development of end-user training materials, and assistance with training and rollout. The primary contractor is Agresso Ltd.

The HR transformation project started in March 2005 and was completed on time in March 2008. The original budget was £6.5 million and the cost on completion was £6.0 million This was primarily a business change project but included a number of smaller IT components.

The Desktop Refresh project started in 2005 and was completed on time in March 2006. The cost at completion was £1.87 million. The project was carried out using in-house resources and equipment was purchased from Hewlett Packard Ltd.

The Laptop Refresh project started in October 2007 and was completed on time in December 2008. The original budget was £1.8 million and the final outturn was £1.7 million. The project was carried out by DFID staff and equipment was purchased from Dell Ltd.

The Web Transformation project began in December 2007 and is on track to complete in July 2009. The original projected budget was £2.0 million and the current forecast is £2.5 million. The project is managed in-house but uses a range of smaller contractors.

The Knowledge and Information Management Programme began in 2008. The project is at an early stage but is on track to complete in March 2011. The original cost estimate of £6.8 million is still accurate. This programme is managed in-house but uses a range of smaller contractors.

The Information Technology Infrastructure Programme (ITIP) began in 2007 and is on track to complete in March 2011. The original estimate of £5.0 million is still accurate. This programme is managed in-house but uses a range of smaller contractors.

DFID has also let a number of small IT related contracts. However, our central records do not distinguish IT contracts, so provision of details for these projects would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247921]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure on public surveys in the last three financial years is as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	56,532
2006-07	56,711
2007-08	403,742

The major items of spending in 2007-08 relate to the development of an audience segmentation model for international development—as per good practice advocated by the Government Communications Network. This is being used to inform future communications strategy. Further details of this were given in the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 658W.

Malaria

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department is providing for *(a)* research into and *(b)* prevention of malaria; and if he will make a statement. [249689]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £10 million to the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), which is a product development partnership developing new drugs for malaria. A further £6.5 million is being provided to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi). The DNDi is also a product development partnership developing new drugs for a number of neglected tropical diseases, including malaria. DNDi launched two new fixed dose artemisinin combination drugs in 2007 and 2008 and to date over one million courses of these drugs have been distributed in developing countries.

Two research programme consortia on communicable diseases, including malaria, are also supported by DFID. They are led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Nuffield Institute for International Health at Leeds University. Each of these consortia will receive a total of £5 million over five years.

DFID supports work on malaria prevention through its support to international organisations such as the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and the World Bank all of whom have programmes on malaria. In addition support is being provided to global health partnerships such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), UNITAID, and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. DFID has made a commitment to provide £1 billion to the GFATM from 2008 to 2015. DFID is also providing support for prevention through our country programmes, which includes a commitment to provide 20 million insecticide treated bed nets over three years made by the Prime Minister in 2008.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250141]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Transport Secretary, on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much official development assistance was *(a)* pledged and *(b)* spent by the Government in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [252401]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on UK official development assistance (ODA) for 2004-07 are available in Table 7 of the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2008'. This publication is available in the Library and online at www.dfid.gov.uk. The 2008 figures will be published in April. The UK remains committed to achieving a 0.7 per cent. ODA to gross national income (GNI) ratio by 2013. The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review also put the Government on track to achieve a 0.56 per cent. ODA/GNI ratio by 2010.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS, on Sri Lanka, when he expects a humanitarian expert from his Department to visit Sri Lanka to assess the distribution of aid to assist internally displaced persons in northern Sri Lanka; and when he expects to publish the expert's report. [251083]

Mr. Michael Foster: An humanitarian assessment mission will visit Sri Lanka from 16-26 February. The findings of the report will subsequently be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on access for an independent group to carry out an assessment of the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons in northern Sri Lanka. [251086]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers have discussed the need for an independent assessment of the humanitarian situation in their recent engagements with Sri Lankan officials. I raised the issue with the Sri Lankan high commissioner on 4 December. My hon. Friend, the Minister of State (Mr. Thomas) also discussed the humanitarian situation with the high commissioner on 26 November.

Diplomatic efforts are ongoing at the highest level. My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister has written to President Rajapakse to express his concerns at the humanitarian situation, including the need for a full independent assessment to be carried out. The British high commissioner in Colombo also regularly presses for increased humanitarian access and the need for an independent needs assessment in his contacts with Government officials at senior levels, including with the President.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what the staffing costs of No. 10 Downing Street were in 2007-08; and what the budget for such costs is for 2008-09. [250510]

The Prime Minister: The total staff costs for the Office for the most recent financial years are set out in the following table.

	£ million
2006-07	11.6
2007-08	11.5

Figures for the financial year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Cabinet

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what estimate he has made of the costs of policing provided for the Cabinet meeting in Liverpool on 8 January 2009; [247929]

(2) how much was spent from public funds on *(a)* lunch and *(b)* refreshments for those attending the Cabinet meeting held in Liverpool on 8 January 2009; [247930]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of holding the meeting of the Cabinet in Leeds on 28 November 2008; [247939]

(4) how much was spent on *(a)* lunch and *(b)* refreshments for those attending the Cabinet meeting held in Leeds on 28 November 2008; [247944]

(5) how much was spent on police protection for the Cabinet meeting held in Leeds on 28 November 2008; [247945]

(6) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of holding the meeting of the Cabinet in Liverpool on 8 January 2009. [247948]

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what the additional security cost has been for each Cabinet meeting held outside 10 Downing Street since January 2008. [248550]

The Prime Minister: The visit of the Cabinet to Leeds on 28 November was linked with a number of ministerial visits across the region; there was a public engagement event with around 220 people which was followed by a formal Cabinet meeting. There are no separate figures for the Cabinet meeting. The cost of the public engagement event and the Cabinet meeting was approximately £57,190, excluding VAT. The figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and search equipment, delegate management and rail travel for both staff and Ministers. In addition, Departments and agencies will have incurred costs in terms of staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force. The cost of the public engagement event and Cabinet in Liverpool on 8 January will be published once figures are available.

In addition, I have placed in the Library of the House the "Response to Cabinet public engagement event Leeds 2008".

Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister what No. 10 Downing Street's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251451]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 53W.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS, on Sri Lanka, if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter to President Rajapakse. [251079]

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he has taken to promote a ceasefire in Sri Lanka since 14 January; what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* German Chancellor and *(b)* French President on Sri Lanka; and what recent correspondence he has had with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. [251708]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS. I have written to President Rajapakse to urge him to increase efforts in relation to the provision of humanitarian assistance; to take action against human rights abuses and set out the need for a political solution. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all correspondence and discussions with foreign Governments.

I discussed a range of issues with Chancellor Merkel and President Sarkozy and I have also asked my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to work closely with his French and German counterparts on this matter.

JUSTICE

Courts: Witnesses

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of witnesses in court on Merseyside *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted special measures in giving evidence in the last year for which figures are available; and what assessment has been made of witnesses' views on the special measures available. [251341]

Maria Eagle: In 2008 the Crown Court at Liverpool received 806 applications for Special Measures. Of these, 601 or 74.6 per cent. were granted. Of the remaining applications, the majority were in cases in which guilty pleas were entered so there was no need for the application to proceed.

The number and percentage of successful requests for special measures in the magistrates court and youth court is not held centrally. These figures could not be produced without incurring disproportionate cost.

In 2004 the Home Office published independent research which found that special measures were working effectively. The study showed that 76 per cent. of witnesses overall were satisfied with special measures. A further breakdown of these statistics for different subgroups of witnesses is available from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/r240.pdf

The research also found that one-third of vulnerable or intimidated witnesses would not be able or willing to give evidence without the assistance of special measures. This rose to 44 per cent. where the witness was a victim of a sexual offence.

Further independent studies include NSPCC research that interviewed 50 young witnesses and concluded that special measures, in particular live links, helped child witnesses who would otherwise have been reluctant to give evidence.

Our own consultation exercise, 'Improving the Criminal Trial Process for Young Witnesses (2007)' found that where young witnesses used special measures, they had significantly more confidence in the criminal justice system.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251444]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Ministry of Justice aims to reply to all written correspondence within 20 working days of receipt. The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the results of his Department's consultation on weekend voting. [252848]

Mr. Wills: The "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation attracted nearly 1,000 responses. Detailed analysis of the views and evidence provided has taken some time, but good progress is being made. The Government will publish the results as soon as practicable.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1299W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251318]

Mr. Wills: Ministers in the Ministry of Justice have attended six Action Learning Set training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008.

Employment Tribunals Service: Damages

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times employment tribunals awarded costs to a successful applicant in each of the last five years; and what the average award was over that period. [251056]

Bridget Prentice: The following table details the number of claimants, who in a successful claim, were awarded costs and the average sum awarded per case for each of the last five years. The information relates only to costs awarded and does not include awards of compensation where a claim has been successful. In addition, the information does not include preparation time orders, in respect of time spent by a party carrying out preparatory work directly relating to the proceedings or conduct of the hearing, made as a consequence of, for example, the postponement of a hearing, or wasted cost orders made against a representative. These details are not available in current management information systems and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Costs awarded for 2007-08 are not yet available as the data are being validated before publication.

		Costs
	Number of applicants awarded	*Average award (£)*
2006-07	166	2,079
2005-06	148	2,256
2004-05	281	1,828
2003-04	332	1,859
2002-03	307	1,524

Inquests: Armed Forces

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid have been made in order to secure legal representation at inquests into the deaths of armed forces personnel since 2000; and how many have been refused. [251130]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale) on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1332W.

Applications for exceptional funding are made to the Legal Services Commission (LSC), the independent body which administers the legal aid scheme, in the first instance. Exceptional funding legal aid can be granted by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on the recommendation of the LSC for representation at inquests, if the exceptional funding criteria are met. The LSC does not break down the number of applications it receives for representation at inquests by category of inquest.

The MOJ has received applications relating to 16 military inquests since January 2003 and has granted funding for all 16 inquests.

Neither the Legal Services Commission nor the Ministry of Justice has specific data on military inquests prior to January 2003.

Juries: Mentally Ill

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the restrictions which prevent people with mental illness from serving as jurors. [252509]

Maria Eagle: We are committed to publishing a consultation paper reviewing the law in this area. We expect to publish it shortly.

Legal Services Ombudsman

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the legal services ombudsman plans to respond to the application of Mrs. Yvonne Randles of Birkenhead made in January 2006. [252769]

Mr. Straw: The Legal Services Ombudsman (LSO) is independent of Government and therefore it would not be appropriate to comment on individual cases.

However as the sponsoring department, this particular case has been brought to the attention of the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman.

Magistrates Courts: Welsh Language

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1126W, on magistrates courts: Welsh language, what the *(a)* estimated cost, *(b)* expected completion date and *(c)* start date for the bilingual version of the Libra IT system is; and if he will make a statement; [251178]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1126W, on magistrates courts: Welsh language, how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each month on translating summonses into Welsh since the Libra IT system became operational; and if he will make a statement; [251179]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1126W, on magistrates courts: Welsh language, how many requests there have been for summonses to be translated into Welsh *(a)* in total and *(b)* each month since the Libra IT system became operational, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [251180]

(4) what the *(a)* estimated (i) cost and (ii) completion date at the project outset, *(b)* outturn cost and *(c)* completion date of the Libra IT system was; and if he will make a statement. [251287]

Bridget Prentice: The estimated cost of the Libra bilingual solution is £4 million. Final contractual papers are yet to be signed so precise figures are not available at this point. This figure represents application development costs and does not include support costs which are on-going for the life of the application.

The expected completion and start date for the bilingual version of the Libra IT system is September 2009.

Since the Libra IT system became operational, the Department has spent £425 in total on translating summonses into Welsh. Of this, £80 was spent in August 2008; £165 in December 2008 and £180 in January 2009.

Since the Libra IT system became operational, there have been 21 requests in total for summonses to be translated into Welsh. The following table shows a breakdown of monthly requests by the smallest geographical area.

At the project outset (in December 1998), the Libra IT system was

(i) estimated to (i) cost £184 million and (ii) to complete rollout in July 2001;

(ii) The outturn cost of the project is £444 million;

(iii) The date of completion of rollout was 9 December 2008.

Cost of translation of Libra documents into Welsh

Month	*Cost (£)*
August 2008	80.00
December 2008	165.00
January 2009	180.00
Total	425.00

Number of requests by smallest geographical area

Requests	*Mid and West Wales*	*North Wales*	*South Wales*
August 2008	—	—	1
September 2008	—	—	—
October 2008	—	—	—
November 2008	—	—	—
December 2008	4	4	—
January 2009	5	6	1
Total	9	10	2

Maintenance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what target he has set for the maximum duration between a court awarding a maintenance payment and that payment being made; what steps he plans to take to minimise the amount of time taken; and if he will make a statement. [250945]

Bridget Prentice: In family proceedings, the court has power to order periodical payments for maintenance in a variety of situations. The court can order periodical payments to be made for the benefit of a former spouse or civil partner or for the benefit of a child of the family on divorce or on dissolution of a civil partnership. The court can also order payments to be made when a spouse or civil partner has failed to maintain the other party to the marriage or civil partnership or any child of the family. Additionally, the court can also order any parent to make periodical payments for the benefit of a child under schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989.

When making an order for periodical payments for maintenance, the court can order when the payments shall be made, the amount of the payments to be made and the term for which payments may be made. The court can also order periodical payments to be made on an interim basis before the proceedings are finally resolved. It is not possible to set a target for commencement of payments because the court will determine the appropriate date for the first payment after considering the circumstances of each individual case.

If the periodical payments ordered by the court are not made, the person entitled to receive the payments under the court order can apply to the court to have the order enforced.

Offenders: Learning Disability

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce systematic screening of offenders for *(a)* learning disabilities and *(b)* learning difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [250939]

Mr. Hanson: The issues of learning disability and learning difficulty are matters where my Department works closely with the Department of Health, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The National Offender Management Service and the Department of Health are shortly to pilot a simple screening tool aimed at identifying the possibility of a learning disability. The results of piloting in three prisons will then inform plans for implementing a screening tool across all care settings in the criminal justice system.

In current use with offenders, section 4 of the Offender Assessment System (OASys), assesses level of problems with reading, writing and numeracy and any learning difficulties. OASys is used with offenders sentenced to over 12 months in custody, or on a community sentence, excluding unpaid work.

Through the Learning and Skills Council, we are broadening the assessment requirement for learning difficulties that is placed on offender learning and skills service providers with effect from August 2009. With Dyslexia Action, the Learning and Skills Council is developing tools to identify additional learning needs and a training programme to support their use by its offender learning and skills service providers' staff. This is a matter also under consideration in Wales.

For young people in custody, we intend to place statutory duties on local authorities to fund and commission education in juvenile custody (in England and Wales) and this will include legislation relating to those with special educational needs. In the meantime, we are developing training materials on dyslexia and speech, language and communication needs during 2009-10 for those responsible for education of young people in custody.

To support this greater focus on screening for learning disabilities and difficulties, my Department has worked with the Department of Health to trial a one-day training course for prison officers, aimed increasing awareness of these issues. The training is being rolled out nationally, focused on key staff within each prison: the disability liaison officer; a member of the health care team and a member of the induction team.

Work is also under way to tailor the awareness package for use in probation areas. The training materials to support the probation training are currently under discussion with roll out of the training planned for later this year.

Prison Radio Service: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's expenditure on the Prison Radio Service was in 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of such expenditure in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [251181]

Mr. Straw: Forecast expenditure for the National Prison Radio Service is £1.6 million for 2008-09.

Estimated expenditure for subsequent years is as follows:

	£
2009-10	500,000
2010-11	120,000

This investment in set up costs, licences and other costs falls to the Ministry of Justice and enables the significant majority of ongoing service cost delivery to be met by the Prison Radio Association (a registered charity).

Rape: Criminal Proceedings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the existence and effect of prejudice among *(a)* the police, *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service, *(c)* criminal lawyers, *(d)* the judiciary and *(e)* juries towards rape and sexual assault victims. [242059]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are determined to tackle the barriers to the successful prosecution of rape cases and set out its plans for doing so in the cross-Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse published in 2007.

No assessment has been made on the existence of prejudice within the criminal justice agencies, the judiciary or juries however action has been taken to ensure that policies on rape investigation and prosecution are translated into practice.

Reparation by Offenders: Fixed Penalties

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of proposals for *(a)* appealable community penalties and *(b)* reparation fixed penalty notices for minor crimes. [251238]

Maria Eagle: Community sentences are available for all offences that also carry imprisonment. The sentence in any individual case is entirely a matter for the court, which can impose a community sentence if it considers the offence serious enough to warrant that but not so serious if the custody is the only proper response. All sentences are appealable.

Fixed penalty notices are simple non-bureaucratic financial punishments designed to deal with minor crimes on the spot. As their name implies, they are fixed. This concept does not lend itself to reparation. There are alternative, more suitable out-of-court disposals available, such as conditional cautions, where offenders can be required to make reparations such as repairing any damage caused.

Sentencing: Public Opinion

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of public attitudes to prison and alternative sentences. [251460]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice conducts its own assessments of public attitudes to prison through perceptual questions contained in the British Crime Survey (BCS).

Raising public confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS) is one of the Government's key public service agreement (PSA) targets, and is measured through responses given to the BCS. The PSA2 indicator (year ending March 2003 to March 2008) was based on the question

> "How confident are you that the criminal justice system is effective in bringing offenders who commit crime to justice?".

Research by Smith (2007) suggested that people's confidence varied according to which CJS agency they were considering. A copy of the research can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research070807.htm.

As part of the process of measuring the new 'Justice for All' public service agreement PSA 24, a new set of questions were developed to measure public perceptions of the 'fairness' and 'effectiveness' of the criminal justice system (CJS). These questions are contained in the British Crime Survey, and respondents are asked about their confidence in each of the individual agencies that comprise the CJS. Two of these questions relate to prisons:

> "How confident are you that Prisons are effective at punishing offenders who have been convicted of a crime?"

> "How confident are you that Prisons are effective at rehabilitating offenders who have been convicted of a crime?"

In addition, a set of questions relating to public perceptions about 'Community payback' have been developed for inclusion in the British Crime Survey for 2009-10.

Supreme Court

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* original estimated cost and *(b)* most recent estimated cost of the new Supreme Court building in London was. [251107]

Mr. Straw: As announced on 14 June 2007, the estimated set-up costs for the UK Supreme Court are £36.7 million for capital construction, which will be met over a 30-year period through rental payments of £2.1 million per annum, increasing at a rate of 2.5 per cent per annum, plus £20.2 million of other set-up costs (including provision of library, visitor and dining facilities). The only change to this estimate is an additional £2 million for repair work I announced on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 59WS, and new security measures. The House will be updated of costs once we have the final figure.

Weights and Measures: Prosecutions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* convictions and *(b)* acquittals there have been in cases where people have been prosecuted for using imperial weights and measures at point of sale in each of the last three years; and what sentence was handed down in respect of each conviction; [251058]

(2) how many cases are *(a)* under investigation and *(b)* awaiting trial for alleged use of imperial weights and measures at point of sale; and if he will make a statement. [251059]

Maria Eagle: The available information on convictions and acquittals under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 for offences relating to the weights and measures provisions is provided in the following table.

It is not possible to identify the number of these convictions and acquittals relating solely to the use of imperial weights and measures from other convictions and acquittals under the Weights and Measures Act 1985.

Enforcement of weights and measures legislation is undertaken by local authority Trading Standards Departments. Local authorities do not report the number of cases under investigations or awaiting trial under weights and measures legislation to my Department.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, acquitted at Crown courts, found guilty at all courts and the sentences given under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 for offences related to the weights and measures provisions, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[1,2]

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Proceeded against	21	15	14
Acquitted	—	—	—
Found guilty	17	9	12
Sentenced	17	9	11
Conditionally discharged	2	—	2
Fined	15	9	7
Otherwise dealt with	—	—	2

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Witnesses

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1345-6W, what means are used to assess the effectiveness of witness intermediaries. [251847]

Maria Eagle: The Intermediary Special Measure was piloted in six pathfinder areas and extended nationally after an independent evaluation. The evaluation report indicated that feedback from witnesses and carers was uniformly enthusiastic. Support for intermediaries was almost unanimous across the judiciary and among other criminal justice personnel involved in the pathfinder cases. A summary of the evaluation report is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research120607a.htm

The full report is available at:

http://lexiconlimited.co.uk/PDF%20files/Intermediaries_study_report.pdf

Our intention is that from April 2009 those who commission intermediaries—the police, the CPS and defence—will have the opportunity to provide feedback. This information will be reported to the intermediary governance board on a regular basis and be used to evaluate the service provided by individual intermediaries.

HEALTH

Accidents: Roads

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospital following road traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [252333]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available in the format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1916W. Tables showing the number of people injured in all transport accidents and the number of pedestrians injured in transport accidents respectively have already been placed in the Library.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248055]

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much was spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248797]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its executive agencies, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has spent the following sums on maintaining, decorating, and otherwise improving departmental buildings.

	£
2003-04	4,135,299
2004-05	6,773,772
2005-06	7,418,915
2006-07	5,679,138
2007-08	3,953,125

It is not possible to separate out the costs of maintaining, decorating and improving buildings.

There has been no expenditure on wallpaper since 2001.

Future plans for redecoration are aligned with our overall capital works programme, which is currently under review. Planned expenditure for 2008-09 is £2,343,600.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of his Department's contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251371]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts with management consultants in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251438]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's average response times to letters received are as follows:

			Days
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Letters from hon. Members	13	16	16
Letters from members of the public	10	11	11

Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

The number of letters answered within our Whitehall standard target of responding to 90 per cent. of correspondence within 20 working days is as follows:

			Percentage
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Letters from hon. Members	91	90	92
Letters from members of the public cases	97	93	99

Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ICT projects his Department initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [251394]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251404]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government announced in their pre-Budget report (24 November 2008) that as part of the £3 billion fiscal stimulus package the Department would bring forward £100 million of capital spending to advance the upgrading of up to 600 general practitioner surgeries to training practices. This spending is being brought forward from financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps [illegible] the Secretary of State for Health what exp[illegible] Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251876]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Ministers use their official cars in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code', July 2007.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy where an answer refers to material published on his Department's website to *(a)* make a copy available to the hon. Member who tabled the question and *(b)* place a copy of the material in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [253018]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is our practice that documents containing information requested in a parliamentary question are deposited in the Library and a copy provided for the hon. Member. To be helpful to hon. Members, we may refer in a written answer to more general additional information available on a website and this may not be appropriate for deposit.

Departmental Written Statements

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what time of day his Department makes written ministerial statements available to *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the press; and if he will make a statement. [250428]

Mr. Bradshaw: Written statements are issued from 9.30am and copies are made available to the Press Gallery shortly afterwards. Copies may also be made available to other members of the press on request, and details of a written statement may be repeated in a press notice.

Health Services: Wales

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to reply to the Welsh Affairs Select Committee report on the provision of cross-border health services for Wales. [248196]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government's response to the Welsh Affairs Committee was laid before Parliament on 26 January 2009.

Hospitals: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of emergency readmissions to hospital in each NHS hospital trust in England occurred within 28 days of discharge in each of the last five years. [250688]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in precisely the form requested. The available information, from the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, is contained in the tables 'Emergency readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge from hospital', which have been placed in the Library. This gives figures separately for the age groups 0-15 years and 16 years and over, analysed either by primary care trust or by individual hospital trust.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for a hospital appointment in each primary care trust in Merseyside in each year since 1995. [251457]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the average (median) waiting times for a first out-patient appointment in Merseyside primary care trusts (PCTs), or organisations in existence at the time, in each year since 1997.

Out-patients seen

	Health authority	*Median waiting times (weeks)*
1997-98	Liverpool	7.8
	Sefton	7.3
	St. Helens and Knowsley	6.5
	Wirral	7.9
1998-99	Liverpool	7.8
	Sefton	8.2
	St. Helens and Knowsley	7.0
	Wirral	8.2
1999-2000	Liverpool	8.5
	Sefton	8.8
	St. Helens and Knowsley	8.3
	Wirral	8.4
2000-01	Liverpool	8.7
	Sefton	9.3
	St. Helens and Knowsley	7.8
	Wirral	8.3
2001-02	Liverpool	7.8
	Sefton	7.8
	St. Helens and Knowsley	7.1
	Wirral	7.6

Out-patients seen

	PCT	*Median waiting times (weeks)*
2002-2003	Bebington and West Wirral	7.5
	Birkenhead and Wallasey	7.6
	Central Liverpool	7.5
	Halton	4.9
	Knowsley	7.3
	North Liverpool	7.5
	South Liverpool	7.3
	South Sefton	7.3
	Southport and Formby	7.7
	St. Helens	6.8
2003-2004	Bebington and West Wirral	6.7
	Birkenhead and Wallasey	6.7
	Central Liverpool	7.6
	Halton	5.1
	Knowsley	7.1
	North Liverpool	7.1
	South Liverpool	7.6
	South Sefton	7.0
	Southport and Formby	7.6
	St. Helens	7.1
2004-2005	Bebington and West Wirral	6.5
	Birkenhead and Wallasey	6.3
	Central Liverpool	7.7
	Halton	5.7
	Knowsley	7.2
	North Liverpool	7.1
	South Liverpool	7.5
	South Sefton	7.1
	Southport and Formby	7.9
	St. Helens	7.2
2005-2006	Bebington and West Wirral	6.1
	Birkenhead and Wallasey	6.0
	Central Liverpool	7.2
	Halton	5.3
	Knowsley	6.7
	North Liverpool	6.7
	South Liverpool	7.0
	South Sefton	6.5
	Southport and Formby	7.0
	St. Helens	6.5
2006-2007	Halton and St. Helens	5.9
	Knowsley	6.6
	Liverpool	6.4
	Sefton	6.1
	Wirral	4.6

Out-patients yet to be seen

Month end	*PCT*	*Median waiting times (weeks)*
March 2005	Bebington and West Wirral	4.4
	Birkenhead and Wallasey	4.6
	Central Liverpool	5.2
	Halton	4.0
	Knowsley	4.6
	North Liverpool	4.5
	South Liverpool	4.8
	South Sefton	4.6
	Southport and Formby	5.2
	St. Helens	4.3
March 2006	Bebington and West Wirral	3.3
	Birkenhead and Wallasey	3.7
	Central Liverpool	3.9
	Halton	3.4
	Knowsley	4.0
	North Liverpool	3.6

Out-patients yet to be seen

Month end	*PCT*	*Median waiting times (weeks)*
	South Liverpool	3.9
	South Sefton	3.5
	Southport and Formby	3.6
	St. Helens	3.6
March 2007	Halton and St. Helens	3.3
	Knowsley	3.1
	Liverpool	3.2
	Sefton	3.2
	Wirral	2.9
March 2008	Halton and St. Helens	2.1
	Knowsley	2.1
	Liverpool	2.1
	Sefton	2.4
	Wirral	2.2
November 2008	Halton and St. Helens	2.1
	Knowsley	2.6
	Liverpool	2.9
	Sefton	2.7
	Wirral	2.2

Notes:

1. The average waiting times given are estimated from quarterly and monthly Korner returns submitted by health authorities/PCTs to the Department of Health.
2. Data on waiting times for outpatient appointments was first collected in 1997-98. All patients seen by length of time waited was collected, but only a proportion of the patients not seen. The total number of patients still waiting was first collected in 2004-05. Therefore, to give a meaningful time series data for both seens and not seens have been provided where data was collected. Calculating the average on patients not seen is the preferred method, in line with the method for inpatient waits.
3. The figures show the median waiting times for patients waiting for a first consultant outpatient appointment following a general practitioner referral. Figures relating to patients who have been seen are based on quarterly data aggregated to an annual figure, and the figures relating to patients who have yet to be seen are based on a stock month end figure at the end of the year. Calculations are made on aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
4. The median, rather than the mean, is the preferred measure for average waiting times. This is because the mean waiting time can be skewed by small numbers of long waiters, and is therefore higher than the median.
5. Figures are shown for organisations in existence at the time.

Medical Records

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legal advice he has received on the issue of access rights to summary care records. [252282]

Mr. Bradshaw: No legal advice has been sought or received on the specific issue of access rights to summary care records. Summary care records are no different in this respect from any other confidential personal patient information held by national health service organisations. Access rights are set out in statute, most particularly the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Access to Health Records Act 1990.

In the absence of a statutory right of access to information, an individual may only gain access to information where doing so meets the confidentiality requirements established under the common law. Confidentiality requirements are set out in the Department's publication "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice (2003)" which was endorsed by the Information Commissioner, the General Medical Council and the Department's legal advisers. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library. In line with these requirements, access to summary care record information is only permitted to clinical staff who have a legitimate relationship with the patient for which consent may be implied, for example because they are providing NHS healthcare or treatment, or who have express consent from the patient for other reasons, for example clinical research. Exceptionally, confidential information may be passed to third parties in accordance with certain specific statutory provisions or where required under court order, or where the public interest is such that both the obligations of confidentiality and the competing public interest in the provision of confidential health services need to be overridden.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money due to each local service provider in respect of delivery of care record systems has been withheld owing to delays in delivery. [252337]

Mr. Bradshaw: National programme for information technology contracts provide for delay deductions to be paid by the local service provider (LSP) should the LSP fail to achieve certain key milestones. Under these arrangements, some £25.875 million has to date been paid by CSC, some of which has been earned back. Delay deductions have not to date been paid by any other LSP, but those that have been assessed for Fujitsu will be factored into the contract termination arrangements.

Mental Health Services: Per Capita Costs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is spent per head of population on the provision of mental health services *(a)* on average and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in England. [252598]

Phil Hope: The average primary care trust (PCT) per capita expenditure is £167. The average total per capita spend on mental health is £183, as this includes spend by strategic health authorities, special health authorities and the Department. The per capita spends on mental health in each PCT area in England are shown in the following table.

Expenditure on mental health in England for financial year 2006-07

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*£ per head of population*
County Durham PCT	147
Darlington PCT	147
Gateshead PCT	186
Hartlepool PCT	168
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	130
Middlesbrough PCT	165
Newcastle PCT	174
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	148
North Tyneside PCT	199
Northumberland Care Trust	180
South Tyneside PCT	166
Sunderland Teaching PCT	187
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	126
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching PCT	135
Blackpool PCT	178

Expenditure on mental health in England for financial year 2006-07

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*£ per head of population*
Bolton PCT	120
Bury PCT	132
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	135
Central Lancashire PCT	109
Cumbria PCT	106
East Lancashire PCT	127
Halton and St. Helens PCT	131
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	144
Knowsley PCT	207
Liverpool PCT	185
Manchester PCT	190
North Lancashire PCT	180
Oldham PCT	131
Salford Teaching PCT	161
Sefton PCT	166
Stockport PCT	130
Tameside and Glossop PCT	158
Trafford PCT	154
Warrington PCT	146
West Cheshire PCT	158
Wirral PCT	148
Barnsley PCT	120
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	158
Calderdale PCT	156
Doncaster PCT	175
East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	113
Hull Teaching PCT	165
Kirklees PCT	163
Leeds PCT	170
North East Lincolnshire PCT	168
North Lincolnshire PCT	143
North Yorkshire and York PCT	139
Rotherham PCT	148
Sheffield PCT	191
Wakefield District PCT	129
Bassetlaw PCT	114
Derby City PCT	168
Derbyshire County PCT	130
Leicester City Teaching PCT	160
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	170
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	130
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	168
Nottingham City PCT	186
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	149
Birmingham East and North PCT	170
Coventry Teaching PCT	165
Dudley PCT	132
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	190
Herefordshire PCT	210
North Staffordshire PCT	142
Sandwell PCT	122
Shropshire County PCT	168
Solihull Care Trust	142
South Birmingham PCT	206
South Staffordshire PCT	146
Stoke On Trent Teaching PCT	158
Telford and Wrekin PCT	156
Walsall Teaching PCT	170
Warwickshire PCT	153
Wolverhampton City PCT	156
Worcestershire PCT	161
Bedfordshire PCT	158
Cambridgeshire PCT	162
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	141
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	130
Luton Teaching PCT	163
Mid Essex PCT	145
Norfolk PCT	170
North East Essex PCT	165
Peterborough PCT	186
South East Essex PCT	184
South West Essex Teaching PCT	148
Suffolk PCT	168
West Essex PCT	243
West Hertfordshire PCT	153
Barking and Dagenham PCT	168
Barnet PCT	129
Bexley PCT	148
Brent Teaching PCT	189
Bromley PCT	167
Camden PCT	319
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	264
Croydon PCT	180
Ealing PCT	248
Enfield PCT	198
Greenwich Teaching PCT	221
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	236
Haringey Teaching PCT	239
Harrow PCT	209
Havering PCT	167
Hillingdon PCT	159
Hounslow PCT	205
Islington PCT	363
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	265
Kingston PCT	187
Lambeth PCT	312
Lewisham PCT	312
Newham PCT	184
Redbridge PCT	164
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	161
Southwark PCT	275
Sutton and Merton PCT	164
Tower Hamlets PCT	195
Waltham Forest PCT	158
Wandsworth PCT	230
Westminster PCT	267
Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	172
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	161
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	141
Hastings and Rother PCT	157
Medway Teaching PCT	136
Surrey PCT	151
West Kent PCT	98
West Sussex Teaching PCT	133
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	137
Berkshire West PCT	167
Buckinghamshire PCT	173
Hampshire PCT	138
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	175
Milton Keynes PCT	144
Oxfordshire PCT	168
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	198
Southampton City PCT	205
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	162
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	149
Bristol Teaching PCT	190
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	136
Devon PCT	133
Dorset PCT	180
Gloucestershire PCT	175

Expenditure on mental health in England for financial year 2006-07

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*£ per head of population*
North Somerset PCT	156
Plymouth Teaching PCT	196
Somerset PCT	130
South Gloucestershire PCT	181
Swindon PCT	169
Torbay Care Trust	138
Wiltshire PCT	136
Aggregate PCT Level	167
England Level	183

Notes:
1. PCT level expenditure is calculated using expenditure on own PCTs population divided through by the Unified Weighted Population for the PCT. Unified Weighted Population figures are those used to determine PCT allocations and are adjusted to take account of age, sex and need.
2. The England level expenditure per head is calculated using gross expenditure on mental health as reported in the Department's resource accounts, which includes the Department, PCT, SHA and special health authority expenditure.

Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust: Hospital Beds

To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds there were in the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust area in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available. [252593]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on beds data is collected annually via the KH03 return collecting the total available bed-days by trust. The following numbers are the calculated average daily bed number at the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust.

1997-98: 911 beds (open overnight and day only beds)

2007-08: 786 beds (open overnight and day only beds)

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of beds in the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust area were in mixed sex wards in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; [252594]

(2) how many beds in the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust area were in mixed sex wards in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [252595]

Ann Keen: Information about the number/proportion of beds that are in mixed sex wards is not collected centrally. However, the Healthcare Commission's annual national in-patient survey does provide data relating to mixed sex accommodation. For Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust, the survey shows that in 2007[1], 36.8 per cent. of respondents reported sharing their sleeping area with a patient of the opposite sex upon first admission to the hospital.

Our guidance to the national health service has always required single sex accommodation rather than single sex wards. Even within a mixed ward, good single sex accommodation can be achieved by using single rooms or single sex bays and toilet facilities.

On 28 January 2009, the Department announced a six-month programme to eliminate mixed sex accommodation, this includes a £100 million 'Privacy and Dignity Fund' to support local improvements and tough financial penalties from 2010-11 for those trusts that do not deliver.

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[1] Source: Healthcare Commission National Inpatient Survey, published May 2008.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the capital budget for the NHS in 2008-09 is; and what proportion of this budget has been spent to date; [252330]

(2) how many *(a)* private finance initiative, *(b)* public capital project and *(c)* local improvement finance trust schemes were in operation at the latest date for which figures are available; how many such schemes were subject to delays; and for how long the completion date of each such scheme has been put back; [252510]

(3) what capital expenditure his Department is planning to bring forward; [252511]

(4) what he expects the capital budget for the NHS to be in 2009-10; and what proportion of it he expects to be underspent. [252512]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under this Government 76 private finance initiative funded schemes (with capital value over £10 million); 225 public capital projects over £1 million using the Procure 21 Framework agreement have opened; and 196 local improvement finance trust facilities have opened. Detailed records on schemes below these capital cost thresholds and other public capital funded schemes are not held centrally. Information on delays which occurred on these schemes and the impact on their project timetables is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Government announced in their pre-Budget report (24 November 2008) that as part of the £3 billion fiscal stimulus package the Department would bring forward £100 million of capital spending to advance the upgrading of up to 600 general practitioner surgeries to advanced training practices. This spending is being brought forward from financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10.

The Department will have £5.6 billion of public capital resources in 2009-10. This funding is fully committed albeit based on plans that are still being finalised.

The 2008-09 capital departmental expenditure limit for the Department is £4.7 billion. This funding is fully committed against national and local national health service capital spending programmes. The latest forecast outturn suggests that the great majority of available capital resources will be spent in 2008-09.

Patient Choice Schemes

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of reducing the scope of Choose and Book to operate only as an electronic booking service. [252283]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not considered and has no plans to reduce the scope of choose and book.

The choose and book system has been designed to support patients and general practitioners. It is a big step towards giving patients greater involvement in the decisions about their treatment and is a tool to support patient choice—helping them shape for themselves the services that are on offer. It also helps general practitioners (GPs) navigate through the increasing array of choices that national health service patients can make.

"The NHS Constitution" published on 21 January 2009, gives patients the right to make choices about their NHS care and to information to support these choices. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Primary care trusts must ensure that choices are available and the necessary systems are in place to offer and support choice and to enable booked appointments to be made.

Pharmacy

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of medicine use reviews to meet local health priorities. [250932]

Phil Hope: There is provision within the Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2005 to allow primary care trusts to notify pharmacists in their area of the categories of patients who would benefit from the provision of Medicines Use Review (MUR) services. The pharmacist should consider this in determining who to offer the service to.

Further, the White Paper 'Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future' makes clear we are concerned that the provision of MUR services is currently geared to rewarding the volume of MURs undertaken. We believe it is necessary for MUR services to be prioritised to meet health needs. NHS Employers (NHSE) and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) have discussed a mechanism for delivering this objective and ensuring funding rewards health outcomes. NHSE and PSNC have now presented their proposals to the Department, which are being considered.

Teenage Pregnancy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how he plans to assess the value for money of the £26 million allocated to primary care trusts for programmes to reduce teenage pregnancies; [251784]

(2) how the £26 million allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) for programmes to reduce teenage pregnancies has been spent by each PCT; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the expenditure. [251786]

Dawn Primarolo: A total of £26.8 million has been allocated this year to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve women's knowledge of, and access to the full range of contraception, to help reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and abortions.

It is for SHAs and PCTs to determine how to use this funding most effectively to meet the needs of their local populations. However, departmental officials are working with SHAs to provide advice and spread good practice. Priority areas include encouraging innovation and ensuring equitable access to all methods of contraception including long acting reversible (LARC) methods. Guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) highlighted that the National Health Service could save around £100 million through reducing unintended pregnancies if women switched to LARC.

The South West Public Health Observatory is developing a balanced score card for sexual health which will monitor a range of indicators at PCT, SHA and national level. This will be available during 2009 and the first phase will focus on outcomes for young people.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what was the total value of military equipment supplied by the UK to *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Palestine in 2007-08. [249672]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs' Overseas Trade Statistics do not provide a complete identification of defence equipment. For Standard International Trade Classification division 98 (military weapons and accessories), they record UK exports to Israel worth £77,000 in 2007 and £1,445,000 in the first 10 months of 2008, and UK imports from Israel worth £607,000 and £1,947,000 respectively. There was no recorded UK trade in SITC division 98 with the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248405]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 757W.

Furniture: Safety

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many items of unsafe furniture have been seized by scambuster teams since 2005. [251169]

Mr. Thomas: Since 2005 Trading Standards scambuster teams have been involved in two operations involving unsafe furniture. To date, the majority of the scambuster investigations have been in relation to doorstep selling and rogue traders providing home improvement products.

The north-east team seized 161 pieces of furniture in a warehouse raid. After testing, all 161 items were found to be in compliance with the Furniture and Furnishing (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1998.

The scambuster team covering the south-east region investigated a rogue trader selling furniture door to door. Seven of the nine items of furniture seized failed to comply with the regulations.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the scambusters programme has spent in each year since 2005, broken down by category of expenditure. [251170]

Mr. Thomas: £1.8 million of funding was allocated for the pilot phase of the project. Scambusters teams were piloted in three areas; the North East, Central England and across the South East, London and East of England. In June 2008 the Government announced that £7.5 million of funding was available over three years for specialist trading standards scambuster teams throughout Great Britain. During the course of this year, five new scambuster teams have become operational. The final team in the North West will be operational from April 2009.

Since 2005, the scambuster initiative has spent the following:

Pilot stage

	Salaries	*Marketing*	*Running costs*[1]	*Legal*	£ *Total*
2006-07	438,390.66	10,678.0	85,427.86	57,928.72	592,424.78
2007-08	745,223.36	29,934.94	193,908.20	17,146.76	986,213.26

[1] Running costs will cover training, accommodation, office equipment, travel.

Roll out

	Salaries	*Marketing*	*Running costs*	*Legal*	£ *Total*
2008-09[1]	628,764.94	3,270.0	208,186.71	14,285.40	854,507.05

[1] Figures as of December 2008

Mining: Bangladesh

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department is providing to the proposal by the UK company Global Coal Management Resources plc for an opencast mine at Phulbari in Bangladesh. [248925]

Mr. Thomas: Global Coal Management Resources plc is in contact with officials within the British high commission, Dhaka with respect to their proposed project in Bangladesh. As a UK company they are entitled to support. This support ensures that the company are aware of legislative issues that may have implications for their business in Bangladesh. Officials will remain in contact with the company and the Government of Bangladesh and respond to specific requests for assistance in accordance with Government policy.

Newspapers: Regulation

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* he and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading plans to make an assessment of the implications for the regulatory matters for which each is responsible of the change in ownership of the London *Evening Standard.* [250941]

Mr. Thomas: We understand the Office of Fair Trading does not propose to examine this transaction on competition grounds. My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State has no plans to issue an intervention notice to require an investigation on public interest grounds. There is no indication that the purchase may be expected to result in inaccurate presentation of news or a loss of plurality of views in newspapers.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding each of the regional development agencies has given to trades union bodies in the last 12 months; and what the purpose of such funding was. [250594]

Mr. McFadden: RDAs fund initiatives through a variety of third party organisations to deliver projects to increase economic growth, such as on workforce development and economic inclusion. The specific focus and priorities of such activities are set out in each region's Regional Economic Strategy.

The following funding has been provided by RDAs to trade unions as requested in the question.

RDA	*Trade union*	*Purpose*	*Funding (£000)*
AWM	National Farmers Union	Grant to support Blue Tongue awareness literature	9
	National Farmers Union	Grant to support counselling service to farming communities following the rural floods	25
	Unity	Grant to support return to work assistance for workers within the ceramics industry	150
	Union Learn	Grant to refurbish and equip 20 new learning centres managed by trade unions within employers to provide access to training	82
Total			266
EEDA	National Farmers Union	Contribution towards 'Blue Tongue Information Day'	1
	National Farmers Union	Contribution to sustainable future for sugar beet producers	35
Total			36

RDA	*Trade union*	*Purpose*	*Funding (£000)*
EMDA	National Farmers Union	Marketing support to raise awareness of the Blue Tongue disease across the farming community	3
	National Farmers Union	Grant payment to the NFU for the Joint Venture Farming Group. The main remit of the group being to assist with knowledge transfer between farms	12
	Trade Union Congress	To build management skills in the workplace by using the specialised knowledge of trade unions in order to target organisations in which to offer assistance	114
	Trade Union Congress	Grant funding to help skilled migrant workers achieve their potential by utilising existing skills and offering learning opportunities to gain a recognised qualification	47
Total			176
LDA	Trade Union Congress	Diversity Works for London project. The funding enabled the TUC to train union reps and members on the importance and benefits of diversity in the workplace	86
	Public and Commercial Services Union	To cover the cost of legal advice provided to a member of LDA staff as part of Compromise Agreement negotiations.	0.3
Total			86.3
NWDA	National Farmers Union	Sponsorship of Blue Tongue Awareness Campaign.	3
	Trade Union Congress	Grant funding for delivery of skills strategy.	44
	Trade Union Congress	Promotion of Liverpool Capital of Culture website to union members.	2
	Trade Union Congress	Funding of policy officer post to implement the delivery of Regional Economic Strategy objectives relating to skills and workforce development.	47
Total			96
ONE	Trade Union Congress	Funding in connection with the 'Working Together' project to help local companies raise their profile.	101
Total			101
SEEDA	National Farmers Union	South East Blue Tongue Outbreak in the South East. SEEDA provided a grant to support the joint NFU Campaign to promote and assist the NFU raise awareness for farmers for take up of the BTV8 vaccine to protect livestock in the South East.	14
	National Farmers Union	Bio-security Co-ordinator: A joint funding venture for the Industry Disease co-ordinator, for raising, prevention of disease control for Land Based business in South East.	2
	National Farmers Union	To promote a Phase 2 campaign against a new virus in the South East and to raise awareness for farmers in the South East continuing to March 2009	4
Total			20
SWRDA	South West TUC	Learning works for all—A project to increase productivity and performance especially through raising skills levels, encouraging innovation and promoting learning to employees.	447
	South West TUC	Environmental Driver Implementation Plan—Green South West workplace projects.	49
	TUC (Cornwall Union Learning Services)	TUC Learning Services—Cornwall. To generate more Union Learning Representatives and work-based learners.	16
	National Farmers Union	Modernising Rural Delivery: Uplands delivery. Funding for South West Task Force conference. The conference was hosted by the South West Uplands Task Force, established with the support of the National Farmers Union and the Countryside Landowners Association.	5
Total			517
YF	National Farmers Union	Funding for the production and distribution of a mail shot by NFU to create awareness of the Blue Tongue "Don't hesitate. Vaccinate!" campaign	3
	Yorkshire and Humber TUC	To support the National Learning at Work Day and National Adult Learners Week with a principal aim of promoting training opportunities in the workplace and identifying learning and training needs of employers.	30
	Yorkshire and Humber TUC	To support the programme English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). This funding allowed 300 beneficiaries to take the ESOL course.	302

RDA	*Trade union*	*Purpose*	*Funding (£000)*
	Yorkshire and Humber TUC	To support Union Learn events and a Policy Officer working for the Yorkshire and Humber TUC delivering the Regional Economic Strategy and promoting the work of RDAs among the regional union network.	45
Total			380

Russia

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 955W, on official visits: Russia, when he plans to place a list of the Secretary of State's engagements during his visit to Russia in October 2008 in the Library. [252417]

Mr. Thomas: A copy of the list of my noble Friend the Secretary of State's engagements during his visit to Russia in October 2008 was placed in the Libraries of the House on 26 January 2009.

Unfair Practices: Loans

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are taking to protect consumers from unsolicited mail offering loans without clearly stating the effective rate of interest applied to the loan. [250751]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have taken steps to protect consumers from misleading loan advertisements. In October 2004 the new Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations came into force. These increase consistency and transparency, allowing consumers to compare financial products with confidence. Lenders are now required to provide consumers with clear information when advertising loans. Information relating to the cost of the loan must be displayed with equal prominence to other key mandatory information, ensuring consumers are not misled over additional charges or costs. In particular, any credit advertisement for a specific loan product must include a typical APR (Annual Percentage Rate of Charge).

Video Games: Canada

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in investigating whether Canadian subsidies to the video games industry breach World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules; and when the Government expect to lodge a formal complaint with the WTO. [246712]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 12 January 2009]*: BERR officials have discussed this issue with the European Commission on several occasions last year, as WTO disputes are a matter of Community competence.

No disciplines on subsidies exist under the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services, and Canada has not made any specific market access commitments with regard to computer games services.

On the basis of information examined to date, the Government currently share the Commission's analysis that there therefore appears to be little or no scope to bring a complaint to the WTO in relation to any subsidies Canada may be granting to video games producers established in Canada.

However, we have passed to the Commission additional details recently received from the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) in response to earlier questions from the Commission.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Caravans: Ministerial Responsibility

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1133W, on caravans, which Minister in her Department is responsible for *(a)* mobile caravans and *(b)* Travellers. [252803]

Mr. Iain Wright: I am the Minister responsible for housing and planning policies within the Department relating to mobile caravans and Travellers.

CMPi

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 961W, on CMPi, what payments have been made since February 2008; and for what purpose payments were made to CMPi from 2007-08 to date. [252489]

Mr. Khan: The following table sets out payments made by the Department and its agencies to CMPi since 1 March 2008.

	£
Communities and Local Government (Central)	58,239
Agencies	28,482

Payments were made for various reasons including recruitment advertising, publications, exhibition stands at conferences and to cover conference delegation fees.

Council Tax

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission research into the incidence of local authorities issuing court summonses for non-payment of council tax in error; and if she will make a statement. [251336]

John Healey: The Government believe that the regulations governing the enforcement of unpaid council tax are robust enough to keep any errors in the system at a minimum, and provide ample opportunity for citizens to establish that there has been an error. Local authorities are legally required to send the taxpayer at least two reminders about unpaid council tax before seeking a liability order from the court. They are required, in second reminders, to give the taxpayer 14 days within which payment of any outstanding amount must be paid and a warning that the local authority will apply to the magistrates court for a liability order if the debt remains outstanding after 14 days. The person summoned may appear before the court and always has an opportunity to establish that the council tax has been demanded in error. The court is required to satisfy itself that the sum demanded has become payable by the defendant and has not been paid. Commissioning such research would therefore not be a prudent use of public money.

Council Tax: Discounts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose is of her Department's *(a)* council tax discount grant, *(b)* performance reward grant and *(c)* restoration fund grant. [251823]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government does not administer a council tax discount grant.

The purpose of performance reward grant is to provide local authorities and their partners with a financial incentive to achieve targets agreed within Local Area Agreements.

The Restoration Fund was a one off £31 million fund paid out to the 62 local authorities who incurred significant unmet costs as a direct result of the summer 2007 floods. The funding was intended to support local authorities in their continued efforts to rebuild their communities. Local authorities were free to spend the fund as they saw fit, depending on local priorities.

Council Tax: Non-Payment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of summonses issued by each local authority for non-payment of council tax were subsequently withdrawn in the most recent year for which information is available. [251331]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Mr. Waterson) on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1657W.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1315W, on council tax: valuation, whether the observations on consequentials referred to were made in writing. [251970]

John Healey: No.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by her Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251378]

Mr. Khan: A full answer to the question could be given only at disproportionate cost. However I refer the hon. Member to the following answers given previously to questions covering some of the same ground:

Hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 19 January 2005, *Official Report*, columns 998-99W

Hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 9 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1420-21W

Hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1938W

Hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 182-84W

Hon. Member for Poole (Mr. Syms) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1644-46W

Hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 23 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2104-06W

Hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 545-46W

Hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 786W.

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 302-3W, on departmental procurement, what the breakdown is of the associated costs of Euro RSCG London Ltd in relation to the fire campaign.[1] [252791]

Mr. Khan: The breakdown of the costs paid to Euro RSCG London Ltd (and associated companies) in relation to the fire campaign in 2007-08 is as follows:

Breakdown	£
Euro RSCG 4D Digital	
Transmission costs for Fire Kills national advertising and usage fee for advertisements.	166,468
Press narrative for research carried out for Fire Kills advertising	5,507
Radio narrative for research carried out for Fire Kills advertising	10,234
Creative for campaign support materials	26,078
Agency commission on Media Advertising	145,113
TV production costs for Fire Kills advertising	188,845
Euro RSCG London Ltd	370,269

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of her Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251537]

Mr. Khan: For contracts with public relations consultancies for the financial year 2006-7 and prior, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 331W. For contracts during 2007-8, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W.

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[1] *[Official Report, 10 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 13MC.]*

Eco-Towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1265-6W, on eco-towns, which external companies were engaged to perform communications work using the £385,200 referred to; and what the purpose of each such contract was. [251913]

Mr. Iain Wright: We commissioned a number of agencies through the Central Office of Information (COI) to support us on the communications aspect of the eco-towns programme. The names of the companies involved and their role is set out in the following table.

Agency	*Role*
Four	Public relations and raising awareness about the eco-towns programme and consultation process in the regional media.
M-is	Organising and managing the logistics for a series of consultation 'roadshow' events in and around the potential eco-town locations.
COI	Advertorials in respect of first stage consultation procurement fees for digital work

We also commissioned further agencies through our own framework contract and the details of these are set out in the following table.

Agency	*Role*
Red House Lane	Graphic design and artwork for branding, advertorials and posters.
Andrew Irving Associates	Eco-towns questionnaire for online You Gov omnibus survey.
Cragg Ross Dawson	Qualitative research to explore national and local attitudes to the proposals for eco-towns

Emergency Services: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which communications systems used by the different emergency services are not inter-operable. [252187]

Mr. Khan: The provision of radio communications is a local responsibility for each of the emergency services, the Department for Communities and Local Government does not maintain a central record of operational equipment locally procured. To promote inter-operability between fire and rescue services and the other emergency services, the Department for Communities and Local Government is exercising its powers under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to procure and implement a new wide area radio communications network (the "Firelink" project) for the fire and rescue service. When Firelink has been implemented, the fire and rescue service will be able to communicate with the other emergency services at strategic and operational command level.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects on *(a)* the environment and *(b)* those buying or renting houses of making energy performance certificates publicly accessible. [252144]

Mr. Iain Wright: The assessment made of the likely effects on *(a)* the environment and *(b)* those buying or renting houses of making energy performance certificates publicly accessible is contained in the "regulatory impact assessment energy performance of buildings directive articles 7-10", published in March 2007. This was deposited in the House of Commons Library on 23 March 2007.

Fire Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether staff employed in regional fire control rooms will be eligible for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. [252730]

Mr. Khan: Staff in the new regional fire control centres which are local authority owned companies will not be in Fire Brigade employment and will not be eligible.

Fire Services and Local Government: Influenza

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Audit Commission has made of the preparedness of *(a)* the fire and rescue authorities and *(b)* local authorities for an influenza pandemic. [252481]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred:

Your Parliamentary Question on what assessment the Audit Commission has made of the preparedness of (a) the fire and rescue authorities; and (b) local authorities for an influenza pandemic has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has made no specific assessment of the preparedness of fire and rescue authorities or local authorities for an influenza pandemic.

Auditors appointed by the Commission undertake an annual use of resources assessment at each fire and rescue authority and local authority. One element of this assessment covers the risk management arrangements in place at the authority and auditors report any significant weaknesses they identify in those arrangements as part of their annual audit reporting.

Fire Services: Equality

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance (i) her Department and (ii) the Fire Service College have given to fire services on diversity (A) quotas and (B) recommendations for operational fire and rescue roles. [252292]

Mr. Khan: In June 2008 Communities and Local Government published the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy (the strategy). The strategy provides advice for Fire and Rescue Services on equality and diversity issues. The Fire and Rescue Service national framework requires Fire and Rescue Services to implement the provisions of the strategy. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Guidance on setting specific local minority ethnic recruitment targets were provided to the Service under cover of Fire Service circular 55-2008 published on 23 October 2008. The circular is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/frc552008.pdf

The Fire Service college does not issue advice or guidance to the Fire and Rescue Service on diversity targets or recommendations for operational fire and rescue roles.

Fire Services: Military Aid

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department classifies the withdrawal of armed forces' emergency fire cover and the associated obligation to pay for alternative contingency cover as a new burden on the fire and rescue authorities. [252181]

Mr. Khan: The provision of the armed forces to provide emergency fire cover has always been discretionary. The 2003 White Paper 'Our Fire and Rescue Service' made it clear that no party should proceed on the basis that the armed forces would be available to provide emergency cover in the event of industrial action. Delivery of an efficient and effective fire service, including arrangements for the provision of emergency fire cover, is the responsibility of fire and rescue authorities, which are expected to live within existing resources.

Government Offices for the Regions: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which programme budgets were administered by the Government offices for the regions in 2007-08, broken down by sponsoring Department; and what the amount of each was. [252387]

Mr. Khan: The Government offices do not undertake an annual exercise to collect information on the programme budgets administered on behalf of sponsor Departments. No information is therefore available for 2007-08.

The most recent year in which information on programme budgets was collected was in 2006-07 when the figures were as follows:

Sponsor Department	*Programme funding (£)*
Department for Transport	2,389,000,000
Communities and Local Government	2,180,046,041
Department for Work and Pensions	1,150,845,613
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	947,214,000
Department for Education and Skills	811,379,686
Home Office	233,313,878
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	16,155,346
Total	7,727,954,564

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administration costs of the Government Offices for the Regions were in 2007-08; and what the budget for each is for 2008-09. [252482]

Mr. Khan: The administration costs for the Government Offices for the Regions in 2007-08 were as follows:

GO	*Final outturn 2007-08 (£000)*
North East	11,826.45
North West	16,095.53
Yorks and Humber	13,447.21
West Midlands	15,000.75
East Midlands	10,857.39
East	11,398.50
South East	13,105.84
South West	13,763.68
London	16,198.99
Total	121,694.34

The budgets for the Government Offices for the Regions for 2008-09 are as follows:

GO	*Budget 2008-09 (£000)*
North East	9,723.87
North West	12,208.56
Yorks and Humber	9,125.90
West Midlands	10,831.40
East Midlands	8,951.99
East	9,505.75
South East	10,613.61
South West	10,645.94
London	12,002.99
Total	93,610.02

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 489W, on Government Office for the Regions: finance, for what reason the Government Office Network has stopped retaining records of the total programme expenditure of the Government Offices for the Regions; and which bodies audit the overall expenditure of the individual Government Offices. [252738]

Mr. Khan: The Government office network does not undertake an annual exercise to review departmental programme expenditure that passes through the GOs since all programme budgets administered by the Government offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. Departments can delegate authority to the regional directors, though all expenditure incurred is recorded in the accounts of the Department concerned.

The Government offices are audited by the Government office audit team and the National Audit Office, although programme expenditure is audited by sponsor Department audit teams.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 952W, on home information packs, if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of the working group. [251958]

Mr. Iain Wright: I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 321W, on home information packs, if she will place in the Library a copy of the proposals submitted to her by the Stakeholder Panel on Home Buying and Selling. [252167]

Mr. Iain Wright: No formal paper was submitted by the Stakeholder Panel on Home Buying and Selling. Following discussions at the panel in November, it became apparent that further work was needed. That is why my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing announced, on 8 December, the establishment of a working group to consider the issue of condition information.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which members of the Homes and Communities Agency board have made a declaration of political activity. [251803]

Margaret Beckett: This information is already in the public domain, the Communities and Local Government press notice dated 17 October 2008 refers to it:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/996383

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Homes and Communities Agency has to buy land. [251820]

Margaret Beckett: The new Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which was established on 1 December 2008, is the Government's key delivery partner in relation to housing and regeneration. It has the ability to acquire land in support of its statutory objects and in accordance with priorities established through its corporate planning process. The HCA can acquire land for a range of purposes, for example to unlock sites in fragmented ownership or to provide access enabling development to proceed.

In addition, the HCA is responsible for the management of the programme for the delivery of more and better homes on surplus public sector land, with a target of 200,000 homes by 2016, of which the aspiration is that up to 50 per cent. of homes delivered will be affordable homes. The HCA is working closely with landowning Departments to ensure that land is coming forward.

In the current market, however, we are keeping all options under constant review and both my Department and the HCA are actively engaged in discussions with the industry.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the Homes and Communities Agency's national affordable homes budget for 2008-09 has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent. [251821]

Margaret Beckett: Over £2.1 billion has been allocated from the Homes and Communities Affordable Housing Programme budget for 2008-09 by the end of December 2008. The HCA are accepting and assessing bids on a continuous basis as part of their continuous market engagement.

Spend on the Affordable Housing Programme to the end of December totalled £1.1 billion which is in line with trajectory for this programme.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planned capital expenditure on housing in future years by her Department and its agencies she is bringing forward. [251797]

Margaret Beckett: On 2 September 2008 we announced a £1 billion market rescue package to increase confidence, stability and fairness in the housing market. On 24 November we brought forward additional capital spending as part of the 2008 pre-Budget report fiscal stimulus. Considering together the September housing announcement and the pre-Budget report, we are making £330 million, £1.195 billion and £55 million of capital available for expenditure on housing in years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively. A further £100 million is being brought forward for regeneration programmes in 2008-10. In addition, £95 million has been made available for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support reforms to Support for Mortgage Interest announced in the September 2008 housing package.

This total package of £1.775 billion includes the additional flexibility offered by the Government, at the pre-Budget report, to the regional development agencies to bring forward £100 million of capital expenditure from financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10. Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are currently working closely with the regional development agencies to take this forward.

It also takes account of the flexibility offered by the Government to local authorities in England to bring forward up to £175 million of planned major housing repairs expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10. Communities and Local Government will invite local authorities in England to bring forward up to this amount to enable councils to invest in a way which will maximise investment in the housing stock in 2009-10.

Housing: EC Action

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Berkley of 13 January, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA132, what assessment she has made of the likely effects on *(a)* churches and *(b)* listed buildings of implementing the EU proposal that member states will no longer be able to provide incentives for the construction or renovation of buildings which do not comply with minimum energy performance requirements. [251907]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are currently considering the European Union's proposal for the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and have yet to carry out the impact assessment.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether householders are required to obtain a certificate of lawfulness when paving over their front garden with permeable material; and what powers local authorities have to inspect the materials used. [252501]

Mr. Iain Wright: Householders are neither required to seek specific planning permission nor obtain a certificate of lawfulness when paving over their front gardens using permeable materials. Local authorities have the right to inspect the materials used as part of their normal enforcement powers.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the mix-adjusted average price of a property purchased by a first time buyer was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [252193]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government calculate monthly mix-adjusted average purchase prices of domestic dwellings bought by first time buyers based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey. This is available for the UK, by country and Government Office region back to February 2002 on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/livetable592.xls

From the weblink given the average mix-adjusted price of a property bought by a first time buyer in November 2008 was £147,329 in England.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department provided to each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area in 2007-08. [252307]

Mr. Iain Wright: HMR Pathfinder allocations for 2007-08 are given in the following table:

Total pathfinder funding 2007-08

HMR Pathfinder	*£ million*
Birmingham Sandwell	29.2
East Lancs	48.9
Hull and East Riding	24.9
Manchester Salford	53.9
Merseyside	50.9
Newcastle Gateshead	41.0
North Staffs	38.5
Oldham Rochdale	37.5
South Yorks	49.8
Tees Valley[1]	12.75
West Yorkshire[1]	12.75
West Cumbria[1]	5.5

[1] The three wider lower demand areas.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were *(a)* demolished, *(b)* acquired and *(c)* refurbished in each housing market renewal pathfinder area in 2007-08. [252498]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W.

Housing: Students

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning policy guidance or circulars have been issued which address issues relating to student housing. [251804]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) 'Housing' and its supporting practice guidance on Strategic Housing Market Assessments address issues relating to the provision of student housing.

The Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators—Update 2/2008 addresses monitoring issues relating to the provision of student housing.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how student halls of residence are treated for *(a)* planning policy purposes and *(b)* valuation purposes. [251888]

Mr. Iain Wright: The way in which student halls of residence are treated for planning policy purposes and valuation purposes differs. Under the planning system, uses of land and buildings are categorised through reference to the Town and Country (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). It is for local planning authorities to determine, in the first instance, depending on the individual circumstances of each case, whether student halls of residence would fall under one of the residential use classes or would be considered 'sui generis' (i.e. does not fit into any of the specified use classes).

For valuation purposes, student halls of residence are treated as domestic property, and subject to council tax bandings. Where they form part of the same hereditament as a college, they will be treated as composite property. The value of the domestic element of a composite is apportioned out of the value of the whole. Though they are banded, they are an exempt class under Class M of the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) Order 1992 (SI No 558), and no council tax is payable.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account is taken of *(a)* student halls of residence and *(b)* houses of multiple occupation in the process of establishing local authority targets for house construction. [251889]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) requires all local planning authorities to adopt an evidence based approach to assessing current and future levels of need and demand for housing. Local authority housing targets are set through Regional Spatial Strategies. Houses of multiple occupation are taken into account as a single dwelling when establishing local authority housing targets for construction. Student halls of residence are not included because they are not available on the open market for occupation and often provide only temporary accommodation during term time.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood (Mr. Pickles) and Ongar of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 960W, on housing: students, what assessment she has made of the extent to which new additional student accommodation in university towns releases housing stock for non-student use; and if she will make it her policy to count such new accommodation towards regional spatial strategy building targets. [251961]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is not collected centrally on the extent to which new additional student accommodation in university towns releases housing stock for non-student use.

As mentioned in my earlier answer, communal establishments, such as student accommodation, are not included in the regional spatial strategy housing targets. This is because they are not available for occupation on the open market and often provide only temporary accommodation during term time.

Interreg Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1147W, on the Interreg Programme, what projects are being considered under the Interreg *(a)* IVA and *(b)* IVB programmes which relate to the United Kingdom. [252787]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally by my Department and it could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1147W, on the Interreg Programme, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* remit is of each of the five Interreg IVC programmes. [252794]

Mr. Khan: The information on each of the five projects is as follows:

1. Power

The lead partner is South East England Development Agency. The project will explore ways to move towards a low carbon economy at regional level, in particular re-formulating regional development strategies and policy instruments and identifying effective forms of sub-regional action which also contribute to regional competitiveness. The seven participating regions will work towards achieving long-term policy objectives around low carbon by finding the best way forward.

2. SEE

The lead partner is Design Wales. The project will share information on policies that have been successful in using design to boost innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability or economic development. The project has a partnership of 11 organisations, which targets small and medium enterprises and their lack of resources for implementing design practice and innovation into their business.

3. PIMMS Transfer

The lead partner is the London borough of Bromley. The project builds on the 'transfer methodology' developed under Interreg IIIC, which identified the critical success factors behind best practice case studies in mobility management. It aims to stimulate modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport by increasing the implementation of high quality mobility management techniques and policies in European regions and to extend, deepen and promote best practice in mobility management. The partnership is composed of 15 organisations from 15 countries.

4. GRaBS

The lead partner is the Town and Country Planning Association. The Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns project aims to improve the regional decision and policy making process in relation to the planning and development of new and existing urban areas in nine member states in the context of climate change. It comprises 14 partners.

5. RAPIDE

The lead partner is the South West Regional Development Agency. The project deals with the role of the public sector in stimulating innovation in regions, in particular helping mainly small businesses bring innovative products to market more quickly. By focusing on good practices already identified in partner regions, it aims to develop robust, workable action plans that each region will implement. The project includes 13 partners from 11 member states.

Liverpool Corporation Act 1902

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers she has to refer to the courts an alleged breach of the provisions of the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902. [251224]

Mr. Khan: Ministers have no power to refer to the courts an alleged breach of the provisions of the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902. Ministers' powers under the 1902 Act or the Lever Park Act 1969 which replaced certain provisions of the 1902 Act, are restricted to resolving disputes, or appointing an arbitrator to resolve disputes, between the county council and the corporation. No request has been made to resolve any dispute.

Lloyds TSB

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting held by the Minister for the South West with the Chairman of Lloyds TSB on 14 January 2009. [252089]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* A copy of the minutes has been deposited in the Library.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on the designation of billing authorities in areas with two executive tiers of local government. [251986]

John Healey: Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 defines a billing authority as a district or London borough council, the Common Council or the Council of the Isles of Scilly. That definition is expanded by section 19 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and regulation 7 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3022) ("the Finance Regulations") to include county councils to which the functions of district councils have been transferred. The Regulations also provide that, in the period to 1 April 2009, for those two tier areas undergoing restructuring on that date, the preparing or shadow council (i.e. the council responsible for implementing restructuring) will be the billing authority for the reorganised area in relation to 2009-10.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements parish councils must meet in order to be able to use the new well-being power under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. [251806]

John Healey: In order for a parish council to be eligible to exercise the power of well-being it must first meet all four conditions set out in the Parish Councils (Power to Promote Well-being) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2008. A council must have:

A qualified clerk in the use of the well-being power

A minimum of two-thirds of vacancies on the council filled at the last ordinary elections

80 per cent. of councillors trained in the use of the well-being power

Published a statement on how it intends to involve the community in the use of the well-being power.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has provided to local authorities on placing money in government bonds. [251799]

John Healey: The Department does not provide advice to local authorities on particular financial products. Under the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions. The Department's guidance on local government investments is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

Local Government Finance: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the effect of inward migration on the level of funding for local authority services in each of the principal seaside towns in England. [251147]

John Healey: Formula grant is distributed to all local authorities in England taking into account the relative needs and relative resources of each local authority relative to all other authorities providing the same services. There is also a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism. For the current three-year settlement, 2008-09 to 2010-11, the floor damping mechanism ensures that all authorities receive at least the minimum percentage increase in grant year-on-year on a like-for-like basis.

In the 2008-09 to 2010-11 settlements, the 2004-based sub-national population projections for 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively have been used as the main measure of the resident population. These projections were published by the Office for National Statistics on the 27 September 2007, and were the latest data available at the beginning of the three year settlement period. Population projections take into account trends in fertility, mortality and migration.

Local Government: Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1659W, on local government: billing, whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of local authorities which pay invoices within 10 days of receipt. [252596]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 242W.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Local Government Association on the payment of supplier invoices within 10 days of receipt. [252605]

John Healey: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I have discussed with the LGA how authorities could help support business by paying invoices more promptly. These discussions were in the context of wider discussions about the range of local responses authorities are putting in place to the current economic downturn.

Local Government: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial penalties local authorities may incur in circumstances where they do not meet their carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets from 1 January 2010 onwards. [251819]

Mr. Iain Wright: If targets included in local area agreements (whether targets related to carbon emissions or otherwise) are not achieved in full it can result in a lower level of performance reward grant. My Department consulted on the operation of a new reward scheme for local areas in 2008, based upon local area agreements. This will be related to targets agreed by local authorities and their partners and our intention is to judge the amount of reward payable by reference to average performance across the targets agreed within the LAA. Responses to this consultation are being considered and an announcement will be made shortly.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a mandatory cap and trade scheme designed to cover emissions from large business and public sector organisations which the Government intend to bring in to operation in 2010. Large local authorities are expected to qualify for the scheme. There will be no targets for individual organisations in the scheme, but an overall cap will be applied to the sector. Revenue raised from CRC will be recycled back to participants. To incentivise improved energy efficiency, the revenues repaid to participants will be subject to a bonus or penalty related to their relative performance compared to other participants. In 2010-11 the maximum bonus or penalty will be +/-10 per cent. rising to 50 per cent. in later years. However it is important to recognize that the net savings due to energy efficiency measures will outweigh any costs of the scheme.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect she estimates the recent stock market downturn will have on the funding of the Local Government Pension Scheme. [251790]

John Healey: The scheme's most recent actuarial valuation of the 89 pension funds in England and Wales confirmed its ongoing solvency and set the required employer contributions until 31 March 2011.

The next triennial valuation takes place on 31 March 2010 and will assess the factors influencing the stability and solvency of the scheme. New employer contribution changes will apply from 1 April 2011 until 31 March 2014.

In the meantime, scheme administrating authorities will be monitoring events carefully and in consultation with their advisers within the context of their investment strategies and funding strategy statements, both of which are published locally.

Local Government: Referendums

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the use of public funds to campaign in local referendums. [251731]

John Healey: The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, first issued in 1988 and revised in 2001, which local authorities must have regard to, states that local authority publicity should not be capable as being perceived as seeking to influence public support for, or opposition to, the referendum proposals and should not associate support for, or opposition to, the proposals with any individual or group.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to the letter of 25 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Belle Vue Vision. [250869]

Hazel Blears: I have now replied to my right hon. Friend's letter.

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of homebuyers took out mortgage payment protection insurance in respect of new mortgages in each year since 2000. [251726]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimated numbers of households in England with mortgages that have mortgage insurance back to 2002-03 are presented in the following table. It is not possible to say if these insurance policies were taken out at the time of house purchase/remortgage or at another time.

Trend in households buying with a mortgage that have mortgage insurance[1], England

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
All buying with mortgage (thousand)	8,504	8,523	8,300	8,144	8,072
With mortgage insurance (thousand)	5,036	5,088	4,812	4,798	4,670
with mortgage insurance (percentage)	59	60	58	59	58

[1] Insurance that pays off all or part of the mortgage in case of critical illness, or accident, sickness or unemployment/redundancy

Source:

Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent editions of guidance and rating manuals that the Valuation Office Agency uses for valuing ports and businesses within ports. [251723]

John Healey: The latest Rating Manuals used by the Valuation Office Agency are published on their website and are available to inspect at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/index.htm

There are separate sections for different types of property, including docks and harbours. There is not a separate section for businesses within ports.

Optimisa

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 353W, on Optimisa, if she will place in the Library a copy of the reports by Andrew Irving Associates and its parent company Optimisa on *(a)* eco-towns public attitudes, *(b)* local government petitions and *(c)* sustainable homes telephone survey. [252174]

Mr. Khan: With regards to part *(a)* eco-towns public attitudes, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 642W.

The following reports will be placed in the Library:

(b) local government petitions

(c) sustainable homes telephone survey.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government office for the East Midlands has to make budgetary provision for payment of the workplace parking charge proposed by Nottingham city council. [252471]

Mr. Khan: No decision has been taken by Transport Ministers on whether to confirm Nottingham city council's workplace parking levy scheme order, and it would not be appropriate to speculate on the implications for the Government office.

Public Bodies: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public bodies she expects to *(a)* inspect and *(b)* audit local authorities in 2009-10. [251861]

Mr. Khan: From 1 April 2009 a new system of assessment and inspection will be introduced, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). CAA will cover priority outcomes in local areas delivered by local authorities, either by themselves or with other service providers. As part of CAA there will continue to be a scheduled programme of inspections for services for vulnerable children (looked-after children and safeguarding) and for youth offending, led by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation respectively.

Other inspections under CAA will be primarily triggered by risk, and carried out by the relevant independent local services inspectorates, either individually or jointly. The inspectorates involved in carrying out CAA and associated inspections will be the Audit Commission, the new Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, and Ofsted.

The inspectorates are aiming to publish the final framework for the operation of CAA shortly.

All audits of local authorities will continue to be carried out by external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission.

Tenant Services Authority: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Tenant Services Authority has spent on *(a)* branding, *(b)* external public affairs consultancies and *(c)* external public relations. [251735]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) has spent £90,066 on research, planning and delivery work to develop the TSA brand.

The TSA has spent £56,133.14 to date on engaging with its stakeholders, further to its statutory objective to deliver effective, tenant-focused regulation.

The TSA has spent £17,019.79 on external public relations.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology her Department uses to determine whether an unauthorised Travellers' camp is *(a)* tolerated and *(b)* not tolerated in circumstances where the camp is on (i) the Travellers' own land and (ii) land not owned by the Travellers and has been established without planning permission; what definition her Department uses of (A) tolerated and (B) not tolerated unauthorised Travellers' camps; and who is responsible for determining whether such camps are tolerated. [251776]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for the local authority or landowner to decide whether to tolerate an unauthorised site.

For the purposes of the bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, we ask that local authorities count caravans:

> on unauthorised encampments as "tolerated" where the local authority or landowner has decided not to seek the removal of the encampment; and "not tolerated" where the local authority, police or landowner are using, or preparing to use powers to remove the encampment.
>
> on unauthorised developments as "tolerated" where the local authority has decided not to seek their removal (this includes those developments with temporary planning permission); and "not tolerated" where a planning enforcement notice has been served, the results of a planning inquiry are pending, an injunction has been sought or where the compliance period has been extended.

Advice on toleration is set out in DOE circular 18/94 'Gypsy Sites Policy and Unauthorised Camping', as amended, and 'Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping'.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education

17. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made towards the target of having half of all young people experience higher education. [252531]

Mr. Lammy: Over half of young people from all social backgrounds aspire to go to university and we are helping them to fulfil that aspiration. The latest UCAS figures show that acceptances from England are up by 7.4 per cent. (22,764) on the same point last year, and this year's figures are the highest ever. Increasing initial participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18-30 is challenging but an essential investment in our future prosperity.

19. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to announce a timetable for the proposed review of higher education. [252533]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke) the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills, told the House on 8 January 2004 that there would be an independent review of tuition fees, reporting to the House, once we had evidence on the first three years of the variable fee regime. The first three years of operation will not be concluded until autumn next year.

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress is being made on his Department's University Challenge programme. [252536]

Mr. Lammy: At the end of the new 'University Challenge' consultation we were delighted to receive 27 initial expressions of interest from across the country. These demonstrated a widespread recognition of the value of university centres to education, economic development, regeneration, and the cultural life of rural areas, towns and cities. HEFCE are currently preparing a policy document to guide formal applications. We expect to fund 20 new local higher education centres over the next six years.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress has been made in the higher education debate; and if he will make a statement. [252519]

Mr. Denham: We have a world-class higher education system in this country with rising student numbers and an increasing world share of citations and high impact research papers. Total Government investment in HE will rise by 30 per cent. in real terms by the end of this CSR period compared to 1997. This is in sharp contrast to the 36 per cent. fall in funding per student between 1989 and 1997. We have also doubled investment in research.

I want to ensure our university system will still be world class in the future. That is why we are currently consulting on the framework for higher education for the next 10 to 15 years.

The debate is progressing well, and I am delighted by the healthy level of engagement and discussion it has provoked. As well as the contributions we published last year, we have received a number of submissions from businesses and others who depend on universities for their success. We will publish these shortly.

Skills Levels

12. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support his Department provides to businesses, community leaders and training providers for them to work together to raise skills levels in their local communities. [252526]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council is working closely with businesses, colleges, community leaders and training providers to raise skill levels in local communities. Further education colleges are playing a crucial role in bringing communities together. This includes providing English for speakers of other languages courses, which underpin broader efforts to ensure community cohesion. The LSC is also working closely with local authorities through local area agreements and multi area agreements to ensure that skills provision is better aligned to local need. This local focus will be carried through to the Skills Funding Agency where local colleges and providers will work with the SFA and other key partners to respond quickly to the needs of local communities.

Further Education Colleges

13. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of capital funding for further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [252527]

Mr. Simon: It is thanks to this Government's commitment to colleges that investment in capital projects will amount to £2.3 billion between 2007 and 2010. In total, since the programme began under this Government, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed. Only 42 colleges have not yet benefited from investment. The programme has therefore been a huge success.

In 1997 not a single penny was spent on FE colleges, with a National Audit Office report saying FE buildings were not fit to learn in. The Opposition have committed to cutting £610 million from the skills and universities budget; and have repeatedly refused to say whether they would continue our capital programme. Until they come clean about where their cuts would fall, every college should be worried.

I want to make it clear today that there is no freeze in the capital programme. There is no question the £110 million brought forward for this year, and the £100 million for next year will be spent.

Research Funding: Universities

14. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for research funding for universities in the next three years. [252528]

Mr. Lammy: Altogether public investment in science and research will reach over £6 billion by 2010-11, taking Government support for the UK's research base to its highest level ever.

This investment is essential in these economically challenging times. It is crucial we continue to invest in research and higher level skills, as this will underpin our recovery and be key to our future prosperity.

Economic Downturn

15. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with higher education institutions and universities on assistance they can provide to people and businesses during the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [252529]

Mr. Denham: I have met with university vice-chancellors, representatives of university careers services and graduate recruiters to discuss the response of universities to the economic downturn. The recent publication "Standing Together" provides impressive evidence of universities helping business.

I am particularly pleased that HEFCE is supporting universities to help individuals through the announcement of the £50 million Economic Challenge Investment Fund announced earlier this week. We are also helping graduates re-train by trebling the number of professional and career development loans and working with major employers and the third sector to encourage internships and volunteering, both of which provide valuable employability skills for young graduates.

Further Education: Capital Projects

16. **Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has for funding capital projects in further education. [252530]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion modernising further education colleges, and plan to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years.

However, the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for projects is being affected by the downturn.

The Learning and Skills Council will therefore examine the position of individual projects by early March before making further funding decisions.

University Places

18. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university places were available at the start of the academic year *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [252532]

Mr. Lammy: There continues to be strong growth in student numbers. There were 1,505,000 students enrolled at higher education institutions at the beginning of 2007/08. UCAS suggests an increase of around 7.4 per cent. in English-domiciled applicants who have been accepted on to full-time undergraduate courses for 2008/09. We are providing full funding for 30,000 more places in 2009-10 than we did in 2007-08.

Apprenticeships

20. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of people taking up apprenticeships. [252534]

Mr. Simon: As set out in the recent response to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) we are taking a wide range of steps. Most notably we recently launched the National Apprenticeships Vacancy Matching Service and announced a further £140 million to provide 35,000 extra places this year. From April 2009 we will be extending group training associations and creating apprenticeship training associations to help deliver the anticipated increases in the number of people taking up apprenticeships.

Further Education

21. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what work his Department is undertaking with the further education sector to provide training or retraining for those who become unemployed. [252635]

Mr. Simon: We are doing everything we can to help people through this tough time. Further education is at the heart of our response. We are investing £4.5 billion to give employers and individuals the skills they need to improve their competitiveness now and in the future. We have recently announced:

£83 million to provide training for a further 75,000 people who have been unemployed for six months or more;

£158 million to support those looking for work;

£140 million expansion of 35,000 apprenticeship places;

£350 million improved flexibilities in Train to Gain for bite-sized courses for SMEs;

A trebling of the number of Professional Career Development Loans available so that up to 45,000 learners a year can use loans as a way to finance reskilling; and

Greater flexibility in how colleges and providers use their funding below Level 2.

'FE Works', a good practice guide recently published by the Association of Colleges, provides further examples of ways the sector is responding to the economic downturn.

North Notts College

22. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to modernise the buildings of North Notts College. [252537]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges—including support for North Nottinghamshire College. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years.

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the administration of the capital programme. Decisions on individual proposals are an operational matter for the council.

I will ask the council's chief executive, Mark Haysom, to write to my hon. Friend.

Construction Industry

23. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he next expects to meet representatives of the construction industry to discuss skills levels in that industry. [252538]

Mr. Simon: The Department is in regular touch with representatives of the construction industry about the industry's skills base. We are working closely with them to tackle key current issues like ensuring support for apprentices, and also the longer term skills challenges the industry faces.

Employment-related Skills

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps he has taken to improve the employment-related skills levels of people with low skills. [252520]

Mr. Simon: This Government are committed to giving real help to people who want to improve their skills levels during this difficult time. Alongside existing programmes and training provision, we have announced new measures to provide employment-focused training for people facing or at risk of redundancy, as well as those who have been out of work for a longer period of time:

£158 million, comprising funding from Train to Gain and the European Social Fund, which will allow training providers to deliver a holistic service to support individuals facing redundancy and employers.

£83 million to provide 75,000 additional places in colleges and other training providers for people who have been out of work for more than six months.

£140 million to fund an additional 35,000 apprentices nationally in both the public and private sectors.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total amount of compensation claims in respect of which legal proceedings are complete made against *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months was; and what the nature of each of the 10 highest such claims in each case was. [249099]

Mr. Simon: One compensation claim was settled at some £71,000 (including costs) in the past 12 months. The claim arose out of a case of a former employee contracting mesothelioma as a result of asbestos exposure. Another claim was settled and paid just over 12 months ago for the same condition although the solicitor's costs at some £16,000 for that claim were paid within the last 12 months.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each year since the Department was established. [251874]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on Monday 26 January, *Official Report*, column 6W.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted hours, in the last year for which figures are available; [252022]

(2) what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252021]

Mr. Simon: The information requested of the Department and its agencies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

As part of flexible working arrangements, employees from Grade 6 to Executive Assistant can take time off in lieu for extra hours worked or adjust their working week to make up for shortfalls or excess hours work on a particular day. All flexible working arrangement records are held locally and a central record is not kept and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Flexible working arrangements are not available to members of the senior civil service.

The Department's non-departmental public bodies do not keep central records.

Graduates: Taxation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will assess what effect the introduction of a graduate tax would have on university students. [252553]

Mr. Lammy: We have no plans to assess the effect of introducing a graduate tax for repayment of financial support made to higher education students. A graduate tax was considered alongside variable and fixed fee options as part of the student finance review in 2002 and the White Paper 'The future of higher education' in 2003.

A number of disadvantages were identified including: the cost of a graduate tax (which is greater than variable fees and loans), the lack of any mechanism for early additional repayments and the slower rate of repayment of a graduate tax when compared with loans.

Government concluded that the Graduate Contribution Scheme based on variable fees of up to £3,000 set by higher education institutions presented the best option for both students and universities and this was subsequently enacted via the Higher Education Act in 2004.

Higher Education: Advertising

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many advertisements to attract students were placed by each university in each year since 1997; which universities placed such advertisements; how many were placed *(a)* in print newspapers and magazines, *(b)* on a website and *(c)* on television and radio; and at what cost in each case. [249385]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed in June 2007, following the Machinery of Government changes, and as a result we are only able to provide information from June 2007.

The Department does not hold the information requested centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost to gather the information requested.

Higher Education: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consideration the Higher Education Funding Council for England will give to the effect on local area regeneration of establishing a university in north Northamptonshire. [252891]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England will shortly publish its criteria for the assessment of proposals for new higher education centres. In our new "University Challenge" policy document launched last year we set out the full range of benefits which such centres can bring to local communities, including local and regional regeneration. The strongest proposals for new centres should be able to demonstrate the full range of benefits which our policy is designed to promote.

London Metropolitan University: Redundancy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to minimise the number of redundancies at the London Metropolitan University; and if will make a statement. [252597]

Mr. Lammy: London Metropolitan University is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts. As such the Secretary of State has no powers to intervene in how London Metropolitan University chooses to operate its employment policies.

Research: Standards

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what proportion of research projects commissioned by the research councils in each of the last five years are collaborations between different disciplines; [249100]

(2) what proportion of research commissioned by the research councils in each of the last five years is considered multi-disciplinary. [249105]

Mr. Lammy: Research councils define multidisciplinary research as research that brings together knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more disciplines or established fields of study. The proportion of research supported by each council classified as multidisciplinary research is set out in the following table:

Multidisciplinary research as a proportion of research funded, (approximate)

			Percentage
Research Council	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)	9	14	27
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	29	31	31
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	44	40	41
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	37	42	59
Medical Research Council (MRC)	39	36	36
Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)	42	47	39
Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)	8	6	11

Note:

1. Individual Councils use different ways of classifying multidisciplinary research and of collating relevant data. In addition, BBSRC, MRC, NERC and STFC also fund their own institutes and centres, which are intended to foster multidisciplinary research. Data on these are not included.

Equivalent data are not readily available for research funded prior to 2005-06.

Students: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students attending higher education institutions with children under the age of three receive a childcare grant. [250972]

Mr. Lammy: The childcare grant is available for full-time, higher education students with dependent children in registered or approved childcare; it is not available to part-time students. In academic year 2007-08 there were 3,700 students with at least one child under three who were receiving childcare grant. While information is available on students who receive a childcare grant, information is not held centrally which identifies students with children under three who do not apply for a childcare grant. Therefore the proportion of students with children under three who receive a childcare grant is not known. Students receiving childcare grant make up around 1 per cent. of higher education students applying for some form of student finance support.

Students: Greater Manchester

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people from Manchester, Withington constituency were admitted to universities in England in 2008. [251030]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2006/07 academic year 1,765 students were admitted to English Higher Education Institutions from Manchester Withington parliamentary constituency. This figure covers entrants to courses of all levels and modes and has been rounded to the nearest five. This figure has been taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and is based on a standard registration population.

Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available from 29 January 2009, and for the 2008/09 academic year in January 2010.

Technology Strategy Board: Grants

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many offers of financial support by the Technology Strategy Board have not resulted in grants being awarded because matching funding requirements were not met in each month since June 2007. [252687]

Mr. Lammy: For the period in question there were three projects that received an offer of grant from the Technology Strategy Board, but where no grant was paid due to the inability to provide the matched funding required.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Vaccination

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to ensure that the target animal batch safety testing of veterinary vaccines *(a)* is not taking place under any existing licence and *(b)* will not be permitted under any future licence unless an application for a waiver has been rejected by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate or the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate has identified a specific reason why an application cannot be made. [252992]

Meg Hillier: Under current arrangements, target animal batch safety testing of veterinary vaccines is authorised under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in project licences covering a range of safety tests, rather than on a product by product basis.

The obligation on a project licence holder to seek a waiver to the requirement for such tests would be triggered by project licence standard condition 6 which requires that the minimum number of animals of the lowest degree of neurophysiological sensitivity is used in procedures causing the least pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.

The role of the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate, which is aware of the technical requirements, is to advise on whether and under what terms proposals for animal use should be authorised and to inspect to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the relevant project licence.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to issue new guidance to the Association of Chief Police Officers on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder; and if she will make a statement. [250808]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will be issuing revised operational guidance on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder to police forces in due course. Additionally, ACPO have issued guidance to police officers on the use of penalty notices for disorder in respect of certain offences.

Asylum

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the asylum support budget was in each of the last five years; and what it is projected to be in each of the next five years. [242778]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Expenditure on asylum support in the four years from 2004-05 to 2007-08 was as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	814
2005-06	626
2006-07	515
2007-08	485

Budgeted expenditure for 2008-09 is £452 million. UKBA is currently reviewing plans and forecasts for future years and we are unable to provide information about budgets for these periods until plans have been finalised and agreed by the UKBA Board.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the e-borders programme to cover all passenger movements in and out of the United Kingdom. [250065]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders system will count all passenger and crew movements in and out of the UK by March 2014.

This will be done by processing travel document information provided by carriers in advance of travel.

Burglary

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of domestic burglary there were in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* Hampshire and *(d)* Romsey constituency in each of the last five years. [251038]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information on the number of offences recorded by the police is given in the following table.

Crime statistics are not collected at constituency level. The area of Romsey comes within the Test Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and therefore these figures have been provided.

Offences of burglary in a dwelling recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England and Wales	402,345	321,507	300,517	292,260	280,704
South East region	40,879	34,629	33,576	32,706	30,098
Hampshire police force area	7,030	5,415	5,810	5,451	5,300
Test Valley CDRP	311	241	299	256	279

Crime

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in each of the last three years she or her predecessor was informed that an individual was about to be arrested. [244233]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: There are occasions where, in the course of the duties as Home Secretary, she is advised that an individual is about to be arrested. The information requested is not held centrally.

Crime: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported cases of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage and *(h)* drug offences there were in (i) Southampton, (ii) Test Valley borough and (iii) the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [251096]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information on the number of offences recorded by the police is given in the following tables. These statistics relate to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) for Southampton and Test Valley, and for Hampshire police force area.

Table 1: Offences recorded for the Southampton CDRP, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Offence group	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Violence against the person	6,685	7,274	7,745	8,515	8,800
Sexual offences	519	566	541	507	527
Robbery	277	269	369	435	354
Burglary	3,560	3,175	3,220	2,877	2,728
Offences against vehicles	5,674	4,213	4,847	5,426	4,037
Other theft offences	8,067	8,132	8,602	7,926	7,652
Fraud and forgery	1,502	2,108	1,499	1,390	1,190
Criminal damage	9,151	8,753	9,017	9,246	8,302
Drug offences	624	520	824	706	1,314

Table 2: Offences recorded for the Test Valley CDRP, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Offence group	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Violence against the person	1,541	1,703	1,620	1,722	1,871
Sexual offences	140	138	133	139	116
Robbery	21	23	31	25	41
Burglary	1,126	931	926	1,071	949
Offences against vehicles	968	729	916	1,121	933
Other theft offences	1,781	1,589	1,725	1,824	1,647
Fraud and forgery	459	540	472	468	157
Criminal damage	1,808	1,912	2,153	2,295	2,209
Drug offences	163	187	103	103	219

Table 3: Offences recorded for the Hampshire police force area, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Offence group	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Violence against the person	35,148	38,173	38,686	40,569	39,028
Sexual offences	2,565	2,765	2,727	2,640	2,329
Robbery	1,040	948	1,078	1,212	1,066
Burglary	18,014	15,552	16,623	15,624	14,629
Offences against vehicles	22,659	18,870	20,201	21,815	17,948
Other theft offences	40,591	39,212	39,852	39,422	37,641
Fraud and forgery	8,557	9,246	7,851	8,004	5,335
Criminal damage	43,557	42,210	42,352	45,362	38,927
Drug offences	3,967	3,773	4,037	4,073	5,754

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets her Department and its agencies provide for staff. [249076]

Mr. Woolas: On available information the Home Office has no directly operated or franchised catering outlets. Staff restaurants are provide by contract caterers.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251441]

Mr. Woolas: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS.

Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

The specific information requested for 2008 is as follows:

Average response times

Number of days

Correspondence Category	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Home Office ministerial correspondence	7.4	7.6	9.8
Home Office public correspondence (letters)	10.0	9.7	16.6
Home Office public correspondence (emails)	8.6	9.7	14.2
UKBA ministerial correspondence - ministerial replies	22.1	19.6	20
UKBA Ministerial Correspondence - official replies	24.3	16.9	16.4

Note:
The target for replying to Home Office Ministerial Correspondence is 15 working days. For all other correspondence categories it is 20 working days. UKBA figures for public letters and emails are not available.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average her Department took to provide a substantive response to correspondence from members of the public in the last 12 months. [251613]

Mr. Woolas: The average time taken to respond to correspondence from members of the public—letters and e-mails—is 15.6 working days.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average her Department took to reply to correspondence from hon. Members in the last 12 months. [251680]

Mr. Woolas: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS.

Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

The specific information requested is as follows for 2008:

Correspondence category	*Average response time 2008 (days)*
Home Office ministerial correspondence	9.8
UKBA ministerial correspondence—ministerial replies	20
UKBA ministerial correspondence—official replies	16.4

Note:
The target for replying to Home Office ministerial correspondence is 15 working days. For UKBA ministerial correspondence it is 20 working days.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245346]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department inclusive of its agencies does not hold a central register of contracts which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas. To extract and collate the information from individual records would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in her Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure her Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248080]

Mr. Woolas: In the last 12 months no Ministers within the Department received coaching in a foreign language. Information relating to the number of civil servants who have received such coaching and the expenditure such coaching incurred is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 962W, on departmental personnel, what the current figure is for staff without posts in her Department and its agencies; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such on returning from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months. [250540]

Mr. Woolas: The position as at 31 December 2008 is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Staff classified as being without a post as at 31 December 2008

	Staff classified as:			
	Being without a post on returning from maternity leave	*Being without a post for up to six months*	*Being without a post for more than six months but less than 12 months*	*Being without a post for more than 12 months*
Home Office HQ	0	11	0	[1]—
UK Border Agency	0	17	7	[1]—
Identity and Passport Service	0	0	0	0
Criminal Records Bureau	0	0	0	0
Total	0	28	7	[1]—

[1] Less than 5.

The 39 members of staff classified as being without posts represents 0.15 per cent. of the total Home Office workforce.

These staff are currently undertaking work for the Department while a new post is actively sought, either within the Home Office and its agencies, or in another Government Department.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special advisers were employed in her Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what her Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243571]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 870W.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the agencies for which her Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [243354]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department including United Kingdom Border Agency terms of payment was 26 days in 2006-07 and 2007-08 except in special circumstances, where an immediate payment was required. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

However, following the Prime Minister's commitment of 8 October that central Government Departments will make payment within 10 days we will additionally report 10 day payment performance and are able to report on this.

Both the Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau agencies do not hold the required information for 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Following the announcement on 8 October both of these agencies are working towards paying SMEs within 10 days of receipt of invoices.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [248034]

Mr. Woolas: In the last three full financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Home Office central communications unit estimates that the total expenditure on public surveys is as follows:

	£
2005-06	901,677
2006-07	763,097
2007-08	631,996

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of domestic violence police in each police authority have dealt with in each year since 1997. [251338]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

Domestic Violence: Research

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has evaluated on the link between cases of domestic violence and subsequent murders. [250598]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has not commissioned any specific research on this.

The Home Office does routinely collect recorded crime information, via the Homicide Index, on the relationship of homicide victims to the principal suspect. The latest published information for 2007-08 can be found online on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0209.pdf

Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1241-42W, on demonstrations: Parliament Square, when the Government's response to the Joint Committee on the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill's report, stated in the answer to be imminent, will be published. [249772]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: The Ministry of Justice is co-ordinating the Government's response to the report of the Joint Committee on the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill. We continue to give careful consideration to the recommendations on protests around Parliament which are set out in the Joint Committee's report and a full response will be published ahead of the Constitutional Renewal Bill's introduction to Parliament.

The Government are keen to give a substantial response to the Joint Committee but this has meant resolving all outstanding policy issues before the Bill is introduced. We recognise that there has been a long period since the publication of the report, but believe it is better to respond fully to the committee's recommendations on all aspects of the draft Bill. We intend to respond as early as possible in 2009.

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the budget for her Department's drug control programme was spent on *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* treatment in each year since 2004. [251465]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Drug treatment is the responsibility of the Department for Health, and the Home Office does not therefore commit any of the Department's budget to drug treatment.

Figures published in the Updated Drug Strategy 2002 show estimates of the labelled and non-labelled total expenditure on drugs, and on strands of the strategy, calculated on the basis of its four thematic aims. Elements of enforcement fall within two of these four aims—supply reduction and protecting communities—although these aims will also include expenditure on items which do not relate to enforcement of the law. As it is not possible to disaggregate these figures, those which have been given for expenditure on enforcement from 2003-04 to 2005-06 will therefore exceed the real level of expenditure.

Figures for 2006-07, while not published, have been calculated on the same basis as those for 2003-04 to 2005-06. Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are labelled expenditure only, as published in the drug strategy Drugs: protecting families and communities. These figures have been calculated on a departmental basis and, while expenditure on enforcement activity will fall broadly within the departmental expenditure of the Home Office, the figure will exceed the real level of expenditure on enforcement activity only. Similarly, the Department of Health will fund activity which would not fall within a rigid definition of treatment, nor is all expenditure on treatment—particularly that for young people—covered by the Department of Health budget. These figures should therefore be treated as indicative.

Drugs: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack house closures there were in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon in each of the last five years. [250772]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced the provision for police to serve a closure notice on any premises that is believed by the police to be used for the production, supply or use of Class A drugs, and which is causing serious nuisance or disorder.

The Home Office collects data on the number of closure orders issued through the voluntary Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) survey of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. Latest available data from this survey cover the period from October 2003 to September 2007 and show that in the Hillingdon CDRP area no such orders were served in this period. Data are not collected at a parliamentary constituency level, although as the Uxbridge constituency is entirely within the Hillingdon CDRP area, there have also been no closure orders issued.

Data for 2007-08 will be published early in 2009.

Entry Clearances: China

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to staff for the purposes of determining tourist visa applications from applicants from mainland China; and if she will make a statement. [247908]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* All tourist visa applications are considered against paragraph 41 of the Immigration Rules for General Visitors. In addition to paragraph 41 of the Immigration Rules, Chinese tourist visitors seeking leave to enter under the approved destinations status (ADS) agreement with China will have their applications considered against paragraph 56G-56J of the immigration rules.

Chinese tourist visitors who apply under paragraph 56G-56J of the immigration rules are required to use an accredited ADS travel agent, of which there are over 60 throughout China.

All visa officers are subject to intensive training in the United Kingdom prior to overseas deployment to ensure they are able to assess all types of visa applications to enter the United Kingdom. The guidance used throughout this training period and subsequent reference material used by visa officers is substantial. All immigration rules, including those for paragraph 41 and 56G-56J, are publicly available and can be located on the internet. The section on Visit and Transit in Entry Clearance Guidance gives additional guidance to entry clearance officers for dealing with visit visa applications. This guidance can also be found on the internet.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for visas from mainland China were refused visas in each of the last three years, broken down by category of refusal. [248117]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The following table provides issue and refusal statistics per year for 2006, 2007 and 2008 broken down into categories for total applications received in mainland China at our embassy in Beijing and the Consulate-Generals in Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangzhou.

UK Border Agency—Applications from mainland China

	Endorsement	*Applications issued*	*Applications refused*	*Percentage issued*
2006	EEA Family Permits	66	13	84
	Family Visit	16,664	1,332	93
	Other Non Settlement	1,787	185	91
	Other Visitor	95,815	5,938	94
	Settlement	1,259	204	86
	Student	21,149	2,578	89
	Transit	2,403	202	92
	Work permit	5,115	512	91
	Working Holiday Maker	11	5	69
	Total	144,269	10,969	93
2007	EEA Family Permits	87	18	83
	Family Visit	18,814	1,261	94
	Other Non Settlement	2,209	212	91
	Other Visitor	101,529	6,731	94

UK Border Agency—Applications from mainland China

	Endorsement	*Applications issued*	*Applications refused*	*Percentage issued*
	Settlement	1,274	267	83
	Student	24,176	5,179	82
	Transit	1,903	148	93
	Work permit	4,519	411	92
	Working Holiday Maker	13	7	65
	Total	154,524	14,234	92
2008	EEA Family Permits	69	25	73
	Family Visit	18,946	1,737	92
	Other Non Settlement	4,269	388	92
	Other Visitor	81,520	5,663	94
	PBS Tier 1	357	196	65
	PBS Tier 2	0	0	0
	PBS Tier 5	0	0	0
	Settlement	1,295	264	83
	Student	28,274	9,159	76
	Transit	1,091	140	89
	Work permit	3,326	514	87
	Working Holiday Maker	11	4	73
	Total	139,158	18,090	88

Entry Clearances: Marriage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times application of the two-year rule has resulted in the removal of the right of a spouse to remain in the UK in the event of relationship failure in 2007-08; and what steps were taken following the application of the rule in each case. [250679]

Mr. Woolas: The specific data requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

In order to qualify for settlement on the basis of marriage, an applicant must show that they are still married to the person they were admitted or granted an extension of stay to join and that relationship is subsisting. If the parties are no longer married or their relationship no longer subsists, the applicant will not meet the requirements of the immigration rules for settlement and the application will fall for refusal on this basis.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 706-07W, on foreign workers, if she will break down the figures by year, and indicate the percentage of the relevant work force they constitute. [249751]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables provide information on the number of work permits approved and Worker Registration Scheme certificates issued by occupation category. We are unable to provide an indication of the percentage of the relevant work force they constitute as data are not held on the size of each work force.

Work permit approvals for the period 1 January 2000-30 September 2008

Occupation	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Acupuncturist	10	25	35	40	25	40	20	20	20	230
Assistant dentist	160	115	140	105	70	20	30	20	5	655
Assistant optometrist	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	5
Biomedical scientist	15	45	90	100	110	120	135	100	75	785
Chiropodist/podiatrist	10	10	5	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	45
Chiropractor	55	40	15	25	25	25	25	25	10	245
Dental anaesthetist	[1]—	10	15	5	5	5	5	[1]—	0	45
Dental nurse	0	20	40	40	40	100	60	45	40	380
Dental surgeon	195	260	275	225	160	175	215	155	120	1,785
Dietician	20	40	70	50	55	45	30	20	20	350
Doctor	0	840	2,440	3,265	4,315	3,880	3,035	910	750	19,435
Foundation programme doctor	0	0	0	0	0	0	355	220	130	705
Hospital consultant	0	30	75	140	170	95	80	50	50	690
Medical practitioner	580	940	605	410	205	95	55	35	55	2,975
Midwife	90	90	95	100	85	85	70	90	65	780

Work permit approvals for the period 1 January 2000-30 September 2008

Occupation	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Nurse	15,040	24,265	28,640	29,490	29,095	22,580	13,615	8,520	7,060	178,305
Occupational therapist	115	165	250	205	235	250	180	155	120	1,680
Optician	90	120	105	90	90	75	80	45	30	735
Other health/medical occupation	3,345	3,800	7,005	10,670	13,670	10,030	6,495	3,350	2,470	60,845
Pharmacist	580	575	620	620	645	585	660	685	685	5,655
Physiotherapist	195	325	425	440	460	410	305	245	130	2,935
Psychiatrist	120	220	240	215	190	140	110	40	20	1,295
Psychologist	55	45	65	65	45	40	30	20	10	375
Radiographer	75	165	400	435	510	450	345	445	250	3,075
Senior carer	0	0	0	0	0	1,870	5,690	2,250	2,660	12,465
Senior house officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	345	55	1,045
Social worker	185	380	640	940	1,050	945	785	570	450	5,955
Specialist registrar	0	0	0	0	0	0	595	250	155	1,000
Speech therapist	50	80	70	65	40	45	35	35	15	440
Total	20,990	32,605	42,350	47,755	51,305	42,115	33,675	18,655	15,455	304,910

Note:

Work permit approvals includes all work permit application types—including work permit extensions, change of employment and technical changes to existing work permits and therefore does not equate to the number of individuals to whom permits were issued. The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Additionally, not all of those who are granted a permit take up the job, some may be refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Worker Registration Scheme certificates granted for the period 1 May 2004-30 September 2008

Occupation	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Alternative/complementary medicine specialist	5	10	5	5	5	35
Anaesthetist	30	65	35	15	25	170
Care assistants and home carers	2,860	6,880	6,285	4,340	2,410	22,775
Chiropodist	0	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—
Consultant, hospital	20	105	50	50	30	255
Dental hygienist	15	30	10	15	5	80
Dental nurse	85	130	110	65	35	420
Dental practitioner	20	235	85	30	10	385
Dietician	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	5
Doctor (hospital)	60	230	250	205	120	860
General practitioner	15	50	35	25	10	130
Manager, care home	5	10	5	10	10	40
Manager, health and social services	15	25	20	55	25	135
Midwife	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	5
Nurse	35	125	120	90	60	425
Nursing auxiliaries and assistants	135	145	150	75	65	570
Optician	20	10	15	15	5	65
Pharmacist/pharmacologist	40	135	210	220	130	730
Physiologist	[1]—	5	5	5	0	10
Physiotherapist	10	25	20	10	5	70
Psychiatrist	5	15	25	5	5	45
Psychologist	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	15
Researcher (medical)	30	110	100	110	85	430
Residential wardens and Houseparents	45	60	55	70	55	285
Social Worker	55	145	115	50	25	390
Surgeon	10	35	15	15	5	75
Technician, medical	25	65	75	125	70	360
Ward Sister	5	[1]—	5	5	[1]—	15
Wardan (care home)	15	15	20	10	10	65
Total	3,560	8,660	7,820	5,620	3,200	28,855

[1] Indicates one or two

Notes:

1. The figures are for initial applications only; they do not include multiple applications, where an individual is doing more than one job simultaneously nor re-registrations, where an individual has changed employers.
2. Data presented up to the same period as the current published Accession Monitoring report.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
4. Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The occupational categories used are not compatible with the Standard Occupational Classification.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 994-96W, on genetics: databases, how many new profiles have been added to the national DNA database in each month since March 2008, broken down by police force; and if she will make a statement. [251163]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is understood that this question refers to the number of crime scene sample profiles added to the National DNA Database, since a separate question has been asked on the number of people added in each month from 18 January 2008 to date.

The number of crime scene samples added in each of the nine months from April 2008 to December 2008 for all police forces is shown in the following table.

NDNAD—Crime scene profiles loaded by force and by month April to December 2008

Force	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*Total April to December*
Avon and Somerset	128	136	125	123	112	145	126	129	111	1,135
Bedfordshire	29	52	35	60	56	61	49	43	40	425
British Transport	64	42	44	44	34	39	57	30	37	391
Cambridgeshire	46	53	52	55	51	63	56	48	63	487
Cheshire	141	93	92	82	91	124	78	107	84	892
City of London Police	5	6	8	6	4	6	0	4	2	41
Cleveland	40	40	23	26	22	21	20	20	15	227
Cumbria	40	22	45	30	35	19	33	28	28	280
Derbyshire	73	63	81	49	54	41	66	57	36	520
Devon and Cornwall	69	60	66	63	63	49	53	48	55	526
Dorset	38	34	23	39	34	22	37	35	26	288
Durham	43	45	36	32	33	39	29	41	48	346
Dyfed-Powys / Haverford West	10	14	12	12	15	15	17	12	10	117
Essex	89	104	97	86	101	88	91	70	78	804
Gloucestershire	17	24	18	26	18	21	30	21	26	201
Greater Manchester police	329	239	310	268	327	264	370	321	280	2,708
Gwent	38	33	28	32	18	29	29	36	33	276
Hampshire	115	98	146	111	109	101	112	72	79	943
Hertfordshire	53	56	59	51	49	49	41	41	63	462
Humberside	73	113	85	98	76	86	87	60	64	742
Kent	242	184	186	239	223	231	224	166	187	1,882
Lancashire	250	234	184	183	181	165	162	130	105	1,594
Leicestershire	54	71	53	77	53	66	69	42	52	537
Lincolnshire	47	42	33	38	33	33	34	26	30	316
Merseyside	139	130	166	125	126	144	174	147	111	1,262
Metropolitan police	566	480	531	585	464	562	477	449	438	4,552
Norfolk	7	117	59	68	51	65	52	43	35	497
North Wales	90	73	66	86	69	69	65	54	54	626
North Yorkshire	30	25	35	25	27	24	25	22	19	232
Northamptonshire	61	85	55	71	60	66	94	52	99	643
Northumbria	95	138	112	146	109	141	144	152	107	1,144
Nottinghamshire	68	75	41	47	64	58	40	52	61	506
South Wales Constabulary	109	104	106	63	80	70	94	85	54	765
South Yorkshire	94	131	79	105	90	88	85	88	73	833
Staffordshire	105	87	87	67	79	101	81	94	70	771
Suffolk	33	55	29	40	48	25	37	40	23	330
Surrey	53	63	51	59	47	56	49	47	62	487
Sussex	175	149	158	161	138	149	184	139	123	1,376
Thames Valley	154	121	122	118	97	127	114	115	119	1,087
Warwickshire Police	32	26	28	34	14	36	21	30	32	253
West Mercia	99	64	97	78	84	89	76	54	55	696
West Midlands	240	188	207	167	204	186	200	174	143	1,709
West Yorkshire	201	204	194	168	142	186	164	136	115	1,510
Wiltshire	40	37	45	29	26	19	24	31	26	277

NDNAD—Crime scene profiles loaded by force and by month April to December 2008

Force	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total April to December
England and Wales Total	4,424	4,210	4,109	4,072	3,811	4,038	4,070	3,591	3,371	35,696
Total other forces[1]	169	121	107	142	95	240	205	136	130	1,345
Total all forces	4,593	4,331	4,216	4,214	3,906	4,278	4,275	3,727	3,501	37,041

[1] Eight Scottish forces, PSNI, Jersey, Guernsey, Ministry of Defence Police etc.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will reduce the length of time for which the police retain DNA samples of people who have not been convicted of any offence. [251187]

Mr. Coaker: We are considering what steps are required to implement the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper following the Court's judgment on 4 December 2008. As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary indicated on 16 December 2008 in her speech to the Intellect Trade Association, the detailed proposals for change will be subject to public consultation in a Forensics White Paper to be published later this year.

Graffiti

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy that incidents of graffiti be recorded separately from other criminal damage. [251227]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Recorded crimes (notifiable offences) such as criminal damage are broken down at a main offence group level based on legal definitions. Sir Ronnie Flanagan's independent Review of Policing published on 8 February 2008 focused on the need to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy including the amount of information collected by officers for crime recording purposes. The extra breakdowns requested would place an additional burden on the police and there are no plans to ask forces to do this at this time.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals resident in Peterborough constituency have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* found guilty of offences related to (i) trafficking persons to the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation and (ii) running a brothel since May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [250834]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: The Home Office holds figures on crime by force area only and not by residence of offenders.

Records from the UK Human Trafficking Centre show that since May 2005 there have been nine arrests for human trafficking in Cambridgeshire with one conviction for trafficking. Of the remaining eight cases four were not progressed and four convicted of other offences.

Statistics from the Crown Prosecution Service indicate that there have been a total of 48 people charged under sections 33 and 34 (a) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 since May 2005 in Cambridgeshire whose cases reached first hearing at a magistrates court. CPS does not have data held centrally on the number of convictions.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to use the receipts from foreign nationals from charges in respect of *(a)* identity cards and *(b)* registering biometric information to meet the cost to the public purse of the identity card scheme; and what estimate she has made of the amount of such receipts from foreign nationals in each of the next 10 years. [243298]

Jacqui Smith: The operational cost of the Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals scheme, including capturing and registering biometric information, will be fully recovered through the application fees.

We review and set fees annually. We do not currently have estimates of fee income for each of the next 10 years as fees have not yet been set for future years. We will continue to set fees in a way which ensures those who benefit from the system make an appropriate contribution towards the end to end costs of the immigration system.

Identity Cards: Internet

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of visits to the mylifemyid website had originated from Government internet addresses between the establishment of the site and the end of 2008. [251644]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible to provide the information requested as the web analytics package that is used for mylifemyid (Google Analytics) does not provide the IP addresses of people visiting the website.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* educational facilities and *(b)* health care facilities have been (i) raided on suspicion of and (ii) fined for providing a service to an illegal immigrant by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors since 2004; and what the (A) offence and (B) amount of the fine was in each case. [246236]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency does not specifically conduct operational enforcement visits to educational or health care facilities that might be providing a service to an illegal immigrant nor has a fine been issued in such circumstances.

The UK Border Agency does conduct compliance visits to educational providers to ensure that they are a bona fide establishment and will act on any intelligence it receives that immigration offenders might be present at certain premises or that a business is employing illegal workers.

If an employer is found to be employing an illegal migrant worker, then they may be subject to a civil penalty of up to £10,000 for each illegal worker or, in more serious cases, criminal prosecution. If convicted on indictment, the employer may face an unlimited fine and, in some cases, imprisonment for up to two years.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected illegal immigrants were discovered as lorry stowaways at motorway service areas, broken down by location, in each month since January 2005. [246243]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested about how many illegal immigrants have registered at reception centres in (a) Liverpool and (b) Croydon following detection as lorry stowaways is not available from existing records.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have registered at reception centres in *(a)* Liverpool and *(b)* Croydon following detection as lorry stowaways in each month since January 2005. [246271]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency's National Operations Database (NOD) records the number of individuals arrested and referred to the Agency by the police broken down by office and not where the individual was discovered. The number of lorry stowaways arrested and referred to the UK Border Agency by the police since August 2005 to November 2008 broken down by office is as follows at Annex A.

This information has only been recorded since August 2005.

The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as it is based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

Annex A: Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: 2005-06

	2005					2006			
Local enforcement office	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
24hr Duty Office Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Becket House London	6	9	—	7	3	2	—	7	34
Bedford	13	16	10	17	4	10	22	8	100
Bristol	3	7	3	8	10	20	5	11	67
Cardiff	9	3	2	—	6	5	6	4	35
Communications House London	12	3	—	1	5	1	1	1	24
Croydon Enforcement Unit	10	—	2	7	—	3	2	3	27
Dallas Court Manchester	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	5
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
East Midlands Enforcement	22	5	13	10	7	10	9	21	97
Eaton House Middlesex	40	57	46	30	22	30	10	34	269
Edinburgh	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Felixstowe	—	—	2	2	—	4	11	6	25
Glasgow Enforcement Unit	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	5
Humberside	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	5	8
Leeds/Bradford	—	3	4	1	—	1	—	2	11
Liverpool	11	1	9	2	14	5	5	13	60
Mid Kent Enforcement Unit	16	2	—	2	3	—	5	—	28
Midlands Enforcement Unit	6	17	19	10	7	3	8	4	74
Norfolk Enforcement Office	—	2	1	1	3	—	3	—	10
North Shields	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	4
Plymouth	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Portsmouth	2	1	4	4	4	7	5	1	28
South Yorkshire	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	5
Southampton	—	1	1	5	—	11	5	—	23
St. Ives	15	5	5	5	13	9	1	7	60
Stansted Enforcement Unit	15	4	21	8	20	5	6	2	81
Stoke	—	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	15
Swansea	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Grand Total	184	154	148	122	127	130	105	138	1,108

Note:
These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Specific National Operations Database (NOD) Operational Activity Report (OAR)

Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: 2006-07

	2006									2007			
Local enforcement office	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
24hr Duty Office Manchester	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	2	3	1	20
Aberdeen	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Becket House London	3	2	5	1	2	5	4	—	27	9	3	7	68

Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: 2006-07

	2006									2007			
Local enforcement office	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
Bedford	10	2	12	1	1	3	11	4	7	21	26	16	114
Boston	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	9	—	17
Bristol	2	6	11	—	—	1	6	7	3	1	—	11	48
Cardiff	—	4	4	—	8	—	1	2	2	3	—	—	24
Communications House London	3	—	1	1	4	2	1	—	9	1	—	—	22
Croydon Enforcement Unit	—	—	16	—	3	5	7	2	—	10	6	—	49
Dallas Court Manchester	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	5
Dorset	—	—	1	—	2	1	11	—	—	1	—	—	16
East Midlands Enforcement	4	18	4	—	9	3	4	6	4	5	10	2	69
Eaton House Middlesex	34	27	30	38	21	45	59	44	39	10	20	17	384
Edinburgh	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
Felixstowe	8	—	9	1	7	—	6	3	—	—	—	9	43
Grantham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	14
Humberside	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Kent Arrest Team	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	4
Leeds/Bradford	7	9	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Lincoln	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Liverpool	4	7	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	5	—	—	20
Mid Kent Enforcement Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	2	3	3	4	20
Midlands Enforcement Unit	14	19	10	7	7	7	18	8	5	6	1	34	136
Norfolk Enforcement Office	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	2	—	1	10
North Shields	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	1	8
Plymouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Portsmouth	—	—	8	3	5	6	—	1	3	—	—	2	28
South Yorkshire	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	—	9
Southampton	7	—	5	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	17
St. Ives	8	14	23	6	11	9	8	14	5	2	12	4	116
Stansted Enforcement Unit	9	—	16	13	7	4	19	6	12	7	8	13	114
Stoke	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Swansea	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	7
Teesside	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	—	—	1	10
Grand Total	118	115	162	75	92	99	172	113	134	118	105	129	1,432

Note:

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Source:

Specific NOD OAR report.

Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: 2007-08

	2007									2008			
Local enforcement office	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
24hr Duty Office, Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	6
Aberdeen	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4
ATLU, Anti Terrorist Liaison Unit	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Becket House London	8	10	6	6	—	2	5	4	3	3	—	4	51
Bedford	11	16	7	4	17	27	21	43	17	47	37	31	278
Boston	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	14	20	51
Bristol	6	5	3	27	7	6	16	13	4	7	—	6	100
Cardiff	12	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	1	23
Communications House London	9	—	1	9	—	2	3	13	—	1	—	2	40
Croydon Enforcement Unit	—	4	—	10	5	17	7	22	9	29	18	6	127
Dallas Court Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	5
Dorset	13	6	—	—	4	1	1	10	1	—	—	1	37
E&R Dover	—	—	—	—	36	28	81	141	188	170	236	137	1,017

Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: 2007-08

	2007									2008			
Local enforcement office	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
East Midlands Enforcement	15	14	—	—	3	8	10	29	—	20	17	9	125
Eaton House Middlesex	4	33	54	46	15	62	51	84	31	60	23	18	481
Edinburgh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	4
Felixstowe	—	—	—	4	—	8	2	—	3	3	—	9	29
Glasgow Enforcement Unit	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	6	9
Humberside	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	9
LCCG London Command Crime Group	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leeds/Bradford	10	1	2	1	4	—	4	2	2	5	1	—	32
Lincoln	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Liverpool	—	1	1	—	4	1	1	9	—	6	1	2	26
Mid Kent Enforcement Unit	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	8
Midlands Enforcement Unit	4	43	7	37	17	3	3	5	28	19	4	8	178
Norfolk Enforcement Office	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	8	1	1	11	26
North Shields	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	3	2	—	2	9	24
Plymouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Portsmouth	5	6	7	8	11	6	17	10	6	10	—	6	92
South Yorkshire	—	5	1	1	2	3	4	4	4	3	9	2	38
St. Ives	7	9	—	5	12	—	19	10	10	36	19	14	141
Stansted Enforcement Unit	5	4	4	19	10	9	16	18	12	28	37	7	169
Stoke	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	12
Teesside	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	9	3	—	—	17
Grand Total	115	162	103	179	156	194	269	429	353	464	426	315	3,165

Note:
These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
NOD OAR Report

Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: April to November 2008

Local Enforcement Office	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Total*
24hr Duty Office, Manchester	—	—	—	—	3	—	6	—	9
Becket House London	—	12	21	2	1	5	4	4	49
Bedford	19	11	11	9	28	49	48	41	216
Boston	15	—	8	9	17	19	3	15	86
Bristol	1	—	5	6	1	7	1	21	42
Cardiff	4	—	—	7	—	5	8	3	27
Communications House London	2	8	1	—	—	—	2	4	17
Croydon Enforcement Unit	22	4	28	14	19	12	17	11	127
Dallas Court Manchester	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Dorset	1	4	1	—	17	5	—	2	30
E&R Dover	136	92	114	109	154	196	183	180	1,164
East Midlands Enforcement	11	40	7	20	22	25	11	10	146
Eaton House Middlesex	50	58	48	62	65	126	154	133	696
Edinburgh	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Felixstowe	3	1	5	5	2	25	8	—	49
Glasgow Enforcement Unit	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	6
Humberside	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	5
LCCG London Command Crime Group	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leeds/Bradford	2	1	—	3	1	—	2	—	9
Liverpool	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	4

Lorry stowaways arrested by the police and referred to the UK Border Agency: April to November 2008

Local Enforcement Office	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Total*
Mid Kent Enforcement Unit	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
M M Enforcement Team	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Midlands Enforcement Unit	—	6	2	17	20	18	11	41	115
Norfolk Enforcement Office	—	—	3	9	1	—	1	5	19
North Shields	—	2	8	1	1	1	9	—	22
Plymouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Portsmouth	—	—	10	9	15	9	20	1	64
South Yorkshire	2	3	2	17	4	1	1	9	39
St. Ives	30	9	26	30	7	49	20	14	185
Stansted Enforcement Unit	12	10	28	19	10	13	31	26	149
Stoke	11	7	—	—	—	4	2	9	33
Teesside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Grand Total	322	270	331	350	391	569	549	534	3,316

Note:
These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
NOD OAR Reports April to September 2008, October 2008 and November 2008.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* analysis has been commissioned and *(b)* research has been carried out by her Department on the likely number of illegal immigrants in the UK since her Department's online report 58/04, "Sizing the Illegally Resident Population in the UK". [250070]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Although it is impossible to determine accurately how many people are in the UK illegally, the Home Office published the report "Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" in 2005 as Home Office Online Report 29/05. This was a follow-on report from Online Report 58/04, "Sizing the Illegally Resident Population in the UK".

A copy of the report is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2905.pdf

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been deported from the UK in each year since 2004. [246239]

Jacqui Smith: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in which she has provided all of the most robust and accurate information on the subject of deportation of foreign criminals. In her most recent letter to the Committee, dated 8 December, she advised that the agency had deported or removed over 4,500 foreign criminals and was on track to not only meet but exceed its target of deporting or removing 5,000 foreign criminals in 2008. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

The UK Border Agency has since confirmed that, according to provisional management information, more than 5,000 foreign criminals were removed or deported in 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including removal of illegal immigrants, are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Immigrants: English Language

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those who have taken the English language test for immigrants have *(a)* passed and *(b)* failed the test since its introduction. [251476]

Mr. Woolas: It is assumed that the question refers to the Life in the UK test.

For the period October 2005, when the test was introduced, to October 2008:

69.9 per cent. of tests have resulted in a pass

30.1 per cent. have resulted in a fail.

These figures relate to the number of tests taken and not the number of candidates taking the test as candidates who fail may take the test as many times as they wish.

Note:

Figures provided by Ufi Ltd.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons her Department has decided to exempt foreign footballers bought by British football clubs from completing the English language test for a year; and what other conditions apply exclusively to footballers immigrating to this country. [251477]

Mr. Woolas: There are provisions for sports people under Tier 2 and Tier 5 of the points based system. Those entering under Tier 2: Sport need to meet an English language requirement, while those entering under Tier 5 will not. This is due to the temporary nature of Tier 5. Those entering under the Tier 5: Creative and Sporting sub-category, are granted leave for a maximum of 12 months. These routes are available to all sports.

We have provided arrangements exclusively for footballers to enable them to switch from Tier 5: Creative and Sporting into Tier 2: Sport without having to leave the UK. This is because we have recognised that the tight time scales around the transfer window mean that not all football players will have time to take an English test to prove that they are able to meet the English language requirement for Tier 2: Sport. Therefore they will be able to switch in country from Tier 5 to Tier 2 once they can prove they meet the English language requirement.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what score is required to pass the English language test for immigrants; and what the procedure is when an individual fails the test. [251478]

Mr. Woolas: The pass mark for the 'Life in the UK test' is set at around 75 per cent. Applicants failing the test are required to wait a minimum of seven days before they are able to sit the test again. Those who wish to sit the test again need to book a new test date and time with their test centre and pay the test fee again.

Those applicants who feel they did not pass the test because of their level of English have the alternative option of attending an ESOL with citizenship course at their local further education college.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents in Peterborough constituency who are *(a)* Afghan, *(b)* Iraqi and *(c)* other non-EEA nationals are awaiting determination in respect of applications for leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [249283]

Mr. Woolas: The following table details the number of Afghan, Iraqi and other non-EEA nationalities in Peterborough awaiting a decision on their leave to remain application.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Nationality	*Number of cases*
Afghan	10
Iraqi	10
Other non-EEA nationals	200

Note:
1. Data relate to lead applicants only
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five

Source:
UKBA Case Information Database

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals applied for a marriage visa to enter the United Kingdom from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* other non-EEA countries whose intended spouse was resident in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [249288]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is unavailable and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records and therefore at disproportionate cost.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of external legal services engaged by her Department was in 2007-08. [251364]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's expenditure on external legal services is set out in the following table.

	£
Home Office	2,856,099
Identity and Passport Service	3,460,000
Criminal Records Bureau	25,520

This figure does not include the cost to the Home Office of litigation or other legal services provided by the Treasury Solicitor or elsewhere within Government.

Legal costs are incurred in accordance with guidance, issued by Attorney General, on what constitutes core Government business and the use of the private sector for Government legal work.

Contracts for external legal services are awarded on the basis of value for money, in line with the Government's policy on public procurement.

Lunar House

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to provide facilities at Lunar House for all queuing to take place indoors. [252317]

Mr. Woolas: Planning is currently under way for the area beneath Lunar house to be enclosed, providing a safe and secure queuing area for customers attending both the public inquiry office and the asylum screening unit.

Members: Correspondence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 243517 on identity card verification at her Department's agencies, tabled on 9 December 2008. [250422]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1228-29W.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 243274, on identity card charges, tabled on 9 December 2008. [250486]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1228W.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 27 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, sent on behalf of Mojtaba Abedini (Home Office reference number A1161546, acknowledgement reference M22818/8). [250748]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to the right hon. Lady on 26 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 25 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Tracy Betty Gororo. [250861]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 26 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 1 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Abdul Awal Chowdhury. [250862]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 1 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Shazaib Tufail. [250865]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 1 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Tariq Aziz. [250866]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 26 January 2009.

National Identity Card Scheme Strategic Suppliers Group

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 296-97W, on the National Identity Card Scheme Strategic Suppliers Group, how many of the eight shortlisted suppliers for the National Identity Card Scheme signed a non-disclosure agreement; and whether the provisions of the agreement signed by each were identical. [252607]

Meg Hillier: A condition of bidding for the Strategic Supplier Group framework was signature of a non-disclosure agreement in an unmodified form. All bidders complied with this condition.

National Identity Scheme Commissioner

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what salary range is proposed for the National Identity Scheme Commissioner. [251682]

Meg Hillier: The appointment will attract a six figure package. The role requires someone with the calibre to develop the new regulatory role from scratch, command public confidence and be able to work across Government and the private sector at senior levels.

In accordance with the Identity Cards Act 2006 the remuneration will be approved by HM Treasury.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff will work in the office of the National Identity Scheme Commissioner. [251683]

Meg Hillier: The scheme commissioner will have a secretariat to support the work. In accordance with the Identity Cards Act 2006 the scheme commissioner has the right to ask the Home Secretary for staff required to fulfil the role. The commissioner's needs will be discussed at the commencement of the appointment.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the National Identity Scheme Commissioner to start work. [251684]

Meg Hillier: The scheme commissioner will be in place by around the middle of this year to meet commitments. The scheme commissioner will be in place prior to the issue of the first card under the Identity Cards Act 2006.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacant posts there are in the National Police Improvement Agency. [250529]

Mr. Coaker: As at 21 January 2009, the National Policing Improvement Agency had 340 vacancies. Of these, 314 were permanent posts and 26 were secondment opportunities.

Offensive Weapons

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* warnings were given, *(b)* cautions were issued and *(c)* prosecutions were brought for the illegal possession of knives in each year for which figures are available, broken down by police force area. [248011]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data collected centrally on the number of offenders cautioned and the number of defendants proceeded against for the possession of an article with a blade or point, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest available), broken down by police force area, are given in the following tables. Offences involving knives specifically are not separately identifiable from this data.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Information on the number of warnings given to offenders by the police is not collected centrally.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for the possession of an article with a blade or point[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2007, broken down by police force area[2, 3]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	61	94	135	101	147	190	187	167	155	214	200
Bedfordshire	29	46	33	51	39	46	73	96	99	74	81
Cambridgeshire	33	43	35	19	34	56	43	75	72	83	65
Cheshire	68	73	65	64	47	64	60	57	87	101	121
City of London	30	13	10	14	12	20	25	28	21	16	10
Cleveland	30	42	38	24	53	103	107	103	85	90	109
Cumbria	36	44	47	36	36	42	56	56	59	50	51
Derbyshire	57	37	41	45	61	92	109	123	100	94	123
Devon and Cornwall	72	107	99	105	90	145	161	161	167	138	171
Dorset	23	47	37	45	48	73	63	75	76	81	78
Durham	27	34	41	55	41	87	70	80	101	96	107
Essex	101	116	137	136	136	141	222	264	273	217	182
Gloucestershire	23	43	24	21	35	39	41	46	47	48	48
Greater Manchester	250	276	240	260	344	357	362	383	391	441	436
Hampshire	132	130	113	132	142	141	169	221	182	194	198
Hertfordshire	36	37	31	29	31	59	103	103	127	105	78
Humberside	60	64	80	65	61	81	79	121	123	135	170
Kent	41	80	106	98	92	45	40	10	9	3	2
Lancashire	136	165	122	109	131	127	159	188	182	169	176
Leicestershire	63	88	74	65	83	96	107	110	105	140	135
Lincolnshire	27	57	70	51	58	66	89	74	71	85	54
Merseyside	234	204	148	166	155	192	208	245	240	253	250
Metropolitan Police	1,705	1,721	1,454	1,572	2,128	2,459	2,179	2,104	2,113	2,099	1,810
Norfolk	31	54	52	38	59	91	82	88	91	80	96
North Yorkshire	47	39	52	54	64	65	63	89	80	70	62
Northamptonshire	15	13	22	11	6	2	2	2	6	1	3
Northumbria	134	125	151	161	193	226	243	232	241	246	318
Nottinghamshire	55	67	59	59	75	90	123	144	151	176	184
South Yorkshire	68	72	87	91	148	201	209	163	197	169	179
Staffordshire[4]	36	57	52	40	45	94	78	91	76	111	108
Suffolk	37	24	32	34	36	74	72	79	84	123	97
Surrey	21	19	23	34	41	31	45	50	38	47	65
Sussex	90	82	112	110	136	153	154	135	139	165	165
Thames Valley	91	107	103	82	101	127	116	159	192	227	165
Warwickshire	24	33	31	19	21	29	21	32	30	38	32
West Mercia	32	51	37	46	52	54	67	104	112	124	117
West Midlands	244	227	197	280	417	450	449	465	386	469	485
West Yorkshire	53	65	85	82	116	157	139	201	214	214	227
Wiltshire	26	38	38	32	47	46	49	63	66	82	53
Dyfed-Powys	27	32	38	40	48	53	47	51	54	39	51
Gwent	35	25	25	28	25	36	35	61	45	74	77
North Wales	56	67	64	51	63	96	70	78	85	131	101
South Wales	93	130	126	110	126	167	152	175	147	187	164
England and Wales	4,489	4,888	4,566	4,625	5,823	6,963	6,928	7,352	7,319	7,699	7,404

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for the possession of an article with a blade or point[2], England and Wales, 1997 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	—	3	12	12	17	41	39	88	79	157	147
Bedfordshire	4	5	6	3	4	16	22	19	123	131	82
Cambridgeshire	—	3	4	10	12	9	7	17	40	36	43
Cheshire	10	16	11	12	20	11	18	18	19	19	14
City of London	11	6	7	7	9	6	1	9	22	13	11
Cleveland	2	2	2	1	4	4	14	15	19	32	43
Cumbria	7	4	10	1	17	12	10	10	12	15	20
Derbyshire	9	4	7	7	8	5	6	10	10	26	42

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for the possession of an article with a blade or point[2], England and Wales, 1997 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3] [4]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Devon and Cornwall	67	52	56	52	50	65	44	95	100	82	81
Dorset	—	11	1	—	—	2	7	9	6	15	36
Durham	7	21	18	19	6	1	9	11	21	44	50
Essex	39	53	54	42	51	45	57	27	32	54	17
Gloucestershire	—	6	12	16	12	9	11	17	20	26	29
Greater Manchester	66	99	66	88	115	114	123	127	150	166	168
Hampshire	34	45	63	35	26	59	52	81	85	77	75
Hertfordshire	4	10	5	9	16	20	21	33	32	42	64
Humberside	10	15	17	9	10	9	3	10	44	50	52
Kent	9	32	40	44	34	33	45	62	60	64	65
Lancashire	31	44	24	12	38	21	33	67	84	91	74
Leicestershire	7	8	8	7	6	4	14	20	34	56	46
Lincolnshire	6	12	7	4	11	14	18	23	32	41	49
Merseyside	103	67	56	46	40	50	48	99	91	62	113
Metropolitan Police	939	1,024	773	778	497	492	388	493	569	710	750
Norfolk	—	12	36	27	31	38	26	22	35	47	46
North Yorkshire	7	9	12	17	16	18	18	20	25	24	20
Northamptonshire	11	8	4	11	23	46	28	42	36	50	59
Northumbria	50	64	48	51	70	82	92	69	81	119	93
Nottinghamshire	8	—	3	21	35	34	45	45	65	108	91
South Yorkshire	4	2	4	15	18	18	17	38	93	123	131
Staffordshire	—	3	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	6	19
Suffolk	9	11	9	8	15	14	12	16	18	26	31
Surrey	6	8	7	7	19	18	15	29	26	34	47
Sussex	34	63	55	80	110	115	136	282	478	248	218
Thames Valley	20	11	26	37	24	35	38	59	94	115	117
Warwickshire	—	8	8	7	7	5	7	15	18	28	13
West Mercia	28	26	28	39	25	38	48	61	50	76	55
West Midlands	9	104	77	95	105	132	95	130	178	229	199
West Yorkshire	—	8	12	20	20	24	22	33	72	68	72
Wiltshire	5	12	5	11	6	7	7	18	17	17	15
Dyfed-Powys	17	25	30	32	36	60	72	47	70	73	53
Gwent	7	1	2	2	1	9	9	2	19	31	36
North Wales	18	34	22	27	36	45	45	59	67	50	47
South Wales	31	25	15	36	51	24	21	25	25	22	27
England and Wales	1,629	1,976	1,663	1,758	1,652	1,805	1,746	2,374	3,154	3,503	3,460

[1] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Includes the following offences and statutes:

Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).

Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations there have been into instances of persons without permission to work in the UK working on the Olympic site; and how many prosecutions have ensued. [251021]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* Between April and December 2008 UK Border Agency staff, working in close co-operation with CLM and contractors on the Olympic Park, have arrested 136 people on suspicion of working in the UK without permission. Of these: 16 have been prosecuted, 11 removed from the UK and 19 have been granted leave to remain in the UK based on new applications to the Home Office. The remainder either have applications awaiting decisions or are awaiting travel documents for removal from the UK.

Overseas Visitors: Fees and Charges

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been accrued in fees paid by foreign visitors obliged to register with the local police service in each of the last five years; [252314]

(2) what expenditure has been incurred on administration arising from the requirement for some foreign visitors to register with the local police in each of the last five years. [252315]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

Parliamentary Unit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials at each grade *(a)* are employed and *(b)* were employed in each of the last five years in her Department's Parliamentary Unit. [244888]

Mr. Woolas: Numbers of officials employed at each grade in each of the last five years in my Department's Parliamentary Unit are shown in the following table.

Year/Grade	*Number*
2005[1]	
G7	1
2004	
G7	1
HEO	2
EO	1
AO	5
Snr librarian (SEO equivalent)	1
HEO	3
EO	2
AO	5
Sandwich students (AA equivalent)	2
2006[2]	
G7	1
Snr librarian (SEO equivalent)	1
HEO	3
EO	2
AO	6
Sandwich students (AA equivalent)	2
2007[3]	
G7	1
Snr librarian (SEO equivalent)	1
HEO	3
EO	2
AO	6
2008	
G7	1
SEO	1
HEO	1
EO	1
AO	3

[1] Parliamentary team merged with briefing and delivery team.
[2] Briefing and delivery element of team's responsibilities moved to another area of the Department during the year.
[3] HEO post, EO post and two AO posts moved to Ministry of Justice under Machinery of Government changes.

Passports: Fraud

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of *(a)* processing and *(b)* issuing passports which arise from fraudulent applications in the most recent period for which figures are available. [250078]

Meg Hillier: The cost of processing and issuing a passport as the result of a fraudulent application which is not identified as such, is the same as it is for any other passport application. For the 2007-08 financial year the average cost of processing and issuing a UK passport in the UK was £55.69 per passport. The provisional average cost for the 2008-09 financial year is £57.35 per passport. The difference between these costs and the final cost of the passport is the FCO fee which varies according to the final price of the product.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants had been refused a passport as a result of decisions consequent on an interview carried out at a passport interview centre by the end of 2008. [251643]

Meg Hillier: There have been no applications refused yet as a direct result of a confirmation of identity interview. As the main function of the interview is to act as a deterrent to those attempting to assume another identity, we expect the number to remain low.

Police: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers per head of population in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area there were in the Northern Basic Command Unit in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [250805]

Mr. Coaker: Basic command unit data have been centrally collected since 2002-03, and the available data are given in the following table.

The requested data are published annually in the supplementary tables of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" copies of which are available online and in the Library of the House.

Police officers (FTE)[1] *per 100,000 population for Northern Basic Command Unit, Cambridgeshire Police*

As at 31 March each year	*Police officers per 100,000 population*
2003	215
2004	206
2005	177
2006	182
2007	180
2008	178

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* first aid training and *(b)* first aid training relating to diabetes is provided to police officers; how often police officers are required to complete first aid training; and which officer in each police force is responsible for ensuring that officers complete that training. [251486]

Mr. Coaker: First aid training is delivered as part of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP), which is compulsory for all student police officers. The first aid module of IPLDP exceeds Health and Safety Executive recommendations for an 'Appointed Persons' first aid course.

Specific reference to diabetes (which may be mistaken for drunkenness) is covered in two sets of student notes that deal with legislation, policy and guidelines (LPGs). These are:

LPG1.3.16 Drunkenness in a public place, and

LPG1.5.10 Liquor licensing

Both of these subject areas are mandatory for student officers and optional for police community support officers. Attention is drawn to the fact that a person who is drowsy and smells of alcohol may also be suffering from diabetes, epilepsy, head injury, drug intoxication, overdose or stroke.

It is the responsibility of all police officers and staff to comply with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code C—Code Of Practice For The Detention, Treatment And Questioning Of Persons By Police Officers when dealing with casualties who are detained in police custody.

Police: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* expenditure on policing and *(b)* her Department's resource budget allocation for police spending was in each year since 1997-98. [247113]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the provision for policing by central Government is set out in the following table.

Expenditure on policing from 1997-98 to 2008-09

£ million

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total police authority net revenue expenditure[1]	6,873	7,071	7,446	7,697	8,275	8,592	9,385	9,916	10,164	10,085	10,622	n/a
Home Office police resource grants[2]	3,473	3,649	3,698	3,895	4,354	4,538	4,960	5,064	5,268	5,533	5,764	6,085
Department of Communities and Local Government/ Welsh Assembly Government revenue support grant/national non-domestic rates	2,544	2,539	2,634	2,677	2,666	2,815	2,825	2,966	3,120	3,304	3,474	3,570

[1] Source: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

[2] Police General Formula Grant and specific resource grants

Note:

Year on year figures are not directly comparable due to changes over time in grant policy and recommended accounting practice.

Police: Personal Records

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to senior police officers on security and non-disclosure of their personal details. [250810]

Mr. Coaker: Senior police officers are advised, as with all police officers, to be aware of potential issues that could arise on the disclosure of their own personal information. This advice is given locally through their own Force Professional Standards or Information Assurance department. Problems with disclosure could include, but are not restricted to, an attack on either themselves or their family either by members of the criminal fraternity, terrorist organisations, or a member of the public.

It is also the duty of the individual force and the Government to maintain protection of these data where they are seen to be a threat to the police officer, their family, other police officers or members of the public.

Pornography: Internet

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to prevent children and young people from accessing pornographic material made available through file sharing programs on the internet. [251830]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In April 2008 the Government launched a kitemark for filtering software developed by the Home Office and Ofcom and in partnership with BSI. This kitemark will be promoted by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety through the industry standards working group. The Government accepted all of the recommendations in the Byron review, 'Safer Children in a Digital World', which includes continued research and reviews on age verification to further prevent children accessing inappropriate material. This work will be taken forward by UKCCIS.

Prostitution: Human Trafficking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for her Department's position that 80 per cent. of women working as prostitutes have been trafficked into the UK; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such evidence. [247522]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not the position of the Home Office that 80 per cent. of women working as prostitutes have been trafficked into the UK. Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review stated that there were an estimated 80,000 people involved in prostitution in the UK, and that the most recent Home Office analysis (from 2003) had estimated that up to 4,000 women in the UK had been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Terrorism

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the extent to which persons *(a)* convicted of and *(b)* suspected of terrorist offences in the United Kingdom have used (i) multiple and (ii) false identities. [251463]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Investigations into a person's identity at the time of arrest is an operational matter for the police.

Terrorism: Libya

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantity of *(a)* weapons and *(b)* explosives is estimated to have been supplied to IRA terrorists by Libya between 1980 and 2000. [247220]

Paul Goggins: I have been asked to reply.

This is an intelligence matter and it is the longstanding practice of successive Governments not to comment on such matters.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals the UK Border Agency employs. [250180]

Mr. Woolas: As at 31 December 2008, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) employed directly 18,078 individuals (excluding 1,206 employees on career break, loan to other Government Departments, maternity leave etc.).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Minding: Registration

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether childminders working two hours or less a week have to pay a fee to Ofsted to become registered. [251041]

Beverley Hughes: As part of a number of reforms that were introduced in September 2008, we extended and redefined the categories of child care that are exempt from compulsory registration. Where child care is provided by a child minder, or any other type of provider, for an individual child for two hours or less per day, these providers would be exempt from registration. The full range of exemptions are set out in the Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) Order 2008 (SI 2008 No 979.) which can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080979_en_1

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many industrial tribunal cases there have been involving Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff in each of the last five years; and how many of them *(a)* were settled in the employee's favour and *(b)* involved redundancy payments. [252999]

Beverley Hughes: CAFCASS has had six employment tribunals within the last five years. There were no employment tribunals prior to 2007. During 2007-08 there were four employment tribunals and during 2008-09 there were two. None of these tribunals were settled in the employee's favour and none of these involved redundancy payments.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the current level of backlog of work in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service; and what estimate has been made of the number of staff hours required to deal with that backlog. [253000]

Beverley Hughes: At the end of December 2008, CAFCASS had a backlog of 414 public law cases and 1,979 private law reports. The size of backlogs is influenced by levels of demand which, in December, were unusually high for public law cases.

CAFCASS attempts to allocate all care and supervision cases within two working days of receipt, and has achieved this on 73 per cent. of cases received between April and December 2008, against a key performance indicator of 65 per cent. for this financial year.

CAFCASS aims to complete all cases within timescales agreed by local courts for filing all types of report and case analysis. CAFCASS does not have an estimate of the time necessary to deal with the backlogs as this depends on the circumstances of individual cases. CAFCASS is working with its statutory partners in the family justice system to keep all backlogs and delays to a minimum.

Children: Databases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what procedures are in place to request that a child's personal data be shielded on the ContactPoint database; and what appeals procedure is in place in respect of decisions taken on shielding requests; [252893]

(2) what guidance his Department has given to local authorities on the shielding of children's personal data on the ContactPoint database; [252894]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to ensure consistency across local authorities in their implementation of data shielding under ContactPoint; [252895]

(4) what recent estimate he has made of the number of records that will be subject to shielding on the ContactPoint database. [252900]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint is an online tool to enable support for children and young people to be effectively coordinated and ensure that they do not slip through the net. It will contain basic identifying information about all children and young people in England, up to their 18th birthday, and contact details for their parents/carers and for services working with a child or young person and nothing more. ContactPoint will be the quick way for practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child.

Shielding of a small proportion of records on ContactPoint is an additional precautionary measure appropriate in the case of children who are at risk of significant harm if their whereabouts were to become known. Parents who believe this to be the case can contact their local authority and make a request for the record to be shielded on ContactPoint. Local authorities will apply the criteria set out in statutory guidance to determine whether it is appropriate to shield the record on ContactPoint. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and may take into account the level of threat posed, and the views of the child or young person in question, their parents or carers and any practitioners involved with the child.

Where the child, young person, parent/carer or practitioner disagrees with a shielding decision, they should follow existing procedures in the local authority for complaints and appeals.

Comprehensive national guidance on shielding policy and processes has been made available to all local authorities:

The ContactPoint Guidance, which was made available to local authorities in July 2008, sets out the policy on shielding.

Best Practice Processes: Manage Data, which was made available to local authorities in August 2008, sets out the recommended business processes for shielding.

Additional guidance, produced in response to specific questions asked by local authorities, was made available in December 2008.

The policy and processes for shielding have been informed by the experience of a range of bodies including the Children's Society, Women's Aid, the Greater London Domestic Violence Project, the National Police Improvement Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

We are not in a position at this early point to provide a definitive figure for numbers of records that may be shielded. However, early indications are that between one and two hundred records on average may be shielded in each local authority.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on ContactPoint in each year since 2003; what its projected spend on ContactPoint is for each of the next four years; and under what budgetary headings such expenditure is expected to be incurred. [252964]

Beverley Hughes: The total costs for implementing the system are estimated at £224 million, unchanged since I announced in December 2005 that the Government would proceed with this project. These estimated costs include the costs of adapting systems that will supply the data to ContactPoint and adapting the day-to-day systems used by practitioners so they can access ContactPoint from their own systems. It also includes the costs to ensure security, data accuracy and staff training. Operating costs thereafter are estimated to be £41 million per year. Most of this will go directly to local authorities to fund staff to ensure the ongoing security, accuracy and audit of ContactPoint.

The following table shows actual and anticipated expenditure by year, broken down into set up costs and operating costs.

			£000
	Set up	*Operating*	*Total*
2005-06 (pre-project)	2,157	0	2,157
2006-07 (actual)	28,337	0	28,337
2007-08 (actual)	64,823	0	64,823
2008-09 (forecast)	66,853	5,019	71,872
2009-10 (forecast)	51,181	43,844	95,025
2010-11 (forecast)	11,901	42,508	54,409
2011-12 (forecast)	0	38,898	38,898
Total	223,095	130,269	353,364

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of childcare in each local authority area. [252966]

Beverley Hughes: Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 requires each local authority to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare provision to meet the needs of working parents in their area. Sufficiency does not simply relate to the numbers of places available but also encompasses consideration of the accessibility, affordability, flexibility, sustainability and quality of such places.

To enable local authorities to meet the Sufficiency Duty they were also required under Section 11 of the Act to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment by 31 March 2008. These assessments included analysis of the extent of the provision of, and demand for, childcare places, and identified any local gaps. Local authorities have to repeat the assessment process every three years, and must keep their assessments up to date in between times. Assessments are required to be to be published on local authority websites.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities have *(a)* completed their childcare efficiency assessment and *(b)* identified gaps in their provision of affordable childcare. [252981]

Beverley Hughes: As required under Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006, all local authorities have completed and published their first child care sufficiency assessments. These assessments offer a detailed analysis of the extent of the provision of, and demand for, child care places, and identify any gaps in such provision. The duty to secure sufficient child care which came into force in April 2008 requires local authorities progressively to eliminate gaps in provision and I would expect all local authorities to be working to close gaps they have identified.

Children: Forced Marriage

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has implemented a national policy for safeguarding children at risk of forced marriage. [247394]

Beverley Hughes: The Home Office leads work on the Government's national domestic violence delivery plan including work on forced marriage. The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) is a key partner in this work and we are committed to doing all we can to tackle forced marriage and to engage effectively with local communities. We work closely with the Forced Marriage Unit to improve the engagement of schools and local authorities. In April 2008 DCSF Ministers wrote to local authorities and schools reminding them of their responsibilities relating to forced marriage, and in June 2008 new materials were launched to raise awareness of forced marriage. These were sent to all secondary schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and local safeguarding children boards. In November 2008 new statutory guidance was published aimed at local authorities and other agencies entitled "The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with Forced Marriage". Practice guidelines to support the implementation of this statutory guidance are being developed and will be available shortly.

Children: Literacy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made under the *(a)* Every Child a Reader and *(b)* Every Child Counts programmes; and if he will make a statement. [247396]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Every Child a Reader (ECaR) was established by the KPMG Every Child a Chance Trust in 2005, and from September 2008 is being rolled out by the National Strategies on behalf of Government. By 2010-11, it aims to support the bottom 5 per cent. (approximately 30,000) of children aged 5 and 6 who are struggling to learn to read. It combines one-to-one Reading Recovery support with other less intensive interventions. The programme works on a cascade model whereby each local authority funds Teacher Leader training, and Teacher Leaders, in turn, train Reading Recovery teachers to deliver one-to-one tuition and coordinate the programme in schools. Forty-two Teacher Leaders have so far been trained, and a further 20 local authorities selected a Teacher Leader to undertake the required Masters level training from September 2008. A further cohort will begin training from September 2009, putting us on course to reach 30,000 children a year by 2010-11.

In November 2008, the KPMG Every Child a Chance Trust published their final report on the three-year ECaR pilot. This found that the programme has continued to deliver reliable results for children, both in terms of raising attainment levels and narrowing the social and gender gap. Over 86 per cent. of children who received Reading Recovery in year 1 went on to meet national expectations (level 2+) in reading at the end of KS1, in comparison to 84 per cent. nationally.

Every Child Counts (ECC) is a mathematics intervention programme targeted at the bottom 5 per cent. (around 30,000) of children aged 6 and 7 who are struggling with numeracy. The programme combines one-to-one Numbers Count support with other less intensive interventions. ECC builds on the relationship with the KPMG Every Child a Chance Trust, established to deliver the ECaR programme. The National Strategies will lead on the national roll-out from 2010. This follows a two-year development phase which began in September 2008.

ECC follows the same structure as ECaR. Twenty-one local authorities started the pilot programme in September 2008, each with a Teacher Leader training at Masters level, directing the work at a local level among schools and training Numbers Count teachers. From September 2009, a further cohort will begin training, expanding the programme until national roll-out in 2010.

Data from the research phase showed that 73 per cent. of children receiving the Numbers Count intervention went on to achieve level 2 or above at the end of KS1. Before receiving the programme, none of these children were predicted to reach age-level expectations at this stage.

Children: Protection

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were *(a)* on an at-risk register and *(b)* taken into care in each local authority area in the Government Office for the North East region in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [251856]

Beverley Hughes: Figures on the number of children subject to a child protection plan at 31 March, by local authority, are available in table 9D of the annual statistical first release "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England". The publication can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

The number of children that have been taken into care in each local authority area in the Government Office for the North East region in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008 can be found in the following table.

Children who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March, by local authority[1 2 3 4], Years ending 31 March 2006-08—Coverage: Government Office for the North East region

	2006	2007	2008
North East	460	470	430
Darlington	20	15	25
Durham	70	80	75
Gateshead	60	75	30
Hartlepool	15	15	25
Middlesbrough	30	35	35
Newcastle Upon Tyne	45	25	30
North Tyneside	35	40	40
Northumberland	45	60	50
Redcar and Cleveland	35	20	20
South Tyneside	45	45	40
Stockton-On-Tees	35	35	45
Sunderland	40	30	15

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Children deemed to be "taken" into care are those who started to be looked after as the result of a care order (full or interim), police protection, emergency protection order or child assessment order.

[4] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. Numbers at Local Authority level have been rounded to the nearest 5 and numbers at region level have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[5] Source:

SSDA903 return on children looked after

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1701W, on children: protection, when Ministers plan to make their decision on intervention; and what steps he plans to take to publish that decision. [252602]

Beverley Hughes: The nature of the Department's intervention in Birmingham was communicated in a letter to the Leader of the Council on 29 January 2009. The letter has also been copied to local MPs.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for writing the executive summaries to reports on serious case reviews. [252963]

Beverley Hughes: It is the responsibility of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to make sure that an executive summary of the Serious Case Review is completed. It should be written by the independent person commissioned to write the overview report. The LSCB should make sure that the executive summary includes, as a minimum, information about the review process, key issues arising from the case and the recommendations that have been made.

Children's Centres: Domestic Violence

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue guidance to children's centres on increasing awareness of domestic violence. [252655]

Beverley Hughes: The Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance already highlights families experiencing domestic violence among those groups of families that find it hardest to access the services they need. It encourages centres to ensure that parents or other family members have access to appropriate support and to offer assistance through referral to helplines and counselling, or informal group support sessions, held at the centre itself. The guidance also provides details of the 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline and the Men's Advice Line and Enquiries (MALE) which provides support for men in abusive relationships.

The Government recognise the strong links between child protection concerns and domestic violence and stresses the need for awareness of those links in its inter-agency guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)' which is available to all organisations working with, or who come into contact with children, including Sure Start Children's Centres.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public in each year since it was established. [251433]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

With respect to correspondence from members of the public, the Department cannot provide the requested information within disproportionate costs limits, but we do aim to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days. Statistics on the handling of letters from members of the public is published in the Department's annual report.

Departmental Manpower

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on plans to ensure that the target for full-time equivalent headcount reductions, referred to on page 109 of the Department's 2008 Annual Report, will be met. [247453]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department will reduce its headcount through a voluntary early release scheme to meet its targets. Since its inception, 118 employees in 2007-08 were released with a further 24 early releases planned in 2008-09 and 58 releases in 2009-10.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff his Department employs in each of its divisions. [249888]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The current number of employees in the Department's Directorates is set out as follows:

Directorate	*Staff (full-time equivalent)*
Children and Families	477.2
Communications	242.0
Corporate Services	866.7
Schools	698.1
Young People	305.9
Private Office	57.8
Legal	5
Internal Audit	38.2

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on entertainment and hospitality in each year since 1997. [247309]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Secretary of State on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 9W, to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove).

Departmental Responsibilities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made against its Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [247266]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The departmental action plan focuses on the key improvements required in our culture and ways of working. It addresses the gaps identified through the Capability review process and other departmental reform. The Capability re-review undertaken in June 2008 confirmed the Department had made good progress in closing the capability gaps. The report of the re-review is published/publicly available and includes a response from the permanent secretary.

Departmental Sick Leave

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much sickness absence there was among staff in his Department in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [247189]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was set up as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007, so figures only apply from 1 July 2007. Sickness absence data for the Department since its inception, including the average number of days are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sicknessabsence/

Departmental Supply Estimates

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 49WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), what the budget was for each of his Department's budgets under *(a)* RfR1 and *(b)* RfR2 (i) before and (ii) after the changes announced in the written ministerial statement. [251415]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Changes to budgets are set out in Part II (Changes proposed) of the DCSF Winter Supplementary Estimate which was published as part of HC 1163 'Central Government Supply Estimate 2008-09 Winter Supplementary Estimates' dated 25 November 2008.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 49WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), which non-departmental public bodies have had their budgets increased as a result of the changes announced in the Statement. [251416]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Four non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) had their budgets increased as a result of changes announced in the written ministerial statement referred to: the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA); the National College for School Leadership (NCSL); the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDAS); and the Children's Commissioner. In addition the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) received a budget for the first time.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247336]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the use of 0844 and 0845 numbers by service providers to the department can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The DCSF does not participate in revenue share schemes associated with non-geographic telephone numbers and therefore derives no revenue from the use of these numbers. The Department does use non-geographic telephone numbers such as 0870 and 0845 for its public inquiry line and other entry points. However, the Department has never received any income from the use of these numbers and does not offer refunds to callers. It's important to note that, in accordance with Central Office of Information (COI) advice, in most cases the Department offers alternative non-telephone methods of contact such as email and letter.

The Department is in discussion with the COI to investigate, along with alternatives, the use of 03 numbers as replacements.

The Department and its service providers use the following 0845 numbers. We do not have any 0844 numbers. The total quantity of telephone numbers can change as services are introduced or closed.

Service provider		
Headship Information Line	0845 716 5136	Information in connection with national headship training programmes
Prolog	0845 6022260	DCSF publications helpline
Fast Track Helpline	0845 6015921	Queries from Fast Track teachers and head teachers
Fast Track recruitment helpline	0845 0581066	Teachers applying to join the Fast Track Teaching programme
Teacher information line	0845 6000991	Advice on training opportunities and support available
Return to teach line	0845 6000993	Advice on training opportunities and support available
National Strategies Helpdesk	0845 850 1444	To support the delivery of the national strategies

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 628W, on economic and monetary union, when the updating of his Department's euro changeover plan is expected to be completed. [250090]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Euro Changeover Plan will be revised by the end of 2009 to take account of DCSF changes in the delivery of corporate services during the year.

NVQ: Teaching Assistants

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants have reached National Vocational Qualification level *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 of the Training Development for School programme. [248868]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Offences Against Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the statement of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 372-74W, on safeguarding children, when he expects the further serious case review to be complete. [252685]

Beverley Hughes: The Chair of Haringey Local Safeguarding Children Board has been asked to submit the new Serious Case Review into the death of Baby P to Ofsted for evaluation by the end of February and to publish the executive summary by the end of March.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what cars of what engine cubic capacity are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department. [250030]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Two cars are currently owned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (i) 2001 Vauxhall Vectra 1995 cubic capacity and (ii) 2003 Vauxhall Astra 1595 cubic capacity. No cars are currently leased by the Department.

Parents: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of deaf parents of children of school age. [251233]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect these data centrally.

We recognise the particular problems faced by disabled parents and our forthcoming parent survey will enable us to understand more fully the views of disabled parents. We have committed to providing guidance for schools and other settings on working with parents, which will include meeting the needs of deaf parents.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the findings of the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey in 2007, what assessment he has made of the likely effects of trends in the profitability of children's centres on levels of childcare provision. [252063]

Beverley Hughes: The Department continues to provide support through guidance and close-working with partners to ensure that child care in children's centres can be sustainable. Local authorities received £122 million in 2008/09 to help secure sufficiency and access to affordable, high quality child care in their areas. The Government remain committed to ensuring that high-quality child care is available for the most disadvantaged families, and children's centres play a pivotal role in supporting this aim.

Schools: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that Building Schools for the Future schools which are required to display a Display Energy Certificate do so; and if he will make a statement; [252587]

(2) how many schools in each region *(a)* are required to display and *(b)* display Display Energy Certificates; and what the energy consumption of each of those schools was in the latest period for which information is available; [252608]

(3) how many schools have incurred penalties for failure to *(a)* display a Display Energy Certificate and *(b)* obtain an associated advisory report; and how much has been imposed in such penalties; [252609]

(4) how many and what percentage of Building Schools for the Future programme schools were in each of the Display Energy Certificate energy efficiency bands A to G at the latest date for which information is available; [252611]

(5) what data his Department are gathering on the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of use of renewables technologies in Building Schools for the Future schools. [252655]

Jim Knight: The requirements to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) for an existing school and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for a new school are legal requirements, for which the enforcement responsibility rests with Local Trading Standards Offices. We do not keep records of whether schools have incurred penalties for non-compliance or of penalties. The Department's contribution is to help schools comply. To that end, we have issued guidance on the Teachernet website for all schools on the requirement for DECs in schools[1]. We have no plans for further action beyond this.

The regulatory impact assessment produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government gives an estimate of the number of educational buildings in England that require a Display Energy Certificate[2]. We do not know how many schools are displaying the certificates as required. The Department has published aggregated Benchmark National and Regional Statistics on Energy Consumption of Schools for 1999 to 2003[3].

New schools built under Building Schools for the Future are required to have an Energy Performance Certificate rather than a Display Energy Certificate. Existing schools which are refurbished will have DECs. Both DECs and EPCs are recorded on a national register available at:

www.ndepcregister.com

To access the data the unique reference number of the certificate must be known. Schools can therefore access their data using their certificate number. Individual school energy data are kept confidential and Communities and Local Government only receive aggregated data from the register. There are no plans to publish individual school energy data although many local authorities and schools hold these data themselves. Communities and Local Government are developing a data handling strategy for the aggregate data which should be in place by April this year. From an existing extract of provisional data from 19 December 2008 we know that, at that date, 28 secondary schools and 64 primary schools had EPCs. The numbers of these schools in each of the efficiency bands is given in the following table. To put these figures into perspective the average non-domestic EPC rating is currently a 'C'.

Percentage of primary schools	*Percentage of secondary schools*	*Asset rating efficiency band*	*Asset ratings*
1	2	A	0-25
15	14	B	26-50
10	1	C	51-75
15	8	D	76-100
13	1	E	101-125
5	1	F	126-150
5	1	G	Over 150

We are asking Communities and Local Government for a similar data extract for Display Energy Certificates and will be able to supply the efficiency band percentage splits to the hon. Member in the next two weeks. We will be discussing how future reports of the percentage splits can be made public with CLG as part of the development of their strategy for DEC and EPC data.

The data extract we have from CLG also lists the main heating fuel for all the schools. Where Biomass is the main heating fuel it is therefore listed. The three schools which have achieved 'A' ratings all have used biomass as the main heating fuel. This shows the impact that the use of biomass can have on the carbon rating of a school. No other renewables are identifiable on the data provided.

The Department requires that newly constructed schools, including those within Building Schools for the Future, meet a carbon emissions reduction of 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards in 2002 building regulations. Additional funding has been provided for more than 200 schools in Building Schools for the Future and the academies programme to fund the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites to enable this requirement to be met. We have developed a 'carbon calculator'—a software tool—which allows users to compare the likely effectiveness of various energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, and to demonstrate how they would achieve the 60 per cent. reduction. We have received completed carbon calculators for 53 school projects which are currently in design[4].

Partnerships for Schools monitors the compliance of the carbon ratings of school designs with government targets and in PFI schools ensures that the payment mechanism during the contract period (normally 25 years) reflects the DCSF policy on energy use. A low carbon rating may be due to energy efficient design or the employment of low and zero carbon fuels, including renewables.

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[1] Webpage on Display Energy Certificates and Monitoring School Energy Consumption

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/schoolbuildings/energyefficiency/certificates/

[2] http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningand building/xls/324471.xls

[3] Energy and Water Benchmarks for Maintained Schools in England 2002-03, from

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000477/index.shtml

[4] www.teachernet.gov.uk/carbontargets

Schools: Vetting

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers, *(b)* classroom assistants and *(c)* school volunteers are waiting for Criminal Records Bureau clearance before taking up a position. [248865]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Social Services: Standards

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have received a grade one for safeguarding in their joint area reviews by Ofsted in the last 18 months. [252275]

Beverley Hughes: Five joint area reviews undertaken since April 2007 have reported services for safeguarding as grade 1, which signifies that inspectorates judged the services to be inadequate. They were the reviews of services in Haringey, Hertfordshire, Reading, Surrey and Wokingham.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many places there were in maintained special schools in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [247853]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Tables have been placed in the Library showing the number of pupils by type of school, including maintained special schools, in each local authority for the years 1999 to 2008.

The Department does not collect data on maintained special schools places but collects actual pupil numbers. In general, local authorities fund special schools on the basis of the number of pupils for which they will normally be expected to cater, whether or not the places are actually occupied. This enables a stable resource base to be maintained, while allowing for the admission of pupils whose needs are identified during the year.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils classed as persistent absentees were absent from school for more than *(a)* 100, *(b)* 150, *(c)* 200, *(d)* 250 and *(e)* 300 sessions of school in the 2007-08 academic year. [240612]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is not yet available.

Young People: Financial Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he is taking to ensure young people are equipped with personal finance skills; and if he will make a statement; [251202]

(2) what plans he has to include personal finance skills in initial teacher training courses; and if he will make a statement. [251203]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Personal finance education is currently covered in the primary curriculum as part of the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Citizenship. Sir Jim Rose is currently carrying out an independent review of the primary curriculum, including PSHE education, and will report in March 2009.

The new 'economic wellbeing and financial capability' programme of study has been taught in secondary schools since September 2008 as part of the revised secondary non-statutory curriculum for PSHE education. The place of economic wellbeing in the curriculum will be further strengthened by our intention to consult on making PSHE education statutory.

The Government have also committed £11.5 million over three years to support financial education in schools. This includes provision to improve Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in financial capability for teachers. Standard Q15 in our standards for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) requires all trainee teachers at Key Stage 3 and 4 to demonstrate a familiarity with economic wellbeing and financial capability. Teachers of Business Education in the secondary phase will receive training in aspects of personal finance relevant to the 14-19 curriculum. We are working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to develop a specialist PSHE education route through Initial Teacher Training.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 2 February 2009

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Credit: Savings

12. **Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to amend the 10 per cent. rule on savings when calculating pension credit. [253035]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tariff income rules provide a simple method of calculating the contribution people with £6,000 of capital are expected to make and does not reflect any rate of return.

80 per cent. of pension credit recipients are unaffected by the tariff income rules.

Incapacity Benefit

13. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for future arrangements for assistance offered by his Department to long-term recipients of incapacity benefit. [253036]

James Purnell: We have already invested heavily to support existing incapacity benefit customers into work, by ensuring they can volunteer for any appropriate back to work support available in Pathways to Work. Our recent White Paper announced a strong package of new initiatives to provide further support to this group, including pilots of new innovative approaches such as the 'invest to save' pathfinders recommended by David Freud.

Jobcentre Plus

17. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps Jobcentre Plus is taking to help unemployed people find jobs. [253040]

Mr. McNulty: Everyone who becomes unemployed has access to the thousands of jobs on the Jobcentre Plus website or through the jobs helpline. Despite the recent increases in claimants, 70 per cent. of customers are seen within three days of claiming for discussions about help in finding work.

Local Employment Partnerships are being extended to cover all unemployed customers. And from April, Jobcentre Plus will be introducing extra help for people who have been unemployed for six months or more.

Youth Unemployment

18. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on levels of unemployment among 18 to 24 year olds; and if he will make a statement. [253041]

Mr. McNulty: Despite recent increases the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 18 to 24 is still 13.3 per cent. lower than in May 1997 and long term youth claimant unemployment has fallen by 73.4 per cent.

Since (February to April) 1997 the number of 18 to 24 ILO unemployed has risen 124,000 to 614,000. The number of 18 to 24-year-olds who have been ILO unemployed for more than six months is 200,000, down 10,000 since 1997.

Jobseeker's Allowance

20. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projection he has made of the number of people who will have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by October 2009. [253043]

Mr. McNulty: Of all new jobseeker's allowance claims, over 50 per cent. leave within three months, and around 75 per cent. by six months, demonstrating the effectiveness of the JSA regime.

Based on the unemployment assumption published at the pre-Budget report, we estimate that in 2009-10 there will be an average of 190,000 claimants of jobseeker's allowance who will have been claiming for over 12 months. These figures are planning assumptions only, and do not reflect an official view of numbers of unemployed people, or the duration of unemployment. They are based on the HM Treasury unemployment assumption, which is an average of several independent unemployment forecasts. An update to this assumption will be published at the Budget.

24. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 18 and 24 years are claiming jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency and *(b)* the UK. [253048]

Mr. McNulty: The number of 18 to 24-year-olds in the UK claiming jobseeker's allowance in December 2008 was 355,300.

In Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey the number of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance was 315.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answers of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1997W, on jobseeker's allowance, what research analysis his Department has undertaken on the proportion of time jobseeker's allowance claimants spent *(a)* on benefits and *(b)* not on benefits or in work over a set period of time, including claimants with more than one benefit claim in the last five years. [243218]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: The published research available is in the Department for Work and Pensions Research Report No. 394, 'Repeat Jobseeker's Allowance Spells by Hannah Carpenter' (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), which found that 54 per cent. of people who claimed jobseeker's allowance between July 2003 and June 2004 were repeat claimants. They had spent an average one year out of the previous four on jobseeker's allowance, although the length of spells on benefit varied widely. A quarter of repeat claimants had been on other benefits in the previous four years.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the highest number of repeat claims made for jobseeker's allowance is; [249363]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people flowing on to jobseeker's allowance in the last 12 months who have made *(a)* no, *(b)* between one and five, *(c)* between six and 10, *(d)* between 11 and 20 and *(e)* over 20 previous claims for jobseeker's allowance. [249365]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed jobseeker's allowance for *(a)* five, *(b)* six, *(c)* seven, *(d)* eight, *(e)* nine and *(f)* 10 or more years. [249364]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants at May 2008 by duration

	Number
5 years	1,630
6 years	950
7 years	680
8 years	410
9 years	560
10 years or more	990

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

National Minimum Wage

21. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the effects of the national minimum wage on levels of unemployment. [253044]

Mr. McNulty: Ministers hold regular meetings to discuss the impacts of departmental policies on the economy.

Carer's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the cost to the public purse of introducing a withdrawal rate for carer's allowance of *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent., *(c)* 30 per cent., *(d)* 40 per cent., *(e)* 50 per cent., *(f)* 60 per cent., *(g)* 70 per cent., *(h)* 80 per cent. and *(i)* 90 per cent. that would take effect at the current earnings limit in each of the next six years. [249153]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not have estimates available for the costs of introducing these policy changes.

Child Support

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve the performance of the child support system. [253037]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission took over responsibility for the Child Maintenance System on 1 November 2008.

The latest figures show that the Commission collected and arranged a record £1.1 billion maintenance in the 12 months to December 2008, and is on track to further increase the amount of maintenance collected by the end of this year.

The reforms we have already made to the child maintenance system, including the introduction of a full child maintenance disregard in April 2010, will lift around 100,000 children out of poverty. But more is needed to tackle those parents who wilfully refuse to support their children—this is why we have also introduced proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill to give the Commission the power to remove passports and driving licence from those parents who wilfully refuse to take responsibility for their children.

Child Poverty

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the level of child poverty; and what plans he has to reduce it. [253042]

Kitty Ussher: The number of children in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income (before housing costs) in the United Kingdom in 2006-07 (latest information available) is 2.9 million, down 600,000 from 1997 and expected to reduce by a further 500,000 as a result of measures already announced.

On 28 January we launched the consultation, 'Ending Child Poverty: Making it Happen', ahead of a child poverty Bill that will enshrine in legislation the Government's promise to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The Bill will provide a framework to guarantee that Government and delivery partners at all levels make a clear contribution towards ending child poverty.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245331]

Jonathan Shaw: Data security is taken very seriously by the Department and is a key priority for its commercial team who are in regular contact with its suppliers and contractors at both senior managerial and operational levels. The Department has incorporated the new Office of Government Commerce model contract clauses relating to data security into new contracts. All relevant suppliers have been informed of the requirements. 98 per cent. of suppliers have confirmed that they are fully compliant.

The Department is actively working with the remaining suppliers and has action plans in place to achieve 100 per cent. compliance.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental data protection, what the names of the *(a)* Senior Information Risk Owner and *(b)* Information Asset Owners are. [248750]

Jonathan Shaw: The names of the Department's *(a)* Senior Information Risk Owner, and *(b)* Information Asset Owners, are as follows.

(a) Senior Information Risk Owner: R. Heaton.

(b) Information Asset Owners: N. Cheetham; J. Doherty; S. Furse; R. Ginn; P. Greening; S. McKinnon-Evans; R. Molan; J. Oliver; H. Orme; J. Perryer; K. Roberts; D. Smith; M. Whitehouse.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for his Department to achieve capability maturity model integration level 3 and beyond. [248938]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has already achieved capability maturity model integration (CMMI) level 2 and plans to achieve level 3 for the new CMMI for Acquisition model in the next year. The new standard, applies to the management of outsourced IT services which conforms more closely to the Department's approach. Our plans include the development of new processes and standard products at project, management and organisation unit levels, the review of existing processes, and an intensive programme of rollout and training activity.

Once level 3 is achieved the Department will review the business case for moving to higher levels.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W, on departmental personnel, how many staff without posts there are in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; how many staff without posts were classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [250103]

Jonathan Shaw: As at 31 December 2008 there were 301 members of staff, in the Department for Work and Pensions, who were without a permanent post. The following table shows the number of staff in each business area of the Department. The table also details the numbers of staff who have been without a permanent post for more than six months and of that number those who have been without a permanent post for more than 12 months.

Agency/ business area	*Staff without a permanent post*	*For at least six months*	*For at least 12 months*
Jobcentre Plus	252	122	105
Pensions, Disability and Carer Services	14	8	4
Rest of the Department	35	9	4
Total	301	139	113

The number of these staff who had returned from maternity leave is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Staff without permanent posts are actively engaged in delivering a range of departmental projects and duties, while seeking a new permanent position. They are given priority for posts in this Department and other Government Departments.

The Child Support Agency, figures for which were included in the response of 17 July 2008, transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on 1 November 2008. At that time, there were no staff in the agency without permanent posts.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bonuses to staff were paid by his Department in each year since 1998; how much was so paid in each year; and for what purposes these bonuses were awarded. [248728]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was formed in 2001 as a result of machinery of government changes. Therefore it is only possible to provide the information requested from the 2002-03 financial year, which is when pay arrangements including those for bonuses were harmonised for all DWP employees.

End of Year Performance Bonuses

DWP employees below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a 'Top', 'Higher' or 'Majority' rating under the annual performance and development system. The bonus awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service, end of year bonuses are determined by the relevant DWP SCS Pay Committee.

* Performance awards from the year 2007-08 were payable in July of the financial year 2008-09. A total of £23.32 million has been paid. This is broken down as follows:

Table 1: Department Total

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2002-03	131,776	30.82
2003-04	106,123	25.29
2004-05	129,855	36.61
2005-06	123,825	42.82
2006-07	116,096	40.68
2007-08*	111,943	36.61
2008-09	107,726	23.32

Table 2: Total below SCS

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2002-03	131,666	30.23
2003-04	105,997	24.58
2004-05	129,648	35.64
2005-06	123,620	41.43
2006-07	115,896	39.01
2007-08	111,741	34.88
2008-09	107,518	21.50

Table 3: Total SCS

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2002-03	110	0.59
2003-04	126	0.71
2004-05	207	0.97
2005-06	205	1.39
2006-07	200	1.67
2007-08	202	1.73
2008-09	208	1.82

Notes:

1. The information in tables 1 and 2 is based on the number of employees recorded on the DWP payroll systems as having received a qualifying performance mark. These are headcount.

2. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in the year, which is why the information has been presented separately and not as an aggregated total.

3. The performance bonus is paid in the financial year following the performance year of 1 April to 31 March.

4. The total amount paid includes employers national insurance contribution (ERNIC).

5. In-year cash bonus data was previously held on a separate IT system. Data from this system can only be obtained from a third party and there would be a cost ascribed to this provision. This would bring the cost of answering this PQ to above the threshold considered proportionate.

Special Bonus and Voucher Payments

Individuals may also be entitled to special bonus payments either as cash or retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award. Payments are made to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

The cost for voucher payments was £0.9 million in 2006-07 (14,392 vouchers issued), £1.77 million in 2007-08 (31,237 vouchers were issued) and £1.03 million in 2008-09 (28,869 vouchers issued). Some individuals might have received more than one voucher.

It is not possible to provide separate data for in-year cash bonuses across three years. However, based on 2007-08 payments, the cost in a typical year is around £2.7 million paid to approximately 11,250 individuals.

These figures are the best available.

Income Support: Mortgages

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the two-year time limit on claims for income support for mortgage interest for jobseeker's allowance claimants will apply to existing claimants. [249368]

Mr. McNulty: The two year limit on payment of support for mortgage interest for income-based jobseeker's allowance claimants will not apply to existing customers who started to receive payment of mortgage interest under the previous rules that existed before 5 January 2009.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices have closed in each of the last five years. [251467]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus offices have closed in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following table provides the information you have requested:

Year	*Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public and subsequently closed*
2004	95
2005	99
2006	157
2007	49
2008	54

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent high street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 744 modern Jobcentres which are supported by 31 contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

Increasingly, our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. New claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network.

In December, I asked the customer service directors in our regions to review their service delivery plans for every Jobcentre Plus District in the light of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years. As an immediate measure, I decided to suspend proposed further Jobcentre closures while the current economic uncertainties exist, which will allow us to increase our capacity to deliver services to those in need of help.

Local Employment Partnerships

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseekers in each region have found *(a)* employment and *(b)* sustained employment with employers who have signed-up to local employment partnerships in each quarter since local employment partnerships were established. [248440]

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been placed in work through local employment partnerships in each year since such partnerships were established, broken down by Jobcentre Plus area. [249394]

Mr. McNulty: Over 90,000 people have found work to date through local employment partnerships (LEPs). The following table shows the number of people who found employment through LEPs in the 2007-08 operational year ending March 2008, and for each of the three following quarters ending June, September and December. The number of people given face-to-face help in Jobcentre Plus offices is shown by Jobcentre Plus Region; those helped following telephone contact with Jobcentre Plus are shown separately in the contact centre totals. An evaluation of the policy will examine sustained employment.

The number of people finding work through local employment partnerships by region

	Numbers finding work through local employment partnerships during:				
	period to end-March 2008	*quarter ending June 2008*	*quarter ending Sept 2008*	*quarter ending Dec 2008*	*Total finding work to December 2008*
East Midlands	68	552	1,452	3,808	5,880
East of England	84	320	2,094	3,111	5,609
London	1,453	1,932	5,916	8,295	17,596
North East	295	632	1811	4,601	7,339
North West	210	1,222	3,097	6,371	10900
South East	132	376	1,705	3846	6,059
South West	98	412	1,473	3,455	5,438
West Midlands	248	951	3,685	5,469	10,353
Yorkshire and the Humber	255	698	3,179	4,351	8,483
Scotland	713	3,197	4,307	4,620	12,837
Wales	346	689	2,138	3,333	6,506
Contact centre total	9	23	1,043	1,884	2,959
National total	3,911	11,004	31,900	53,144	99,959

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the maximum amount of funding that businesses are eligible to receive when working with Jobcentre Plus in local employment partnerships is *(a)* per person placed in work and *(b)* in total; [249396]

(2) how his Department determines the *(a)* amount and *(b)* timing of funding to businesses within a local employment partnership; [249397]

(3) how much has been paid by his Department to businesses in local employment partnerships in each year since such partnerships were established, broken down by *(a)* Jobcentre Plus district and *(b)* reason for payment. [249406]

Mr. McNulty: Businesses do not receive funding through local employment partnerships. Local employment partnerships (LEPs) are an enhanced way of working between the Government and employers. Each agreement is different and arrangements for LEP measures will be responsive to local circumstances. Jobcentre Plus works in partnership with existing structures including, local authorities, Cities Strategy Pathfinders, The Learning and Skills Council, Train to Gain, training providers and further education colleges to provide opportunities for help and training to assist people make the transition from benefit into work.

Public Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 92 of the pre-Budget report (1) how much money his Department accrued in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion each year's contribution made to the stock of money not spent in earlier years; [245033]

(2) how much money was in his Department's stock of money not spent in earlier years, in each of the last six months. [245034]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the Department for Social Security and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment including the Employment Service. Therefore it is not possible to provide information for 2001-02 or previous years.

Subsequent to 2001-02 the Department's stock of money not spent in earlier years increased in 2006-07 by £202 million (25 per cent. of the total stock) and in 2007-08 by £5 million (0.6 per cent. of the total stock). The increases are calculated net of stock drawn down to fund in year spend. Between 2002-03 and 2005-06 the Department's stock of unspent money was reduced.

The stock of money not spent (commonly referred to as end of year flexibility) is determined at the end of each financial year in conjunction with HM Treasury and is published in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper.

The stock is not accrued monthly and as such the balance does not move during the financial year.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of benefit claims maintained by post in each year since 1997; [249361]

(2) in what circumstances a benefit claimant may maintain a claim through postal signings. [249362]

Mr. McNulty: Information regarding the number of benefit claims maintained by post is not available.

Postal signing is made available to customers: who live more than one hour, door to door, by public transport, in either direction, from the nearest jobcentre; or who would be absent from home in excess of four hours if they had to attend in person; or who have a mental or physical disability, which restricts their mobility; and in other exceptional circumstances for example, the customer would have to use a form of transport they would not ordinarily be expected to use on a regular basis, i.e. an inter-city train, ferry or plane.

If no public transport is available, postal signing is not granted to customers who can reasonably be expected to walk from home to the jobcentre within one hour, taking into account their age, health and the terrain over which they must walk. No customer is expected to walk more than three miles.

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-focused interviews for each category of benefit were conducted in each of the last five years. [244202]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many work-focused interviews for each category of benefit were conducted in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is not available prior to February 2005. The available information is in the table below.

Work focused interviews attended broken down by year and benefit

Benefit	*2004-05*[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
Incapacity benefit	73,463	720,766	991,052	1,191,282	672,446
Jobseeker's allowance	432,317	4,519,620	6,496,398	7,353,192	5,069,839
Income support	63,172	698,958	986,895	1,222,914	895,498

[1] The figures for 2004-05 are for February and March 2005.
[2] The figures for 2008-09 are for April to October 2008.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Business Information System

Social Security Benefits: Reform

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he plans to take in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency to ensure that his policy on welfare reform policies will be effective; [245808]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on families in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency who have benefited from the Government's policy on welfare reform. [245857]

Mr. McNulty: Since 1997 our welfare reforms have contributed to a reduction of 26,600 people claiming out of work benefits in the North East and 864 in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency.

Our reforms have resulted in high numbers of people in work, and have put an end to the rise in the number of people claiming incapacity benefits.

Active intervention is key, at no time is this more important than in an economic downturn. If it is becoming harder to find work, it is right that we do more to help, not less. We need to learn the lessons from previous downturns, and from overseas: first, increase support, do not relax conditionality; second, do not move people onto inactive benefits; and third, maintain efforts to reduce inactivity.

Our Welfare Reform White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future" (CM: 7506) published on 10 December 2008 drives forward the transformation of the welfare state, turning it from being essentially passive to profoundly active. The Bill to enact these proposals is now before Parliament.

Previous experience has taught us that the worst thing we can do in a downturn is to write people off, consigning them to a lifetime on benefits. We are investing an additional £1.3 billion over the next two years to support Jobcentre Plus and our employment programmes; and a further £0.5 billion to guarantee more support to people unemployed for six months or more by providing incentives for firms to hire, access to help in setting up a business, extra funding for training and opportunities for work-focused volunteering.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Treasury Minute entitled Progress in tackling benefit fraud, issued in response to the Committee of Public Accounts' Thirty-first Report of Session 2007-08, when his Department expects to set recovery targets for benefit overpayments as a result of fraud. [253047]

Mr. McNulty: We welcomed the recommendation put forward by the Public Accounts Committee and as a result undertook research to establish the best means of implementation. This work is very near to completion and there will be a recovery target in place for benefit overpayments arising as a result of fraud at the start of the next financial year.

The good news is that we have reduced fraud from around 2 per cent. of benefit expenditure in 2000-01 to 0.6 per cent. in 2007-08 and is now at its lowest level ever. I hope the hon. Gentleman welcomes that.

A recovery target for benefit overpayments arising from fraud will be in place for the next financial year.

PRIME MINISTER

Lobbying

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will allow the recording and broadcast of lobby briefings given by his spokesman to lobby journalists. [253230]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) on 2 February 2001, *Official Report*, column 335W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Buildings Allowance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of reinstating the agricultural buildings allowance. [252106]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The phased withdrawal of agricultural buildings allowance (ABAs) is part of a package of measures which also saw the reduction of the main rate of corporation tax and the introduction of a £50,000 annual investment allowance (AIA), allowing 95 per cent. of businesses to write off all their expenditure on plant and machinery in the year in which it is made.

The Government considered carefully the withdrawal of the ABA as part of this package of measures to modernise and simplify corporation tax. Taken as a whole these reforms to the business and personal tax systems are designed to deliver increases in investment and growth overall.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will consult residents of Hadleigh before any decisions are taken on the development of Hadleigh and the surrounding area to facilitate the Olympic mountain bike events; and if she will make a statement. [251063]

Tessa Jowell: In developing the plans for the mountain biking venue the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) will work with the local authority and the venue owner to ensure that the proposals meet the sporting and operational requirements for staging the Olympic event. Further to the Town Planning process, LOCOG and Essex county council will be talking to the local community to determine how best the games-time and legacy proposals meet with the satisfaction and support of the local people. This is a genuine opportunity to showcase Hadleigh, the county of Essex and the sport of mountain biking to a global audience.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many civil servants working in the Government Equalities Office have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [251671]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has one civil servant who has a pension with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the budget for the Government Equalities Office is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [251678]

Maria Eagle: The budget for the Government Equalities Office can be found in the Core Tables (Annex A) of the Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2007-08 which has been laid in the House of Commons Library.

Plain English Campaign: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since its establishment. [251652]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 13W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the dinner hosted by his Department at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool on 20 November 2008 was, broken down by category of cost. [250404]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The cost of the event at the Walker Art Gallery was £5,550.

ICT: Reviews

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the Digital Britain review has been to date; what estimate he has made of the *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* total costs of the review; and when he expects the review to make its final report. [249190]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The estimated cost of the Digital Britain review to date is £195,315, borne jointly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the cost of *(a)* venue hire, *(b)* travel expenses and *(c)* food and drink was for the tourism summit hosted by his Department in Liverpool on 8 January 2009; [250251]

(2) what the cost to his Department was of the tourism summit in Liverpool on 8 January. [250403]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The estimated total costs to the Department for Culture Media and Sport of the tourism summit in Liverpool on 8 January is £7,745.01.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the Answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 329W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on increasing the number of apprentices in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [251936]

Mr. Michael Foster: In line with the Skills Strategy—Next Steps, the Department for International Development (DFID) has committed to putting in place five apprenticeships for each of the next two years. The Department currently has no apprenticeships under way.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252376]

Mr. Michael Foster: Over the last 12 months the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £14,146 on works to the Ministers' offices and those of their private office staff. This includes the creation of a new waiting and meeting area.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Answer of 11 November 2008, *Official* Report, column 986, on departmental conditions of employment, what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest, *(c)* mean and *(d)* total amount was spent on (i) travel and (ii) other expenses for those who took their (A) two week break in home country and (B) two week break outside their home country in each year since 2005. [251971]

Mr. Michael Foster: Employees working in Iraq and Afghanistan are entitled to a two week break away from post for every six weeks worked.

DFID will only cover the cost of one return flight to the UK for each breather break. If employees wish to spend a break at an alternative location they must cover any additional costs, above the equivalent of the return ticket to the UK, themselves.

Employees are not reimbursed for other expenses incurred during the breather break.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [251027]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development does not provide Government cars to special advisers.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251252]

Mr. Michael Foster: The cost of the Department for International Development's contracts with public relations consultancies over the last five years was £314,242.

These data have been extracted from readily available information and may not be comprehensive. To undertake an extensive interrogation of records over the last five years would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 510W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251324]

Mr. Michael Foster: Other Ministers in the Department for International Development have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Public Communications.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252221]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) advises that fast stream staff undertake at least 15 days a year on learning and development activities. The specific training for each individual is determined between the line manager of the post and the individual. Records are not maintained centrally for each individual's learning and development, but normally some external training courses would form part of the learning and development. A wide variety of external providers are used. It regularly includes courses run by the National School of Government.

Approximately 100 sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for identifying learning and development opportunities for each staff member, including external training courses. Information on the number of staff attending external training courses is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252271]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has not used the Internet Advertising Bureau to provide any training courses in 2008.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251873]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252019]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) employs a diverse work force and so allows employees to work a wide range of flexible working patterns to fulfil their contracted hours; this may include some evening work. However, employees who opt to work flexibly must still take a minimum lunch break of at least 30 minutes. This also applies to employees that opt to work standard hours instead of flexible hours.

DFID only permits their employees to work beyond their contracted hours in the evenings or at weekends to meet essential business needs. Where employees work overtime, it is our policy to allow them to opt for either payment or time off in lieu.

International Economic Relations: Developing Countries

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proposals his Department has put forward for the reform of international financial institutions to meet international development objectives; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on these proposals; and if he will make a statement. [251226]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I have consistently called for reform of the international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The Government want to make these institutions more effective so that they are able to respond better to current and future global challenges. This will need to include addressing weaknesses in their legitimacy. At the October 2008 World Bank annual meetings I and other World Bank governors agreed a first package of measures to reform the Bank's governance, which included increased representation for African countries and opening up the appointment of the World Bank president. We also agreed that a second phase of reform would be taken forward to give poorer countries more say in the World Bank's decision making.

At the Washington summit on 15 November G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to reforming the World Bank and the IMF to increase their legitimacy and effectiveness. My Department is working with other G20 countries to identify specific actions to take forward this agenda. I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members of the Cabinet about these and other issues that will be discussed at the London summit.

Peace

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* peace education, *(b)* mediation, *(c)* conflict prevention, *(d)* conflict resolution, *(e)* interfaith dialogue and *(f)* other peace development initiatives since January 2002; and if he will make a statement. [252108]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not disaggregate spend into the categories requested. DFID currently holds records against the following categories of expenditure on conflict:

£ million

Category	*Total expenditure in financial years 2002-03 to 2007-08*
Security system management and reform	69.4
Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution	213.6
Land mine clearance	65.2
Total	348.2

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka following the recent offensive by government troops on Tamil areas; and if he will make a statement. [253466]

Mr. Michael Foster: The worsening humanitarian plight of some 230,000 trapped civilians following the Sri Lankan government's recent offensive causes great concern. We deplore such incidents as the recent shelling of a hospital.

We constantly monitor the situation through our high commission and other sources, supplemented by field visits by Department for International Development humanitarian staff. We have recently programmed £2.5 million humanitarian funding through the UN, Red Cross and non-government organisations. We are sending another humanitarian mission in the next few weeks and have agreed a further £2.5 million humanitarian funding.

But the problem will not be resolved by funding alone. We are resolute in pressing for better humanitarian access for aid convoys and other relief within safe humanitarian space. The Foreign Secretary repeated this to President Rajapakse on 30 January.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [250815]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The humanitarian situation in Darfur remains precarious. Although violence is not on the scale of 2003-04, insecurity continues to hamper the delivery of aid. In 2008, a further 310,000 civilians entered internally displaced persons' camps to bring the total to 2.7 million. 277 relief vehicles were hijacked, 192 compounds attacked and 11 humanitarian workers were killed.

Improving the humanitarian situation in Darfur remains a high priority for us. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch Brown, discussed Darfur with Djibril Bassolé, African Union (AU)/UN Chief Mediator for Darfur, in London on 15 December 2008, and we are in regular contact with his office. Our ambassador in Khartoum and her staff maintain close contact with all main political groups in Darfur, non-governmental organisations working in the region, and the AU/UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and visited all three states of Darfur in the last three months.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252016]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office do not record centrally days taken off in lieu granted to staff in *(a)* the Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times, outside contracted working hours.

VAT: Business

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what estimate his Department has made of the administrative cost to businesses in Northern Ireland of the recent temporary reduction in the rate at which value added tax is levied prior to that reduction taking place; [252309]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the administrative cost to businesses in Northern Ireland of a variation in the rate at which value added tax is levied. [252310]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Estimated costs to business in the UK are published in the impact assessment of changes to the standard rate of VAT. This is available on the HM Treasury website. Reliable cost estimates cannot be produced on a regional basis.

SCOTLAND

Homecoming Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what role the Scotland Office is playing in relation to the Homecoming Scotland 2009 initiative. [253090]

Ann McKechin: I am fully supportive of the Year of Homecoming and will be taking appropriate opportunities to promote it throughout the year along with my other ministerial colleagues. I have already obtained the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in promoting the initiative.

TRANSPORT

Channel Tunnel: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the train access charge regime for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, with particular reference to his policy of encouraging cross-border rail/freight movements. [253229]

Paul Clark: The future charges for use of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link have been subject to recent consultation and HS1 Limited is discussing these charges with train operators and industry representatives as part of its consideration of that consultation. Further details can be found on the HS1 website at:

www.highspeed1.co.uk

The Government wishes to see charges set at a level which maximises use of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and encourages competition, while ensuring the market makes the fullest contribution towards the costs of constructing the railway.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that no changes affecting the terms and conditions of staff will be made to the contractual parts of any staff handbooks within his Department without the consent of a recognised trade union. [253235]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport may make changes to the staff handbook following consultation or negotiation as appropriate with its recognised trade union.

Departmental Procurement

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the status of the tender notice entitled UK-London: Reward Strategy and Benefits Project detailed on his Department's Procurement Portal has changed to closed. [253234]

Mr. Hoon: The contract notice published on 11 November 2008 changed to a closed status when the 30 day deadline for submission of applications to participate passed.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to recover funds due to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency identified in the Central London employment tribunal case between Mr Geoff Topliss and NCP Services Ltd. [253474]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no outstanding funds to recover. DVLA has receipts and appropriate documentation to show that all revenue due has been received by the agency.

Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency: Personal Records

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to refuse paper requests to the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency for the release of driver information unless such requests meet the requirements applicable to requests submitted electronically. [253231]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The procedures in place for the release of vehicle keeper details from DVLA's vehicle register are kept under review. An announcement will be made shortly on the additional measures DVLA intend to introduce for car park enforcement companies requesting vehicle keeper details manually.

Public Transport: Complaints

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce an ombudsman system to deal with complaints concerning the transport system. [252903]

Mr. Hoon: I have no plans to put such a system in place. A range of bodies already exist to deal with transport-related complaints.

Railways: Catering

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the specification of restaurant car services in rail franchises let by his Department, with particular reference to franchises held by National Express. [253228]

Paul Clark: For the recently-let rail franchises, the policy of the Department for Transport has been not to specify restaurant car services. This policy was applied to franchises now held by National Express.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilians have been killed in military action in Helmand province since February 2006. [249207]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 622-23W.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of theft of British military equipment supplies during transit from the port of disembarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan have been reported since 18 July 2008. [251985]

Mr. Hutton: Two incidents of theft of British military supplies during transit from the port of disembarkation in Pakistan to the final destination in Afghanistan have been reported to the Royal Military Police between 18 July 2008 and 26 January 2009 inclusive.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from the First Battalion The Rifles have been injured in Afghanistan since October 2008. [252119]

Mr. Hutton: Between 1 October 2008 and 24 January 2009 one soldier from 1st Battalion The Rifles was very seriously injured, and another Rifleman was seriously injured.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 23W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations (1) how long the training will take; and what personnel will be involved in the training; [253215]

(2) where the training of personnel will take place; [253216]

(3) what aspects of the flying training will be conducted. [253217]

Mr. Hutton: The aspects of flying training to be conducted will be appropriate to the environmental and operational conditions in Afghanistan.

The training of RAF Merlin Force air and ground crew will take place in the UK (at RAF Benson, on Salisbury Plain and other UK training areas), with some elements likely to be overseas as part of a rolling programme prior to deployment.

Much of the theatre-specific preparation will need to take place during the four month period between completion of deployment to Iraq and commencement of deployment to Afghanistan; but some elements of training may commence earlier.

I am withholding further details as their disclosure would, or would likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many insurgents in Afghanistan were captured by British forces in each month in 2008; and how many *(a)* were subsequently released, *(b)* transferred to Afghan authorities and *(c)* remain in British custody. [253375]

Mr. Hutton: I have nothing to add to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr. MacNeil) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1016W.

Air Force: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many multi-engine aircraft in service with the Royal Air Force have *(a)* navigators and *(b)* flight engineers as part of the crew. [252389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 59 aircraft of the RAF Multi-Engine fleet that are planned to be in service on 31 March 2009 have Weapons System Officers (Navigator) (WSO(Nav)) as part of the crew. These comprise the Hercules C130K, VC10, Sentry, Sentinel, Nimrod MR2 and Nimrod R1 aircraft.

63 aircraft of the RAF Multi-Engine fleet that are planned to be in service on 31 March 2009 have Air Engineers as part of the crew. These comprise the Hercules C130K, Tristar, VC10, Sentry, Nimrod MR2 and Nimrod R1 aircraft.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* navigators and *(b)* flight engineers are available to serve in multi-engine aircraft in service with the RAF. [252454]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Navigators form a sub-branch of the weapon system officer specialisation and flight engineers are more correctly known as air engineers. Currently there are 285 weapon system officer (navigators) and 175 air engineers available to serve in multi-engine aircraft[1]. These figures include personnel who are currently trained and qualified to serve in a multi-engine aircraft, those who occupy another type of flying appointment and those who occupy a non-flying post. Those in the last two categories would require refresher training before they would be available to serve in multi-engine aircraft.

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* endorsed number, *(b)* actual number and *(c)* location was of all UK personnel deployed on operations on 1 January 2009. [249735]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The endorsed force levels for UK military operations are set out in the following table by location.

Location	*Endorsed number (at 1 January 2009)*[1]
Afghanistan[2]	8,050
Southern Iraq	4,100
Baghdad[3]	250
At sea	1,050
Falklands/South Atlantic	1,500
Qatar	700
Cyprus	300
Kuwait	550
Kosovo	150
Bahrain	50
Bosnia	<50
Other[4]	100

[1] Rounded to 50

[2] On 15 December 2008, the Prime Minister announced a temporary increase in the number of British troops deployed to Afghanistan, from just over 8,050 to 8,300, *Official Report*, column 816. The endorsed figure for Operation Herrick 9 remains unaffected.

[3] Providing support to the Senior British Military Representative—Iraq.

[4] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, and headquarters liaison officers.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre at any one time fluctuates very significantly on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not therefore publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

Armed Forces: Females

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many women have been recruited into the General Duties (Pilot) branch of the Royal Air Force in the last 12 months. [250025]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the 12 month period, ending on 31 October 2008, out of a total of just over 100 personnel recruited into the General Duties (Pilot) branch of the Royal Air Force, fewer than 10 were women.

This figure has been rounded up to the nearest 10 in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the convention on presentation of national statistics.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent removing asbestos from *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service families accommodation since 1997. [248658]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Occupants of service accommodation are made aware of the location of any asbestos known to be present in their accommodation and are given appropriate health and safety advice. Reports by occupants of suspected damage to any asbestos-carrying material are investigated, and, where required, action taken in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the manning *(a)* requirement and *(b)* level was in each unit of each service in the armed forces in each of the last five years. [252099]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on strengths and requirements of the armed forces by service can be found in table 1 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 4—UK armed forces quarterly manning report. TSP 4 is published quarterly and, the most recent publication shows figures as at 1 October 2008, can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=1&thiscontent=20&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=20081127&disText=01%20Oct%202008&from=listing&topDate=2008-11-27

Requirement is not split by unit for the three services. Strengths information by unit can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pakistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are based in Pakistan; and what their role is. [250843]

Mr. Hutton: There are currently 18 UK armed forces personnel based in Pakistan. UK personnel undertake a variety of roles, including training and liaison. In addition, some personnel undertake diplomatic duties and fill exchange posts.

Armed Forces: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals in each branch of the armed forces have failed to complete successfully basic training in each year since 2000. [246701]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of individuals in the armed forces that have failed to complete successfully basic training in each year since 2000 is not centrally held.

Information on outflow to civil life from the untrained strength of UK regular forces by sex and ethnic origin can be found in Table 7 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 4—UK armed forces quarterly manning report. TSP 4 is published quarterly and, the most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 30 September 2008, can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType1&thiscontent=20&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=20081127&disText=01%20Oct%202008&from=listing&topDate=2008-11-27

Outflow to civil life from the untrained strength of UK regular forces includes outflow from phase 1 (basic) and phase 2 training.

Outflow to civil life from the untrained strength of UK regular forces by branch information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ridgback armoured vehicles have been shipped to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq since 2001. [251647]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No Ridgback vehicles have yet been shipped to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Delivery to Afghanistan is due to begin later this year and there are no plans to deploy Ridgback to Iraq.

Army: Expenditure

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on *(a)* heavy infantry, *(b)* heavy artillery, *(c)* light infantry and *(d)* light artillery in each of the last 10 years. [252101]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of land in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrofiri and Dhekelia is given over the private ownership for the purposes of agriculture. [252912]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) of Akrotiri and Dhekelia cover an area of around 98 square miles. Approximately 60 per cent. of this land is privately owned. This land may be utilised by owners as they see fit within the applicable Law.

The functions of government relating to the administration and regulation of agricultural activities, as well as land registration are delegated to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus who would hold the data. The SBA Administration does not hold the information requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Expenditure

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-7WS, on defence equipment, what assessment he has made of the savings from the equipment budget required to be made in the 2009 planning round; and which programmes are being examined for savings. [253459]

Mr. Hutton: As part of the Department's normal planning round we review the full scope of our future equipment programme, alongside other elements of the defence programme, so that judgments can be made on overall priorities and balance of investment to maximise defence capability within the available resources. In my written statement on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-7WS, I informed Parliament about the major decisions emerging from our examination of the equipment programme and indicated that any further significant changes would be announced following the conclusion of the planning round.

Defence: Military Aircraft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the material carrying capacity is of the A400M. [250465]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The A400M aircraft has been specified to carry a payload of 32 tonnes. It is currently forecast to meet this requirement, and exceed it under certain scenarios.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248244]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally in the format requested. However, records held centrally of civilian staff dismissed since April 2002 include no cases of dismissal specifically for losing memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers and mobile telephones belonging to the Department.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many training exercises have been *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed due to the recent computer virus problem affecting his Department; [253358]

(2) how many computers in his Department have been infected with the recently reported computer virus; [253359]

(3) what his estimate is of the cost to his Department of resolving the recent computer virus problem; [253360]

(4) what assessment he has made of the source of the recent computer virus problem which affected his Department; [253361]

(5) how many computers in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other UK military bases overseas have been infected with a computer virus in the last two months; and what the (i) name and (ii) location of the base is in each case. [253362]

Mr. Hutton: It would not be in the interests of the UK's national security for the Ministry of Defence to release information regarding the impact of any computer virus infection on its IT systems as this would enable individuals to deduce how successful these infections are against the network and so assist such persons in establishing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 608W, on departmental manpower, how many staff in his Department and its agencies are in the redeployment pool; how many of them were placed in the pool after returning from maternity leave; and how many of them have been in the pool for at least *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months. [250095]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 21 January 2009 there were 886 MOD staff in the Redeployment Pool.

The Department's automated records do not facilitate ready identification of the number of those in the pool who were placed there on their return from maternity leave. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

346 staff have been in the pool for at least six months and, of those, 214 have been in the pool for at least 12 months.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246648]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held by the MOD; however, the Advertising Standards Authority report that between January 1997 and December 2008 the following complaints were made about MOD sponsored advertisements:

Royal Navy: four complaints about four cases, none of which were upheld.

Army: 92 complaints about 76 cases, none of which were upheld.

RAF: seven complaints received about seven cases, one of which remains under investigation while the remaining six were not upheld.

These statistics do not include complaints about TV or Radio broadcasts made between 1997 and 2006 as this information is not centrally held.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246958]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The data requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However public appointments to the MOD's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are run through a visibly open, fair and rigorous recruitment and selection process under the rules of the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments (OCPA). Successful candidates have to declare their political activities. Information on MOD's public appointments can be found at:

www.mod.uk

In respect of information on MOD's special advisers, since 2003 their names, overall costs and the number in each pay band are published on an annual basis by the Cabinet Office.

Detainee Numbers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will update the figures given on detainee numbers as set out in his letter of 17 November 2008 to the right hon. Member for North East Hampshire; and if he will make a statement [253242]

Mr. Hutton: I will shortly be updating the House on this issue.

International Security Assistance Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on sourcing the requirement for International Security Assistance Force's Operational Reserve Force; and if he will make a statement. [249743]

Mr. Hutton: I have had numerous discussions with my NATO counterparts on the subject of troops contributions. Through the force generation process, NATO is working to fill the Operational Reserve Force for ISAF. This requirement was identified on NATO's Combined Statement of Requirement in 2006. There are in-theatre reserves available.

Iraq

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the UK armed forces are working as part of NATO training forces in Iraq. [253206]

Mr. Hutton: Currently, there are 18 members of the UK armed forces working as part of the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors he will take into account when making decisions on the number of troops to be deployed in Iraq. [250903]

Mr. Hutton: As the Prime Minister set out on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1233-1235, we will complete our remaining military tasks in Iraq by 31 May 2009 and move to a normal bilateral defence relationship. As part of the future relationship, the government of Iraq have indicated that they would like the UK to continue to provide military training and education. The precise scope of this training and education will inform decisions on the number of UK service personnel in Iraq after 31 July. Decisions will also be based on advice from our military commanders and conditions on the ground. On the basis of our discussions with the Iraqi government to date, I anticipate that this future activity would involve no more than around 400 UK service personnel, which military commanders judge should be sufficient to support the delivery of these tasks safely and effectively.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq by July 2009 on the airbridge; [251982]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of commercial *(a)* planes and *(b)* ships to be hired to assist with the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq; and what the cost to his Department is estimated to be. [251983]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Plans have not yet been finalised for the recovery of equipment and personnel from Iraq. Until such time, it is not possible to quantify the amount of lift that will be necessary to move all the items and personnel. It is intended, however, that the majority of the recovery will be conducted by surface means using the MOD RoRo resources as far as possible in conjunction with commercial liner services. As the requirement to sustain Iraq reduces, the requirement for the lift will diminish.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 35W, on Iraq: peace keeping operations, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between his Department and the Department for International Development on conflict prevention immediately prior to the invasion of Iraq. [253210]

Mr. Hutton: Prior to the invasion of Iraq, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development (DfID) worked together on planning for Operation TELIC, including on humanitarian and reconstruction issues, and in other areas of stabilisation and conflict prevention. The House of Commons Defence Committee recognised in its report, 'Lessons of Iraq', published on 16 March 2004, that DfID was a 'key player' in planning for the post-conflict situation in Iraq. This close co-operation has continued ever since.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of the C17 aircraft operated by the armed forces have been fitted with titanium parts manufactured by Western Titanium. [251746]

Mr. Quentin Davies: RAF C-17 aircraft are fitted with titanium components manufactured by Western Titanium. There are no safety or airworthiness issues arising from the use of these components.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of helicopters of each type available for training purposes was in each year since 2001. [251705]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Dedicated helicopter flying training for all services is carried out by Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) at RAF Shawbury, with further training for Army personnel carried out by DHFS at Middle Wallop. The contract requires the delivery of flying hours, rather than a specific number of aircraft. It is up to the contractor to decide how many aircraft are required to deliver the required hours. The number of helicopters that the contractor has used to deliver the flying hours required in each year since 2001 under the DHFS contract is:

		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Shawbury	Griffin	9	9	11	11	11	11	11	12
	Squirrel	28	28	28	28	27	27	25	25
Middle Wallop	Squirrel	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Once initial training has been completed, all further training requirements are serviced by helicopters in the Forward Fleet. There are many categories of flying training which are carried out on Forward Fleet aircraft that are also used for Operational purposes. It is not therefore possible to identify aircraft used solely for training.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 37W, which provided the numbers of helicopters in the Forward Fleet.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of aircraft of each type available for training purposes was in each year since 2001. [251706]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Military Attachés

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence attachés work in UK embassies, high commissions and consulates overseas; and how many did so in 1998. [250842]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of defence attachés who work in embassies and high commissions is currently 105; the number in 1998 was 115. No defence attachés are employed in consulates.

Pirates

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules of engagement apply to members of the armed forces when engaging pirates; and if he will make a statement. [250676]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Royal Navy ships participating in counter-piracy operations are trained and provided with the required rules of engagement to counter the threats they may face. Under these guidelines HMS Cumberland successfully deterred an attack and rescued a pirated Yemeni vessel and crew last November.

I am withholding details of rules of engagement as their release would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Project on National Security Reform

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was given in grants to the Project on National Security Reform in each financial year since 1997-98. [249729]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence has given no grants to the Project on National Security Reform.

Service Families

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department provides to service families remaining in the UK while service personnel are on overseas operations. [252616]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In addition to the existing, extensive welfare support provided by the Services, units receive a Families Welfare Grant to support the families of those who have deployed. Units can exercise considerable discretion in how this money is spent but typically it might be used to: pay for families briefings, to provide additional communications facilities such as internet access or to subsidise the cost of families outings. In acknowledgement of the demands placed upon our families we doubled this Grant in November last year so that each unit now receives £2.20 per week for each person deployed: for a typical battalion this amounts to about £35,000 over a six month deployment. Families also benefit from the email and telephone access, and free blueys and e-blueys provided to deployed personnel to help them keep in touch with their loved ones.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1742-43W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how he plans to inform the House of the implications of the Afghan review; and if he will make a statement. [246310]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced to the House on 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-29, a review of the Government's Afghanistan policy is under way, involving the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, and reporting to the Prime Minister. Once completed, the findings and implications of the review will be announced to the House.

Antarctic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many personnel there are on each of the four British research stations in the British Antarctic Territory. [247701]

Gillian Merron: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) maintains three research stations in the British Antarctic Territory on behalf of the UK. Two operate year-round (Rothera, Adelaide Island and Halley, Coats Land) and the third is a summer-only base (Signy, South Orkney Islands). Numbers of personnel at each of the bases are as follows:

Rothera—between 80-120 in summer and 21 in winter

Halley—up to 70 (summer) and 16 (winter)

Signy—up to nine (summer only)

In addition, BAS also operates two year-round research stations in the UK Overseas Territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. These are at King Edward Point, South Georgia and Bird Island. Numbers of personnel at these bases are:

King Edward Point—up to 22 (summer) and 10 (winter)

Bird Island—up to 10 (summer) and four (winter).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research activity the UK is conducting in the British Antarctic Territory; and what the objectives of such research are. [247702]

Gillian Merron: The UK is committed to maintaining its leading role in Antarctic science and research and is conducting an extensive, multi-disciplinary programme of activities in the British Antarctic Territory and more widely within the Antarctic. These include areas such as climate change, sea level rise and the sustainable use of natural resources. The contribution of UK scientists, especially those at the British Antarctic Survey (a research institute of the Natural Environment Research Council), not only helps increase our understanding of the complex natural systems that are vital to the health of the planet but also underpins the UK's high profile within the Antarctic Treaty System.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international laws govern drilling and mineral extraction rights in the British Antarctic Territory; and what reports he has received on attempted oil exploration or research in the Antarctic by other countries. [247703]

Gillian Merron: The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty sets out a comprehensive regime for the protection of the Antarctic environment and prohibits any activity relating to mineral resources, other than scientific research. We have received no reports on attempted oil exploration or research in the Antarctic by other countries.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what areas in the British Antarctic Territories *(a)* are designated and *(b)* receive funding from his Department as sites of special scientific interest. [247704]

Gillian Merron: There are 70 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) in the Antarctic of which 14 were proposed solely or jointly by the UK.

None of the ASP As for which the UK is responsible within the British Antarctic Territory receive funding, other than that needed to prepare and update management plans. Direct funding of the above ASP As is unnecessary as all such designated areas are given comprehensive protection via the Antarctic Treaty System and all states parties to the treaty are required to control access and entry strictly.

Antarctic: Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the sources of funding are for the UK's research stations in the British Antarctic Territory. [248361]

Gillian Merron: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) maintains three research stations in the British Antarctic Territory on behalf of the UK. The core funding for maintaining these bases is provided by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

Belize

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many ministerial or state visits to Belize there have been in each of the last 20 years; and what future ministerial or state visits are planned. [250740]

Gillian Merron: Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh last visited Belize in February 1994. HRH the Princess Royal subsequently visited in April 2001, and HRH the Duke of York in March 2002.

Ministerial visits to Belize, in the last 15 years, have included:

February 1998 Tony Lloyd, then Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister;

January 2000 Peter Kilfoyle, then Ministry of Defence Minister;

July 2000 John Battle, then FCO Minister

May 2002 Dr. Denis MacShane, then FCO Minister

January 2004 Bill Rammell, then FCO Minister;

April 2004 Meg Munn, then FCO Minister.

There are no current plans for FCO Ministers to visit Belize and it is not practice to announce Royal Visits until all parties concerned have agreed they can proceed, and all arrangements are in place.

Information about ministerial travel to Belize in years preceding 1994 is not available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Brazil

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times Ministers of the government of Brazil have visited the UK in an official capacity since 2001. [250120]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth office records show that visits by Brazilian Government Ministers to the UK since 2001 include those of President Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva, who made a state visit to the UK in 2006, and also visited in 2003, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Ministers for Agriculture, Development, Planning, Finance and Justice.

We do not hold comprehensive records on visits by Ministers of the Brazilian Government organised or facilitated by other Government Departments since 2001.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times Ministers in his Department have made official visits to Brazil since 2001. [250121]

Gillian Merron: I visited Brazil in December 2008. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have made nine other official visits to Brazil since 2001. My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) visited Brazil in July 2006 when Foreign Secretary, and there have also been ministerial visits by my right hon. Friend the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane), my noble Friend Lord Triesman, and my hon. Friends the Members for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), Dudley, South (Ian Pearson) and Harlow (Bill Rammell).

British Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for reductions in British Council *(a)* posts and *(b)* capital works on its estates, as referred to on page 28 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report; and which posts have been identified for closure. [246264]

David Miliband: The 'post reductions' referred to in the Department's Performance Report relate to jobs within the British Council's global support services. Decisions on particular jobs will be determined by a review of the British Council's support services, which will report in summer 2009. The review will consider how best to maximise efficiency and effectiveness from the Council's support services through the consolidation of these activities into a small number of global hubs. The British Council's capital expenditure related to its Global Estates will be reviewed within the same timescale.

British Overseas Territories

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the merits of granting full independence to *(a)* the British Virgin Islands, *(b)* Bermuda, *(c)* the Turks and Caicos Islands, *(d)* Anguilla and *(e)* the Cayman Islands. [250424]

Gillian Merron: The 1999 White Paper on the Overseas Territories (Partnership for Progress and Prosperity) made clear that it is for the citizens of each territory to determine whether they wish to stay linked to Britain or not. Our policy remains to give every help and encouragement to those territories that wish to proceed to independence, where it is an option. Since the White Paper, no territory has opted for independence, we have therefore not made a recent assessment of the merits of granting independence to any overseas territory.

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken through the United Nations on the arrests of democracy activists in Burma. [250799]

Bill Rammell: The UK has consistently supported firm action in all UN bodies on the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese regime. The UK supported a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly on 21 November 2008 which called on Burma to release, without delay and conditions, opposition activists who have been arrested arbitrarily. It also condemned the ongoing, systematic violations of civil, political, economic and social rights of the people of Burma.

Our ambassador in Burma has made clear to Burmese Ministers that all political prisoners must be released in line with UN Security Council demands. We will continue to work to keep the issue of Burma on the agenda of the UN Security Council.

Consulates

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to improve consular services for UK citizens abroad. [248108]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continually seeks to improve on the service delivered to British Nationals overseas. Our overarching approach is set out in the Consular Strategy 2007-2010, a copy of which I will place in the Library of the House.

Examples of recent steps the FCO has taken to improve the service we offer includes: an increase of over 100 per cent. in the number of Missions which can take payment for services by credit card; passport applications and the majority of consular forms are now available on the internet; the public can register with our online crisis registration tool, LOCATE, supporting our consular response during a crisis; internet enabled computers have been installed in some consular waiting rooms; registered British nationals resident in a some countries can now receive SMS updates with important information; and we have modernised and improved on the training package for consular officials—including a requirement for staff to pass a customer care skills assessment.

We have improved and increased our monitoring of the service we provide to British nationals, and will use that information to identify how we can still further improve on the services we provide.

Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department will next lead the UK delegation to the meeting of the members of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. [247705]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will next lead the UK delegation at the 28th annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which will take place in Hobart, Australia from 26 October to 6 November 2009.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the government of Rwanda on its role in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [250130]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the part Rwanda might play in resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with President Kagame in December 2008. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, also discussed the issue with President Kagame during their visits to Kigali in November 2008. We continue to urge the Governments of the DRC and Rwanda to co-operate in efforts to settle the issues at the root of the conflict. I am encouraged by the progress they have made in recent months.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252373]

Gillian Merron: No works or refurbishment has been undertaken on rooms allocated to Ministers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, over the last 12 months.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246018]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently hold information on gender, ethnicity, age and disability. The following tables contain diversity information from 1 January 2009.

Age ranges	*Number of staff*
16-19	14
20-24	205
25-29	742
30-34	25
35-39	959
40-44	1,122
45-49	799
50-54	609
55-59	441
60-64	183
65 and over	13
Total	5,912

Gender	
	Number
Male	3,485
Female	2,427

	British minority ethnic
Total number	529
Percentage of total	8.9

	Disability
Total number	205
Percentage of total	3.5

The figures for ethnicity and disability rely on declarations by staff, so will not include staff who have not yet entered diversity data or who have chosen not to. We do not seek information or keep data on sexual orientation or religious persuasion.

The FCO has recently formulated a new diversity and inclusion strategy, as required by the Cabinet Office. As part of this strategy, we will analyse our performance against targets for women, British minority ethnic staff and for staff with a declared disability. This information will be publicly available once the Cabinet Office has agreed the strategies for all Government Departments.

The figures above include staff serving in FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO.

Embassies

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British embassies have closed permanently in the last 10 years. [250841]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has permanently closed seven embassies since 1999. Details are as follows:

Financial year of closure	*Country*	*Post name*
2003-04	Mali	Bamako
2003-04	El Salvador	San Salvador
2003-04	Honduras	Tegucigalpa
2003-04	Nicaragua	Managua
2005-06	Madagascar	Antananarivo
2005-06	Paraguay	Asuncion
2006-07	East Timor	Dili

Operations were also suspended in our embassy in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) in April 2005 due to the security situation, although we maintain one diplomatic representative there.

The FCO continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests to the benefit of the British taxpayer.

Falkland Islands Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government operates any scientific research stations in South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. [250252]

Gillian Merron: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) operates two year-round research stations at South Georgia. The station at King Edward Point is operated on behalf of the FCO and the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the station at Bird Island is operated to carry out core science for BAS.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing around South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands is controlled and that fish stocks remain at sustainable levels in that area. [250283]

Gillian Merron: Fishery protection and management are the responsibility of the government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands which uses a range of measures including a strict licensing regime, fisheries protection vessels, at sea inspections, satellite-based vessel monitoring systems and the deployment of observers.

The Foreign Commonwealth Office represents UK interests at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). A key UK objective at CCAMLR is to defend the integrity and economic viability of the South Georgia fishery. This is achieved by obtaining consensus on total allowable catch (TAC) limits which are agreed on the basis of robust scientific evidence. The UK strives to ensure that CCAMLR adopts effective conservation measures to curb illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing across the Southern Ocean as a whole.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the populations of *(a)* southern fur seals, *(b)* elephant seals, *(c)* albatrosses and *(d)* petrels are being protected in and around South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. [250284]

Gillian Merron: The government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Antarctic

Survey work collaboratively to protect wildlife on South Georgia. The Government works closely with the Commission of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the international Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels to conserve most of South Georgia's breeding populations. In addition the GSGSSI has a number of polices in place to protect life in both the marine and terrestrial environment, these include the designation of specially protected areas, specially protected species as well as prohibitions on disturbing, killing, capturing or exporting native fauna. These are set out in South Georgia's Plan for Progress—Managing the Environment 2006-2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to provide funding to South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands to dismantle the former whaling stations in *(a)* Prince Olav Harbour, *(b)* Leith Harbour, *(c)* Stromness and *(d)* Husvik. [250285]

Gillian Merron: The FCO has no plans to provide funding to South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands to dismantle the former whaling stations. In 1991 the leases of the former whaling stations reverted to the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), therefore the responsibility to fund the dismantlement of the former whaling stations rests with the GSGSSI. The GSGSSI spent approximately £5 million to make the Grytviken whaling station safe for visitors. It is beyond the means of the GSGSSI to fund any further projects of this nature in the remaining stations. Visitors are prohibited from entering within 200 m of these stations for safety reasons.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's plans are for future provision of *(a)* medical care and *(b)* search and rescue facilities in South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. [250286]

Gillian Merron: The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) funds the provision of a doctor at King Edward Point to support the local community and fishing industry. There are no search and rescue facilities or other emergency services on the Islands, nor are there any plans to develop such facilities.

In the event of a Search and Rescue incident the Commander of the British Forces in the South Atlantic Islands (CBFSAI) will coordinate any response using any appropriate assets that are available in the area at the time.

The GSGSSI has introduced measures to reduce the risk of major incidents by insisting visitors are supported by a dedicated vessel and by introducing restrictions on the passenger capacity of visiting vessels.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department is sponsoring schemes in South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands to promote biodiversity and conservation of endangered species in the area. [250287]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, (FCO) the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) work collaboratively to investigate and protect biodiversity and ensure the conservation of endangered species at South Georgia. The BAS have a long-term monitoring and survey programme which monitors seabird and seal population dynamics, feeding ecology and reproductive performance. The GSGSSI has strict procedures in place to prevent the introduction or transfer of alien species and in support of this the FCO is part-funding the development of a biosecurity store to be built at South Georgia to safeguard native species and control invasive species.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much revenue was generated in the South Georgia and Sandwich Islands from *(a)* sale of fishing licences, *(b)* harbour administration charges and *(c)* stamp sales in the year 2008. [250289]

Gillian Merron: The audited accounts for 2008 are not yet available. The provisional figure for revenue generated by the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in 2008 from the sale of fishing licences was £4,410,384 (over 80 per cent. of which is spent on managing the fishery). The provisional figure for revenue generated by harbour administration charges and stamp sales was £153,159 and £108,019 respectively.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will bring forward proposals to improve transport facilities in South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands to encourage tourism to the islands. [250290]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to improve transport facilities in South Georgia. The principle objective of tourism management for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is to ensure the continued protection of the island's unique environment, including its flora, fauna and cultural heritage. While the numbers of tourists visiting South Georgia has increased in recent years, visitor landings are managed by the government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands so that authorised visitors may continue to have access to approved landing sites in a safe and regulated manner, whilst minimising any potential impacts on the island's unique heritage.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objective is of the research which is being conducted by the British Antarctic Survey's scientific and support team in South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. [250291]

Gillian Merron: British Antarctic Survey (BAS) scientists are funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands to carry out a programme of applied fisheries research at the facility at King Edward Point in support of the sustainable management of fisheries around the island. The BAS scientific research at Bird Island is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and focuses on seabird and seal population dynamics, feeding ecology and reproductive performance. This programme is aimed at providing robust scientific advice to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources for the management of Southern Ocean fisheries.

Holidays Abroad: Death

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens died whilst on holiday abroad in each of the last five years. [248391]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Records held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not distinguish whether a British National, who has died overseas, was on holiday or resident in country. For information relating to the number of British citizens who have died while abroad, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1176W.

Ireland: Official Visits

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions in 2008 the President of the Irish Republic visited Great Britain; and which official UK representative met her on each visit. [248928]

Caroline Flint: President McAleese visited Great Britain on two occasions in 2008.

The first occasion was a visit to Liverpool in June to participate in the celebration of Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture. In the course of the visit, the President was met by Dame Lorna Muirhead, Lord Lieutenant for Merseyside.

The second occasion was a visit to London in November, during which the President spoke at the London School of Economics and was guest of honour at the annual Queen's University Association dinner.

Middle East

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the policy of Palestinian leaders on recognition of the state of Israel as a Jewish state; what recent discussions he has had with Arab governments on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [244833]

Bill Rammell: We are in constant communication with Palestinian and Arab leaders to seek to advance the peace process and secure a two-state solution, including full recognition of Israel.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will refer the conflict in Gaza to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for investigation. [247791]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 19 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 501:

> "allegations must be closely and speedily investigated. Obviously, the three key parties to that investigation are the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Government of Israel, and we are in touch with all of them."

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel on the rights of Jewish refugees from Arab lands; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [247990]

Bill Rammell: We have had no such discussions.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct the United Kingdom ambassador to the United Nations to make representations against the reported use by Israel of depleted uranium shells and projectiles in the invasion of Gaza. [248769]

Bill Rammell: It is not clear whether Israeli forces have used depleted uranium munitions. We have made clear to the Israeli Government that they should do everything in their power to avoid innocent casualties.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli government on the reported use of depleted uranium shells and projectiles in the invasion of Gaza. [248771]

Bill Rammell: It is not clear whether Israeli forces have used depleted uranium munitions. We made clear to the Israeli Government that they should do everything in their power to avoid innocent casualties.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Israeli counterpart and *(b)* officials of the International Criminal Court on investigation of Israel's Gaza military operation. [249069]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in frequent contact with Foreign Minister Livni and Defence Minister Barak.

He has had no contact with officials from the International Criminal Court.

As the Foreign Secretary told the House on 19 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 501:

> "allegations must be closely and speedily investigated. Obviously, the three key parties to that investigation are the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Government of Israel, and we are in touch with all of them."

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the alleged hijacking of aid convoys by Hamas in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [250220]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports that Hamas has been taking control of aid sent to Gaza from Arab countries.

We have repeatedly called publicly and privately for full and safe access for humanitarian agencies so that help can reach those in need. We urge all parties to respect their obligations, and to ensure the safe and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of *(a)* women and *(b)* children who were (i) killed, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) slightly injured in Gaza as a result of being struck by rockets aimed at Israel in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [250228]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take of Article 13 of the Hamas charter in assessing Hamas's suitability as a partner for peace in the Middle East; what recent representations he has received on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [250229]

Bill Rammell: We have consistently made clear that to be a credible partner in peace Hamas need to accept the Quartet Principles of recognition of Israel, acceptance of previous agreement with Israel and rejection of violence.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of Iran in relation to the *(a)* funding, *(b)* training and *(c)* arming of (i) Hezbollah, (ii) Hamas and (iii) al-Qaeda; and if he will make a statement. [250230]

Bill Rammell: We have serious concerns about Iranian support for Hezbollah. Iran provides Hezbollah with significant financial resources, military equipment and training. Many of the most lethal and sophisticated weapons that Hezbollah used during the Israel/Lebanon conflict were of Iranian manufacture or procured from Iran. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security. Arms supplies to Hezbollah are contrary to the arms embargo established by UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701.

We also have long-standing concerns about the support that Iran provides in the form of funding, arms and training to Palestinian Rejectionist Groups including Hamas, which are undermining peace in the middle east through violence. We hope that Iran will give political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian Authority in its attempts to build institutions and improve security.

We understand that Iran continues to hold some al-Qaeda (AQ) members in custody, but that members of AQ and affiliated groups have used, and possibly continue to use, Iran as a base, transit route and refuge. We have urged Iran to act against this and to co-operate fully with the rest of the international community against terrorism, as required by UNSCR 1373.

The UK would like to see Iran making a positive contribution to creating a secure, stable and prosperous middle east. But its current behaviour is a cause for serious concern for us and others. Iran needs to work with the international community and its regional neighbours to restore confidence in its intentions.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to report the Israeli Government to the UN War Crimes Tribunal; and if he will make a statement. [250416]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 19 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 501:

> "allegations must be closely and speedily investigated. Obviously, the three key parties to that investigation are the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Government of Israel, and we are in touch with all of them."

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* meetings, *(b)* telephone calls and *(c)* e-mails has he had with the Israeli ambassador since 27 December 2008. [250417]

Bill Rammell: I have met ambassador Prosor on several occasions during this period. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in direct regular communication with Foreign Minister Livni and Defence Minister Barak.

NATO

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the relevance of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty to applicants for membership of NATO. [250872]

Caroline Flint: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a political and military alliance with a collective defence commitment enshrined in article 5 of its founding treaty, which extends to member countries only.

While the commitment under article 5 of the Washington treaty is unquestionably a significant attraction for nations aspiring to join the alliance, there are also real benefits to be derived for these aspirants and for wider Euro-Atlantic security from the process of democratic and defence reforms required in the preparation phase for NATO membership. These are clearly demonstrated (and assessed regularly) in the development of good governance, the rule of law and stability within all applicant countries.

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any official in his Department had any contact with Mr. Rashid Rauf in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Afghanistan during 2006. [245654]

Bill Rammell: No official in the Department had any such contact.

Russia: Detainees

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of progress on President Medvedev's commitment to end legal nihilism in the Russian legal system. [246836]

Caroline Flint: We welcome President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen the rule of law in Russia, including his focus on tackling corruption and promoting the independence of the judiciary.

It is a positive sign that President Medvedev signed a package of anti-corruption laws on 25 December 2008. However, the challenges are immense and the test will be in the implementation. We raised our concerns, most recently, at the UK/Russia bilateral human rights talks on 16 January 2009.

Self-Determination of States

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* the claim for independence of Kosovo from Serbia and *(b)* the claims of independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia from Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Caroline Flint: Kosovo's independence was the culmination of a UN-led political process, envisaged in UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (99), to determine its final status. This process exhausted all avenues to negotiate a solution between the parties and in the UN Security Council. In declaring independence, Kosovo explicitly undertook to implement the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Settlement proposals, including the provisions on minority and community rights. It has adopted a constitution and legislative framework which give effect to this undertaking.

The UK recognised Kosovo on 18 February 2008. Kosovo has been recognised by a total of 54 states, has diplomatic missions accredited to 10 states and has applied for membership of the International Monetary Fund and other international organisations.

Russia recognised Abkhazia and South Ossetia immediately following Russia's military action against Georgia. This occurred without any process of negotiation to seek a durable solution. Russia's use of disproportionate force and its violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity had no justification. Russia's actions were in defiance of successive UN Security Council Resolutions, most recently UNSCR 1808 (2008), which Russia had supported.

Russia's recognition of the separatist regions, and its use of disproportionate force to achieve its objectives undermine the principles of multilateralism and Russia's own reputation as a reliable member of the international community and the United Nations. Russia has isolated itself on this issue. Only Russia and Nicaragua have recognised these entities.

The general criteria that we apply for recognition of an independent state remain as described in the written answer dated 16 November 1989, *Official Report*, column 494, by then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (the hon. Tim Sainsbury). We consider that Kosovo has met these criteria, but that South Ossetia and Abkhazia have not.

Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution has had with *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the African Union and *(c)* the European Union since his appointment; and what issues were discussed. [illegible]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, has established a dialogue on multilateral approaches to post conflict stabilisation with the UN, the EU, the African Union and others.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress made by the technical ad hoc border committee in delineating the 1 January 1956 border in Sudan as mandated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [249544]

Gillian Merron: The work of the Technical Ad hoc Border Committee is severely delayed and its report, which under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was due by July 2005, has not yet been submitted to the presidency.

Defining and demarcating the North-South border remains one of the key obstacles to implementation of the CPA. We are fully engaged with both parties and international partners to secure full implementation of the CPA.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress in the work of the National Land Commission and the Southern Sudan Land Commission created by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [249545]

Gillian Merron: The National Land Commission has not yet been established because the National Assembly in Khartoum has yet to pass the Land Bill. The Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC) has been established, but the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly has not passed its own Land Bill, which is needed in addition to the national Bill, before the SSLC can exercise its functions in full.

We will continue to seek progress on land reform as part of our efforts to support full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Sudan: Press Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Sudan to encourage it to respect freedom of expression and freedom of the press in line with Sudan's obligations under article 39 of its Interim National Constitution, Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. [249547]

Gillian Merron: We regularly raise with the Governments of Sudan (GoS) and South Sudan (GoSS) the need to fulfil obligations on human rights, including both freedom of expression and freedom of the press. The EU discussed these issues with the GoSS on 18 November 2008, and with the GoS on 3 December 2008.

Tibet: Missing Persons

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the whereabouts of the Tibetan film maker Dhondup Wangchen; and what discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on the matter. [245247]

Bill Rammell: Non-governmental organisations have reported that Dhondup Wangchen was detained on 26 March 2008 after completing his documentary film 'Leaving Far Behind'. Dhondup was reportedly held in the Ershilipu Detention centre, in Xining (Qinghai Province) for three months. From there he was moved to the Guangsheng Hotel in Xining, where he was last seen around 12 July, 2008. We have no further information about Dhondup's whereabouts or whether any charges have been brought against him. We have not raised this specific case with the Chinese authorities.

Tony Blair

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government has contributed towards the salary of Tony Blair for his work for the Quartet in the Middle East. [248083]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* Mr. Blair does not draw a salary in his role as Quartet Representative. The Government do support the team for Mr. Blair through a £400,000 contribution to the UN Development Trust Fund, which supports the Quartet Representative's office in Jerusalem. The Government also provides four secondees and funding for a political analyst.

Turkey: Christianity

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations about reported attacks on the title and practice of the Christian Syriac Orthodox Church in Turkey to that country's government; and if he will make a statement. [246694]

Caroline Flint: We are aware of ongoing difficulties faced by all Christian groups in Turkey, including the Syriac Orthodox Church which faces particular difficulties as it is not recognised as a minority under the Lausanne Treaty (1923) and thus not formally recognised as such by the Turkish Government. As part of our ongoing bilateral dialogue we encourage Turkey to create an atmosphere of tolerance of religious difference and, where necessary, to make legislative changes to assist these groups.

We are particularly concerned about recent legal judgments relating to property claimed by the Syriac Orthodox Church in south-eastern Turkey, which are under appeal. EU representatives have attended court hearings and the EU has also raised these cases with the Turkish authorities.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken with international partners to seek to secure a settlement based on the rule of law and on democratic principles in Zimbabwe. [251857]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* We, with our international partners, are committed to supporting the establishment of a truly representative government that reflects the democratic will of the Zimbabwean people as expressed in the election of March 2008. Ministers are in regular contact with EU and UN counterparts to discuss the political and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. On 26 January, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to extend the list of individuals and entities subject to targeted measures. We have also been in regular contact with African leaders to encourage a sustainable resolution to the crisis.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to process a child benefit claim has been in each year since 1997. [253118]

Mr. Timms: For the periods 2007-08 and 2008-09 I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 356W.

In 2006-07, 68.3 per cent. of claims were processed in five working days and 94.9 per cent. in 36 working days.

For 2003-04 to 2005-06 the information requested can be found in the annual reports published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports

For 1997-98 to 2002-03 child benefit was administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. The information requested for this period will have been published in the Department for Work and Pensions' departmental annual reports. HM Revenue and Customs no longer holds this information.

Child Tax Credit: EU Law

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what basis it was determined that child tax credit is not a family allowance for the purpose of Article 77 of EU Regulations 1408/71. [252781]

Mr. Timms: The purpose of the child tax credit is to support families in the UK. It is only given to families outside the UK in limited circumstances and to meet our obligations under EC Regulation 1408/71.

The term "family allowances" is defined in the regulation as benefits payable exclusively by reference to the number and, where appropriate, age of the children in the family. However, the child tax credit is based on the number of children and on annual household income. On that basis, HM Revenue and Customs has received legal advice that the child tax credit is not a "family allowance" and is therefore not payable under article 77 of the regulation.

Child Trust Funds

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what types of child trust funds each provider offers; and under what brand names each provider offers each type. [253376]

Ian Pearson: A table of the types of child trust fund offered by each provider can be found on the child trust fund website at the following address:

http://www.childtrustfund.gov.uk/templates/Page_1246.aspx

The names of the child trust funds offered by each provider can be found on the relevant provider websites links to which are available on the child trust fund website at the following address:

http://www.childtrustfund.gov.uk/templates/Page_1243.aspx

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which child trust fund *(a)* type and *(b)* provider has had (i) the largest return in percentage terms since being established and (ii) the largest increase in value in a single year; [253377]

(2) which child trust fund *(a)* type and *(b)* provider has had (i) the lowest return in percentage terms since being established and (ii) the lowest increase in value in a single year; [253378]

(3) what plans he has to assess the child trust funds available from each provider in respect of their comparative performance; and if he will publish the increase made in value by each fund in each year; [253379]

(4) how many and what proportion of child trust funds have been transferred under *(a)* section 7(a) and *(b)* section 7(b) of the Child Trust Fund Act 2004 in each year since their inception; and if he will make a statement. [253381]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold this information.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on the likely performance of child trust funds; and if he will make a statement. [253380]

Ian Pearson: Child trust funds are a long-term investment over an 18-year period, with the first accounts reaching maturity in 2020. Parents can choose which type of CTF account their child's money is invested in, and can transfer between account types at any time. Three types of child trust fund accounts are available. Stakeholder accounts and shares accounts invest in stocks and shares, while the savings account does not. Although shares can go down as well as up in value, particularly in the short-term, the historical evidence is that they tend to provide a better return than cash for long-term investments. Also, with CTF stakeholder accounts, the level of exposure to shares will decrease over time as money in the account is gradually moved into more cash-like investments after the child turns 13. This 'lifestyling' element will help to reduce risk before maturity.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of child trust funds opened under *(a)* section 5 and *(b)* section 6 of the Child Trust Fund Act 2004 in each year since their inception; and if he will make a statement. [253382]

Ian Pearson: This information is available in table 2 of the Child Trust Fund Statistical Report 2008 which can be found at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2008.pdf

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number and percentage of eligible children who have not had a child trust fund opened on their behalf in each year since their inception; and if he will make a statement. [253383]

Ian Pearson: Every eligible child has had a Child Trust Fund account opened for them. If the account opening voucher is not used by the child's parents then the Government set up an account on behalf of the child.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total monetary value was of all child trust funds in each year since their inception; and how many such funds there were in each year; [253385]

(2) how many and what percentage of child trust funds have received contributions and subscriptions other than *(a)* those specified in sections 8 to 10 of the Child Trust Fund Act 2004 and *(b)* those resulting from the growth in value of the child trust fund. [253384]

Ian Pearson: This information is available in table 3 of each year's Child Trust Fund Statistical Report which can all be found at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 228W, on council tax: valuation, what payments from the public purse have been made to *(a)* CapGemini, *(b)* SAS and *(c)* Cole Layer Trumble/ Tyler Technologies for work on the council tax banding support tool. [252354]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 370W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model makes of locality adjustment factors for council tax valuations in England. [252394]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave the hon. Member on 19 March 200., *Official Report*, column 1218W.

Deflation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the risk of deflation in the economy. [251914]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has full operational independence in meeting the Government's inflation target. The remit of the MPC sets a symmetric inflation target.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252365]

Angela Eagle: Nothing.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245393]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury and the Treasury Group maintain a range of secure information systems on the Government's secure networks, and has always strived to ensure the that these systems are secure. Prior to June 2008, these were assured using a risk management approach in line with central Government guidance applicable at the time. Since the final report of the Cabinet Office's "Data Handling Procedures in Government", the Treasury has established a revised programme of assurance to ensure that all systems comply with the new accreditation standards going forward. In accordance with the recommendations of that review, progress will be reported in the Statement on Internal Control in the Treasury Group's consolidated resource accounts for 2008-09 and future years.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253274]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has taken a dual approach to advise staff of pension options available. These are as follows: First, the provision of information regarding additional voluntary contributions and added year's are available on HM Treasury's intranet site; and secondly, the holding of pensions 'surgeries' at which options are outlined.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252231]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not distinguish between fast stream civil service staff and other colleagues who enter the organisation at the same grade. In the last three years, training courses have been provided to HM Treasury by the following external providers, of which fast stream civil service staff in post at HM Treasury, were eligible to attend:

PA Consulting
Dynamic Learning Solutions
National School of Government
Parity
Oxford Development Partnership
Bray Leino
Angel Scott Associates (now Global Economics)
Management Development Partnership
Birkbeck College
Oasis Consulting (now Senan Solutions)
Praesta
Oxford Group
Cedar
Jarrolds

HM Treasury does not hold central training records on training that staff might provide to external organisations.

Departmental Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 5150-51W, on the Valuation Office: video recordings, what training videos or digital equivalents for council tax valuation work his Department uses. [252353]

Mr. Timms: Training videos or digital equivalents are not used within the VOA's programmes of structured learning for council tax valuation work.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy where an answer refers to material published on his Department's website to ensure that *(a)* a copy will be made available to the hon. Member who tabled the question and *(b)* place a copy of the material will be placed in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [253019]

Angela Eagle: It has been the practice of successive Administrations to refer Members to publications and other source documents from which information they are seeking can be extracted.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department declined to accept an extension on spending deadlines for England for European structural funding in England; what estimate he has made of the amount of money under such structural funding provisions for England which was unspent at 31 December 2008; whether the extension will be accepted in relation to spending in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [252941]

Ian Pearson: Responsibility for structural fund programmes, including eligibility extensions, lies with the appropriate Government Departments (DCLG, DEFRA, DWP) and devolved Administrations.

Government Departments: Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the energy efficiency rating of each government building for which figures are available, based on its most recent energy display certificate. [252427]

Margaret Beckett: I have been asked to reply.

We have no plans to publish the energy efficiency ratings for each government building based on data held on the Energy Performance Certificate Register as this is prohibited by Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes have qualified for zero-rated stamp duty land tax on zero-carbon homes to date. [252442]

Mr. Timms: The zero stamp duty land tax relief for new zero carbon homes was introduced in October 2007. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson) on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 909W.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 912-3W, on housing: valuation, what the definition of a live locality is. [252419]

Mr. Timms: A 'live' locality is one that is currently in use.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250135]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 378W, on planning permission, what planning applications were made by his Department between 1997-98 and 2001-02; and for what purpose in each case. [252171]

Angela Eagle: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W, to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude).

Public Sector: Pensions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the circumstances and extent of the overpayment of public sector pensions by Xafinity Paymaster. [245208]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I gave to the House on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 111WS. This explained the circumstances in which pension overpayments occurred and indicated the estimated number and amount of the overpayments.

A number of different parties are involved in the process. Xafinity Paymaster administers pensions on behalf of the NHS and armed forces schemes. Cabinet Office, judicial and teachers' schemes use different administrators. The causes of the overpayments have been investigated by pension scheme administrators, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Department for Work and Pensions. From their investigations it is clear that there is no single cause. The National Audit Office will be carrying out a review of the end to end process in due course in order to pin-point accountabilities. The House will be updated further once this review has concluded.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will terminate the contract of Xafinity Paymaster in relation to the administration of public sector pensions; [245209]

(2) what steps are being taken to obtain repayment from Xafinity Paymaster in respect of the overpayment by them of public sector pensions. [245213]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The written statement I gave to the House on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 111WS, explained the circumstances in which pension overpayments occurred. A number of different parties are involved in the process. Xafinity Paymaster pays pensions on behalf of the NHS and armed forces schemes. Cabinet Office, judicial and teachers' schemes use different pension administrators. I cannot comment on contractual issues which are delegated to individual Departments.

The causes of the overpayments have been investigated by pension scheme administrators, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Department for Work and Pensions. From their investigations it is clear that there is no single cause. The National Audit Office will be carrying out a review of the end to end process in due course in order to pin-point accountabilities. The House will be updated further once this review has concluded. Accountability for the overpayments, and any action that needs to be taken as a result, will not be clear until the NAO has completed its review.

Redundancy: Taxation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what year the redundancy pay tax-free threshold was set at £30,000. [252437]

Mr. Timms: The £30,000 tax-free threshold has applied since 1988. The level of the threshold is kept under review, but evidence indicates that the current level exempts a large majority of redundancy payments from tax.

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on HM Revenue and Customs expenditure of closing its office in Aberystwyth, identifying *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings separately; and if he will make a statement. [252862]

Mr. Timms: Normally HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is unable to provide specific estate savings for a particular office for reasons of commercial sensitivity relating to the accommodation and facility contracts between HMRC and its PFI contractors. However, as HMRC's accommodation in Aberystwyth is not held under a PFI contract I can say that its vacation is estimated to contribute £83,000 to annual estate savings of about £4 million in Wales. This figure takes account of the need for continuing provision of face to face inquiry services.

Estate savings are however only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve as a result of business efficiencies arising from restructuring, and have not been a primary factor in taking decisions on whether a particular office should be retained or vacated. The main consideration has been whether there is a business requirement to retain the office.

While HMRC recognises that there will be short-term costs associated with the closure of its office in Aberystwyth, reliable figures will only be established once solutions have been found for all staff and the accommodation has been vacated.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reduce the stamp duty threshold to £125,000; [252195]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the temporary increase in stamp duty thresholds; and how it will be financed. [252441]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost of the stamp duty holiday was published at the pre-Budget report, which can be accessed here:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_repindex.htm.

The funding of this is not hypothecated to a particular source of revenue. The holiday is due to end at midnight on 3 September 2009.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will bring forward proposals to reduce levels of stamp duty for individuals in shared purchaser arrangements when they are purchasing the share of a house not in their possession; [253166]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to allow house purchasers to pay stamp duty only on the proportion of the house not in their ownership under shared purchaser arrangements. [253167]

Ian Pearson: Stamp duty, like all other taxes is kept under review. Details on the stamp duty treatment of shared ownership purchases can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/so/shared-owner.htm

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of the bingo industry to discuss the levels of taxation upon their activities. [253927]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and decisions about gambling taxation are made at Budget alongside all tax and spending decisions. The Government take all relevant factors into consideration when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes. These include the state of the industry and wider conditions within the economy.

As part of the normal Budget process Ministers and officials have been in periodic contact with representatives of the bingo industry and will continue to meet them as part of the normal Budget process.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 963W, on Valuation Office: handbooks, if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent editions of *(a)* Introduction to Inspections, *(b)* CT Referencers Manual, *(c)* Digital Mapping User Guide, *(d)* Rating Support Application Induction Workbook, *(e)* NDR Referencers Manual and *(f)* Digital Photography User Guide. [252206]

Mr. Timms: A copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Introduction to Inspections Workbook, CT Referencers Manual and NDR Referencers Manual will be placed in the Library.

The Digital Mapping User Guide, RSA Induction Workbook and Digital Photography User Guide are technical instructions on the use of Valuation Office Agency internal IT applications. It is not appropriate to publish information which might assist unauthorised access to VOA systems or databases.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 138W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the user guides and manuals for *(a)* the digital mapping tool and *(b)* the locality delineation tool; [252352]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the user guide for the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model software and database. [252393]

Mr. Timms: No. These guidance manuals are technical instructions on the use of Valuation Office Agency internal IT applications. It is not appropriate to publish information which might assist unauthorised access to VOA systems or databases.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent advice given to Valuation Office Agency staff on health and safety in the field, including advice on the use of surveying equipment. [252434]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 122W. There has been no update to the health and safety information already placed in the Library.

In April 2008 the Valuation Office Agency published additional health and safety e-Learning. The syllabus, titled Health and Safety Site Inspections, includes four modules covering Health and Safety Site Visits, Hazards on Site, Personal Protective Equipment and Asbestos Awareness—A Practical Guide.

I am arranging for a viewable copy of the e-learning programme to be deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 989W, on the Valuation Office, at what intervals the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model is calibrated. [252488]

Mr. Timms: There are no set intervals for calibrating the models.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on Cole Layer Trumble, how much has been spent on payments to Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies funded via the public purse *(a)* directly from the Valuation Office Agency, *(b)* directly from HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* indirectly via CapGemini under the ASPIRE contract since February 2007. [252162]

Mr. Timms: Unfortunately, the answer of 19 March 2008 was inaccurate in so far as the second payment quoted was made in the period from April 2007 to the end of February 2008 (not February 2007). Since February 2008, further payments to Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies have totalled £14,587. All figures exclude non-recoverable VAT.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations provided goods and services to the Valuation Office Agency in 2007-08; and what the address of each such organisation was. [252559]

Mr. Timms: A list of organisations, with addresses, which provided goods and services to the Valuation Office Agency, cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office: Digital Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 150-51W, on the Valuation Office: cameras, for what work the 690 cameras purchased in 2007-08 were required. [252409]

Mr. Timms: Cameras are required to support property valuation work undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency.

Valuation Office: Geographic Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on Valuation Office: ICT, whether the Valuation Office Agency's Geographic Information System will assist with the utilisation of locality adjustment factors within the automated valuation model. [252161]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's proposed geographic information system will be used to define and/or show on a map the localities to which dwellings are allocated for the purposes of automated valuation modelling. Adjustment factors are attributed to these localities in the modelling process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1688-89W, on Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems, how mapping data from Ordnance Survey will be integrated into the proposed Geographical Information System; and whether it will be used to assess the value significance of particular property attributes. [252408]

Mr. Timms: It is proposed that mapping data from Ordnance Survey will be loaded into the proprietary Geographic Information System (GIS) software. GIS will be one of a number of tools used by valuers to assist in assessing the impact of features that may affect the value of property.

Valuation Office: Land Registry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on Valuation Office: Land Registry, whether the Valuation Office Agency uses the Land Registry Direct Service for *(a)* council tax valuation purposes and *(b)* populating the automated valuation model with property data. [252168]

Mr. Timms: The majority of data used by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) for *(a)* council tax purposes and *(b)* populating the automated valuation models is drawn from stamp duty land tax information. The Land Registry Direct Service has not been used as a matter of course but is a further source of information; its availability to the VOA is identical to any other public or private body.

Valuation Office: Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each edition of the Valuation Office Agency's IT Services Division Newsletter to Billing Authorities produced since May 2007. [252293]

Mr. Timms: There have been no Valuation Office Agency's IT Services Division Newsletters to Billing Authorities produced since May 2007.

Valuation Office: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether employees of the Valuation Office Agency whose office is located within the workplace parking charging zone being introduced by Nottingham City Council will be liable to pay the charge in whole or in part. [252194]

Mr. Timms: Nottingham city council has not yet agreed the Work Place Parking Levy Scheme. The Agency will examine the details of the scheme and determine the policy to be followed, should Nottingham city council proceed with the implementation of the proposed Work Place Parking Levy Scheme.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum duration is of the renewed contract between the Valuation Office Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and Rightmove; and on what date the new contract was signed; [252198]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 964W, on Valuation Office: Rightmove, upon what terms the extension to the contract with

Rightmove was agreed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the new contract, redacting commercially sensitive elements. [252207]

Mr. Timms: A redacted copy of the contract extension and variation to the original contract, both signed on 20 November 2008, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office: Secondment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been seconded *(a)* to and *(b)* from the Valuation Office Agency in the last 12 months; and what divisions of the Agency such staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from. [252470]

Mr. Timms: There have been no secondments into or out of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) in the last 12 months. There have been six loans—that is, short-term moves between Government Departments in total *(a)* to and *(b)* from the VOA in the last 12 months, as detailed:

(i) One to VOA Finance and Planning

(ii) One from VOA Human Resources

One from VOA Local Taxation

One from VOA Finance and Planning

One from VOA Rating

Valuation: Conferences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentations and handouts produced by the *(a)* Director of Council Tax and *(b)* Head of AVM Development at the Valuation Office Agency at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' automated valuation models conference in November 2008. [252395]

Mr. Timms: A copy of these presentations, and an accompanying paper, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation on Revaluation 2010 given by the Valuation Office Agency at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' rating annual conference in June 2008. [252399]

Mr. Timms: A copy of this presentation, made by a representative of the Valuation Office Agency, has been placed in the Library.

VAT

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made on the effect on inflation of the reduction in value added tax to 15 per cent. [251915]

Mr. Timms: In pre-Budget report 2008 (Cm7484), it was assumed that the majority of the VAT rate cut will be passed through to consumer prices, but that prices will be reduced progressively rather then immediately. This is in line with international evidence.

The Office for National Statistics published statistics on UK inflation in December on 20 January 2009. Their First Release discusses the VAT reduction in the context of inflation estimation and can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cpi0109.pdf.

It concludes that the VAT reduction made the largest contribution to the sharp fall in inflation to 3.1 per cent.

VAT: Business

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the administrative cost to business of the recent temporary reduction in the rate of value added tax following the reduction coming into force; [252311]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the administrative cost to business of the recent temporary reduction in the rate of value added tax prior to that reduction coming into force; [252312]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the administrative cost to business of a variation in the rate at which value added tax is levied. [252313]

Mr. Timms: Estimated costs to business in the UK are published in the impact assessment of changes to the standard rate of VAT. This is available on the HM Treasury website. Reliable cost estimates cannot be produced on a regional basis.

VAT: Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of changes to value added tax revenues as a result of changes in domestic gas and electricity prices in the last 12 months. [252189]

Mr. Timms: No specific estimate has been made.

JUSTICE

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were for offences relating to the torture of animals in each of the last five years. [252347]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against for offences relating to animal cruelty, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest published) are contained in the following table. There is no specific offence for the torture of animals.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against for offences relating to animal cruelty[1] in England and Wales, 2003-07[2, 3]

	Number
2003	999
2004	984
2005	1,061

Number of defendants proceeded against for offences relating to animal cruelty[1] in England and Wales, 2003-07[2, 3]

	Number
2006	981
2007	1,064

[1] Includes the following offences & statutes;
Cruelty to Animals. (Protection of Animals Act 1911).
Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering. (S4 & 32(1) Animal Welfare Act 2006.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence & Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought for offences relating to the illegal importation of animals into the UK in each of the last five years. [252348]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the illegal import of animals in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at oll courts for offences relating to the illegal import of animals[1], England and Wales, 2003-07[2, 3]

	Total
2003	16
2004	9
2005	3
2006	16
2007	22

[1] Includes the following:
Offences under the Animal and Animal Products (Import and Export) Regulations 2006
Offences under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) order 1974
Offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions for breeding a prohibited breed of dog there were in 2007. [252504]

Maria Eagle: Seven defendants have been found guilty of "breeding or breeding from a fighting dog", under S.1 (2) (a) of the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act, England and Wales in 2007.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 410W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on increasing the number of apprentices in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [251898]

Mr. Wills: Since May 2008, the Ministry of Justice has been working with skills sector councils to promote apprenticeships across a range of subjects to all MOJ employees. The number of people currently employed undertaking apprenticeships is 364. The following table gives a breakdown of these by subject:

Apprenticeship title	*Number*
Customer Service	212
Business and Administration	59
Management	53
Team Leader	16
IT	10
Community Justice	1
Accounting	1
Data Analysis	1
Total	353

Additionally 11 participants are taking part in the in the Civil Service West Midlands Apprenticeship pilot scheme, working towards Management and Team Leader Apprenticeships.

Approved Premises

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* residential approved premises exclusively for (i) male and (ii) female offenders and bailees and *(b)* mixed-sex residential approved premises there are in (A) each of the English criminal justice regions and (B) Wales; in which town or locality each is sited; and how many residents there were in each on the last Friday of each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [248519]

Mr. Hanson: A table which has been placed in the Library shows information for each criminal justice region: the names of the current approved premises (APs) and the town or city in which each is located; whether the AP is all-male, all-female or mixed-sex; the total number of APs of each type for each region; and the number of residents in each AP for each month between December 2006 and November 2008 (the most recent month for which complete figures are available). Numbers of residents in approved premises are recorded on the last day of each month, rather than on the last Friday of the month.

Approved premises provide for enhanced and effective supervision of certain offenders which would be much more difficult to achieve if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community.

Bail Accommodation and Support Scheme

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* defendants and *(b)* offenders have been placed in ClearSprings accommodation since the start of the Bail Accommodation and Support Scheme. [252344]

Mr. Straw: The service commenced on 18 June 2007. Up to 26 January 2009, 1,292 defendants on bail and 1,048 offenders on home detention curfew had been placed in ClearSprings accommodation.

Bail Accommodation and Support Services: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects the second bail hostel planned for Milton Keynes to be operational; and what its capacity will be; [253164]

(2) what the capacity of the bail hostel in Milton Keynes is. [253165]

Mr. Hanson: I take the hon. Member to be referring to the accommodation and support service for bail and Home Detention Curfew provided to NOMS by ClearSprings. The service does not provide hostels. There is currently one property in Milton Keynes with three places. A second three bed roomed property is being sought. It is not possible to predict by when a property will be found and brought into use.

Debt Collection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance under what title Her Majesty's Court Service has issued to bailiffs in the last 12 months; and when each was most recently updated. [252469]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Courts Service employs county court bailiffs and civilian enforcement officers as well as private enforcement agent organisations to execute warrants on behalf of Her Majesty's Courts Service in England and Wales.

Her Majesty's Courts Service regularly issues guidance and direction to its staff and enforcement agents on a variety of issues. This includes both operational and personal guidance. The guidance is issued from a number of sources within Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Ministry of Justice.

The cost associated with specifying what guidance and under what title has been issued to bailiffs in the last 12months would be disproportionate and my Department has therefore not been able to provide details.

Departmental ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* first estimate, *(b)* last estimate and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the 30 largest IT contracts his Department has entered into with external suppliers since the Department was established. [250830]

Maria Eagle: The Department was created in May 2007 and most of the Department's IT contracts are legacy contracts from the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, Home Office and Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Two contracts awarded since the Department was established are ongoing and there are no outturn costs to report. A small number of other IT contracts are managed at local business level and information on these is not held centrally.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East, of 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 870-1W, on departmental manpower, how many *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* staff classified as priority movers there are in his Department and its agencies; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such after returning from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least (a) six months and (b) 12 months. [250089]

Mr. Wills: There are less than five people that are classified as staff without posts in the Department so this information is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

There are 126 permanent staff classified as priority movers within the Ministry of Justice. The figure comprises both full-time and part-time staff. All are actively in employment. However, due to business reasons, for example, restructuring, relocation, closure of offices/courts, the end of projects/secondments etc, their substantive posts have come to or are potentially coming to an end.

There are no staff who after returning from maternity leave have been classified as without posts, nor are there any staff without posts who have been classified as such for at least six or 12 months. Of the 126 permanent staff that are currently classified as priority movers, less than 10 have been in this category for at least six months and less than 15 for at least 12 months.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff his Department employs. [252346]

Mr. Straw: On 31 December 2008, (the latest date for which figures are available) the Ministry of Justice employed 76,872 full-time equivalent staff.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 19W, on departmental official residences, whether the council tax bills for *(a)* HM Courts Service and *(b)* HM Prison Service residential accommodation are paid from public funds; and what his Department's policy is on whether the proposed new charges for the collection of household waste will be funded by the public purse or personally by the occupying staff member. [252215]

Mr. Hanson: For Judges Lodgings the council tax bills for residential properties held by HM Courts Service (occupied by judges' lodgings managers and court keepers/custodians), are paid for by the individual resident staff who pay rental for their occupation. HMCS does not meet the cost from the public funds.

HM Courts Service has not yet decided on the policy that it will adopt to recover the proposed new charges in respect of the collection of household waste. Where charges may accrue in respect of household waste, HMCS may look to the individual to meet the cost (as in the case of recovering rent), but this would be considered against the actual amount due and the time and cost to recover same.

Staff that occupy National Offender Management Service provided residential accommodation (most commonly known as prison officer quarters) are liable for all local taxes. No consideration has been given to meeting any new local taxes from the public purse.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Dundee East of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 511-14W, on departmental public participation, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the non-confidential individual responses to the 2007 bailiff regulation document. [252355]

Bridget Prentice: 414 readable responses were received following the publication of the 2007 Bailiff regulation document. An analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report was published in March 2008. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library. It is our intention to place in the Library a copy of all 414 readable responses to this paper by the 16 February 2009.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251250]

Maria Eagle: Since its creation in May 2007 to 31 March 2008, the Ministry of Justice spend on Public Relations consultancies was £290,476. From April 2008 to date the Ministry of Justice has spent £87,797. Due to machinery of government changes it is not possible to identify comprehensive data for the earlier time periods prior to May 2007.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252263]

Mr. Wills: There was no expenditure by the Ministry of Justice on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008. No such training sessions were held for MOJ staff.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252017]

Mr. Malik: The majority of staff in the Ministry of Justice are covered by flexible working arrangements which, subject to working appropriate core hours, provide staff with a degree of flexibility while enabling the Ministry and its Agencies to provide an effective service for our customers.

Flexible working arrangements mean that staff who work in excess of their contracted hours, whether during lunch breaks, in evenings or at other times, gain credit on their flexi-hours. Those who accrue sufficient hours credit, may (subject to prior management approval) take the appropriate number of hours as 'flexi leave'.

This approach allows excess hours to be accrued and taken as leave at such times that both meet the needs of the business and support the work-life balance of our staff.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252018]

Mr. Malik: Time off in-lieu is available under locally agreed Flexible Working Hours arrangements. The number of hours worked and time taken off in lieu are recorded locally by managers can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of reckless driving offences during their first 12 months as licensed drivers in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK in each of the last five years. [253223]

Maria Eagle: Available information held by the Ministry of Justice on convictions at all courts for offences of dangerous and careless driving in Lancashire police force area and England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

from Information held centrally it is not possible to provide constituency level data.

Information on the number of findings of guilt during the first 12 months as a licensed driver are not held by the Ministry of Justice.

There is no specific offence for reckless driving, thus the number of findings of guilt at all courts for offences of dangerous and careless driving for Lancashire Police force area and England and Wales has been provided in lieu.

Data for 2008 should be available in the autumn of 2009.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of dangerous and careless driving, in Lancashire police force area, and England and Wales, 2003-07[1] [2]

		Number of offences
	Police force area	
Findings of guilt	*Lancashire*	*England and Wales*
2003	918	38,478
2004	744	37,133
2005	696	35,[illegible]
2006	756	33,6[illegible]
2007	921	43,525

[1] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Data taken from Table S6.15(b) of Crim Stats Sup vol. 6 (motoring offences), years 2003-07.

Fraud: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 150W, on fraud: elections, what progress has been made on the Government's plans to bring forward further legislation to implement its policy on requiring valid signatures for the issue of ballot papers in polling stations. [252484]

Mr. Wills: The Government continue to consider how this measure could most effectively be implemented. We must ensure, however, that any approach to this issue is aligned with other reforms to the registration and electoral processes.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase the budget of the Information Commissioner to assist the processing of reports under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [251713]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) regularly review funding for the Office's freedom of information work.

In response to business cases made by the ICO, the MOJ has provided the ICO with additional grant in aid over and above its original baseline for this financial year and the previous three. Figures are set out in the following table.

The MOJ has made clear that additional funding must result in increased productivity and efficiency. The ICO has reviewed its internal processes and has adopted new procedures such as senior level triage of new cases as they are received to drive performance improvements. During the last completed quarter the ICO has closed 11 per cent. more cases than in the equivalent quarter in the last financial year.

In the current financial year, in addition to an extra £500,000 on top of the £5 million baseline, the MOJ has promoted a secondment scheme to assist the ICO with its freedom of information casework. Currently, six civil servants are seconded to the ICO, paid for by their home departments.

Discussions are continuing about funding for next year.

Grant in aid allocated to ICO for freedom of information work

Financial year	*Amount*
2008-09	£5,500,000 (included additional £500,000 on £5 million baseline complemented by MOJ promotion of a scheme to second civil servants to ICO at government departments' expense)
2007-08	£5,050,000 (included additional £350,000 on £4.7 million baseline in response to ICO bid for funding to meet legal costs for Information Tribunal cases)
2006-07	£5,550,000 (included additional £850,000 on £4.7 million baseline for clearing the backlog)
2005-06	£5,100,000 (included additional £100,000 on £5 million baseline for reorganising Information Commissioner's office)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 151W, on Freedom of Information Act 2000, which *(a)* regional chambers and *(b)* proposed local authority leaders' boards will be subject to the provisions of the Act. [252152]

Mr. Wills: If approved by both Houses, provisions within the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (currently before the House) will disband regional chambers and replace them with local authority leaders' boards. There is currently no provision in the Bill to bring local authority leaders' board within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act. However, this matter will be given further consideration in due course.

Government Departments: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 166WA, on Government departments: public relations, for what reasons his Department's communications staff were not used to mount the campaign to increase public awareness of the Mental Capacity Act; [248977]

(2) with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Devizes of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1670-71W, on departmental public relations, which external public relations consultancies received a portion of the £290,476 referred to; how much each received; and for what purpose the payment was made in each case; [249204]

(3) with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Devizes of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1670-1W, on departmental public relations, on which public relations consultancies the expenditure was incurred; how much was spent on each; and for what purpose. [252170]

Bridget Prentice: The campaign to increase public awareness of the Mental Capacity Act was devised by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) with advice and professional support from Ministry of Justice's

Communications Directorate. The campaign was national in scope but needed to be targeted to reach particular people and organisations for which the Mental Capacity Act would have an impact and provide benefits. An external agency was used as the resource did not exist in the OPG, and the MOJ Communications Directorate could not dedicate sufficient resource to run such a campaign. Procuring an external agency to deliver the time-limited campaign also meant that the OPG did not have to hire extra staff and so exceed headcount limits.

The £290,476 referred to in the answer to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) in November 2008 is broken down as follows:

		£
Four Communications and HBL Media	Human Rights campaign	45,728
Four Communications	City of London planning application	1,880
Amazon PR	Family Mediation helpline and Mental Capacity Act	58,400
Good Relations	CJS Speedy, Simple, Summary programme and Weekly media and public affairs reports	71,978
Leapfrog PR	Liverpool Community Justice Centre	29,616
Hopwood PR	Leicester Community Justice Centre	49,255
Red Consultancy	Community Sentencing	33,619

HM Prison Rye Hill

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken in response to the findings of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in April 2005 that HM Prison Rye Hill was at that time an unsafe and unstable environment, both for prisoners and staff. [252130]

Mr. Malik: A Rectification Notice was issued against the contractor for Rye Hill, GSL, on 2 August 2007 to address shortcomings in performance across six key areas. Significant progress has been made by the contractor to remedy the failings identified by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. The Rectification Notice was removed in November 2008. This followed a review meeting that considered the prison had improved its performance sufficiently to justify such action.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic dwellings have been sold at a value of between £125,000 and £175,000 according to records held by the Land Registry since the temporary increase in the stamp duty threshold. [252415]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registry's latest figures cover the period since the introduction of the temporary increase in the threshold for stamp duty, until the end of December 2008. There were 32,985 domestic dwellings sold at a value between £125,000 and £175,000 during this period.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic property transactions there were according to Land Registry data in each local authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997-98. [252416]

Mr. Wills: The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Information Commissioner: Manpower

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of staffing levels in the Information Commissioner's Office to deal with enquiries from the public and hon. Members effectively. [252856]

Mr. Straw: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is funded by a combination of grant in aid from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to pay for its freedom of information activities and notification fees paid direct to the ICO by data controllers to fund its data protection work. The Information Commissioner is independent of Government.

The MOJ and the ICO regularly review the funding allocated to the Office. In response to business cases made by the ICO, the MOJ has provided the ICO with additional grant in aid above its original baseline for this financial year and the previous three for freedom of information work. Figures are set out in the following table.

The MOJ has made clear that additional funding must result in increased productivity and efficiency. The ICO has reviewed its internal processes and has adopted new procedures to drive performance improvements. During quarter three, the ICO closed 11 per cent. more cases than in the equivalent quarter in the last financial year.

In the current financial year, the MOJ additional grant amounted to £500,000, on top of its £5 million baseline. The MOJ has also promoted a secondment scheme to assist the ICO with its freedom of information casework. Currently, six civil servants are seconded to the ICO, paid for by their respective Government Departments.

Legislation is before Parliament to provide tiered notification fees for data protection payable to the ICO. This will increase the ICO's funding in line with the Information Commissioner's estimate of the cost of meeting both his existing and proposed new statutory data protection responsibilities.

Grant in aid allocated to ICO for freedom of information work

Financial year	Amount
2008-09	£5,500,000 (included additional £500,000 on £5 million baseline complemented by MOJ promotion of a scheme to second civil servants to ICO at Government Departments' expense)
2007-08	£5,050,000 (included additional £350,000 on £4.7 million baseline in response to ICO bid for funding to meet legal costs for Information Tribunal cases)
2006-07	£5,550,000 (included additional £850,000 on £4.7 million baseline for clearing the backlog)
2005-06	£5,100,000 (included additional £100,000 on £5 million baseline for reorganising Information Commissioner's office)

Legal Advice and Assistance: Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has authorised the Legal Services Commission to provide for legal advice and representation for Travellers through the exceptional funding scheme in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and in respect of which planning inquiries such funding was drawn upon in each year. [252364]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice has authorised the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to grant funding, through the exceptional funding scheme, for gypsies and travellers to be represented at planning inquiries amounting to: £33,496.22 in the financial year 2007-08, and £13,958.69 (to date) in the financial year 2008-09. The final amounts paid may have varied slightly from the figures aforementioned as the LSC can adjust the grant if necessary (for example if the hearing is longer, or shorter, than expected).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Legal Services Commission allocated to the Community Law Partnership to provide legal advice for Travellers in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [252397]

Mr. Malik: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) holds a contract with the Community Law Partnership to provide a helpline for Travellers to provide legal advice on a range of matters.

In 2007-08 the contract for this helpline was worth £56,540 excluding VAT. In 2008-09 the contract for this helpline was worth £61,680 excluding VAT. The Gypsy and Travellers' telephone helpline receives funding each year contingent upon the Community Law Partnership delivering their contracted 1,100 hours in 2007-08 and 1,200 hours in 2008-09.

The helpline forms a small part of the LSC's national telephone helpline, Community Legal Advice (0845 345 4 345).

The Community Law Partnership also has a contract with the LSC to deliver services in legal categories including housing, welfare benefits and community care law. That contract is for legal help and does not include representation in court. The LSC is unable to say how much of this funding has been provided to Travellers because it does not hold information to indicate whether clients follow any particular lifestyle.

Magistrates: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sitting magistrates there were in each of the last five years. [252505]

Mr. Straw: The following figures show numbers of active magistrates at each financial year ending 31 March:

	Number
2008	29,419
2007	29,816
2006	28,865
2005	28,300
2004	28,029

Offenders: Personal Records

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have a record held on the Government's Offender Index database. [253783]

Mr. Hanson: The Offenders Index holds data on court appearances in England and Wales since 1963. We cannot give a reliable figure for the total number of offenders included as we no longer use the database, except for analysis of selected cohorts. The Offenders Index was formerly used to provide estimates of reoffending rates, but since 2005, the Department has used data from the Police National Computer to provide its published figures on reoffending.

Operation Safeguard

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum amount is that police forces may charge for the provision of meals to prisoners held overnight in police cells under Operation Safeguard. [252349]

Mr. Straw: Under an agreement between NOMS and ACPO, the police are able to charge up to £12 for the provision of meals for a 24 hour period or part 24 hour period (this may be exceeded under exceptional circumstances).

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the workplace parking charges being introduced by Nottingham City Council will be required to be paid in whole or in part by staff in *(a)* Land Registry and *(b)* Legal Services Commission offices located within the workplace parking charge zone. [252414]

Mr. Wills: Until a firm decision has been made as to whether the Workplace Parking Levy scheme in Nottingham is to be introduced and full details made available, neither Land Registry or the Legal Services Commission will be in a position to consider whether the parking charges introduced by the scheme will be passed on in full or in part to their staff at their Nottingham offices.

Police Custody

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases of prisoners being held in short-term police custody cells owing to insufficient prison capacity there have been in each of the last five years; [252284]

(2) on how many occasions Operation Safeguard cells were used in each of the last three years. [252826]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard is the formal agreement between the National Offender Management Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers to hold prisoners in police cells at times of very high population pressure.

Operation Safeguard was activated between 12 October and 22 December 2006 and again from 16 January 2007 to 31 October 2008. The table covers these periods and gives the aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used during each year shown. It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners these totals cover.

	Aggregate number of prisoner nights in police cells
2006	4,614
2007	66,711
2008	17,601

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* staff HM Prison Service employed in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [252507]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of prison officers and associated grades, and other staff within the Prison Service of England and Wales is contained in the following table. The figures include staff working in headquarters.

Prison Service Staffing (Public and Private Sectors) – 2004-08

As at 31 December each year	*Officer and operational support grades*	*Other staff*	*Total SIP*
2004	33,067	18,333	51,400
2005	33,963	18,069	52,032
2006	34,495	18,493	52,988
2007	35,749	19,227	54,976
2008	36,718	20,734	57,452

Notes:

1. Includes prison officers, senior officers, principal officers and operational support grades in public sector Prison Service and prison custody officers and Senior Prison Custody Officers within private establishments.
2. Figures are on a headcount basis.

Prisoners Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released having served no more than a quarter of their sentence for offences of each type in each of the last three years. [251426]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners may only be released into the community earlier than the half way point of their sentence under either the home detention curfew scheme (HDC) or the end of custody licence scheme (ECL).

The home detention curfew scheme enables suitable prisoners to be released subject to an electronically monitored curfew up to 135 days earlier than the half way point of their sentence. No prisoners are released on HDC unless they have served at least one quarter of their sentence subject to a minimum of 30 days in custody.

Under the end of custody licence scheme eligible prisoners may be released up to 18 days earlier than the half way point of their sentence subject to serving a minimum of seven days in custody after sentence. Some prisoners serving very short sentences of between 28 days and 72 days may therefore be released on licence under the ECL scheme on or before they have served one quarter of their sentence if they meet the eligibility criteria.

The following tables show the number of HDC and ECL releases by offence group. The HDC figures are published annually in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (most recently for 2007) and information on ECL releases is published monthly. All publications are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www-justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm.

It is not possible to provide the specific information requested on numbers of prisoners released after serving no more than a quarter of their sentence in custody without manual checking of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Home detention curfew release by offence group[1], 2005-07, England and Wales

	2005			*2006*			*2007*		
	Population in sentence length band	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*	*Population in sentence length band*	*Released*	*Release rate (%)*
Total	54,610	17,296	32	52,987	13,666	26	53,835	11,428	21
Violence	10,064	3,204	32	9,840	2,490	25	10,397	2,118	20
Sexual offences	1,230	2	0	1,203	0	0	1,180	0	0
Robbery	2,451	901	37	2,284	709	31	2,520	694	28
Burglary	6,334	1,290	20	6,168	1,069	17	6,347	945	15
Theft and handling	8,846	2,107	24	8,679	1,705	20	8,227	1,380	17
Fraud and forgery	2,835	1,287	45	3,243	1,169	36	3,196	917	29
Drug offences	4,338	2,500	58	4,296	2,347	55	4,381	2,106	48
Motoring offences	8,307	3,000	36	6,984	1,923	28	5,569	1,290	23
Other[2]	9,907	2,902	29	10,290	2,254	22	12,018	1,978	16

[1] Offence recorded on prison IT system. Investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded on this system do not relate to the offence they were released on HDC for but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.
[2] Includes the offence of bigamy.

ECL releases by offence group—December 2008 and cumulative totals

	Releases in December 2008			*Year to date*	*2007*
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*1 January to 31 December 2008*	*29 June to 31 December 2007*
	2,498	297	2,795	31,318	16,197
By offence group					
Violence against the person[1]	507	62	569	6,116	3,000
Sexual offences	0	0	0	5	4

ECL releases by offence group—December 2008 and cumulative totals

	Releases in December 2008			Year to date	2007
	Male	Female	Total	1 January to 31 December 2008	29 June to 31 December 2007
Robbery	56	4	60	792	349
Burglary	249	9	258	2,794	1,499
Theft and Handling	522	125	647	7,116	3,682
Fraud and Forgery	46	12	58	656	291
Drug offences	111	6	117	1,322	691
Motoring offences	284	7	291	3,473	2,032
Other offences	682	64	746	8,431	4,362
Offence not recorded	41	8	49	513	287

[1] Excludes serious violent offences such as murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit grievous bodily harm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, child cruelty and serious explosives offences. A full list of exclusions can be found in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 (which consolidates and replaces PSI 27/2007).

Note:

Data Sources and Quality: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. See Data Sources and Quality section of report for more information.

Source:

Taken from Table 1 in OMCS 'ECL releases and recalls December 2008, England and Wales'

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released on end-of-custody licence since 29 June 2007; how many of those were foreign nationals; and how many such prisoners have re-offended while on licence. [252285]

Mr. Straw: Between 29 June 2007 and 31 December 2008, the latest date for which information is available, there were 47,515 prisoners released under the end of custody licence scheme. Those foreign national prisoners who either have no lawful basis upon which to remain in the UK or will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence are not eligible for release under the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme.

The Government have made it clear that they will seek to remove or deport those foreign nationals who commit crimes in the UK and meet the relevant criteria. Of the 47,515 prisoners who were released under the end of custody licence scheme, less than 6 per cent. of these were foreign national prisoners. Internal management information also shows that less than 1 per cent. of those foreign national prisoners who were released under the scheme were later convicted of a further offence during their period of end of custody licence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of transferring prisoners *(a)* from one prison to another and *(b)* to and from court was in each of the last five years. [252157]

Mr. Hanson: Details of the costs of transferring prisoners to one prison from another in England and Wales using the inter prison transfer contract are held by financial year and are set out in the following table:

	Cost of inter prison transfers (£ million)
2003-04	5.64
2004-05	5.79
2005-06	5.97
2006-07	7.38
2007-08	7.64

Since August 2004 the contracts for the escort of prisoners have included a separate payment for every prisoner journey undertaken. The payment covers vehicle and staff costs. Details of these payments for escorting prisoners to and from courts in England and Wales are available by calendar year from 2005 and are set out in the following table.

	Cost of escorting prisoners to and from courts (£ million)
2005	53.32
2006	55.99
2007	59.17
2008	61.80

The figures include the cost of all prisoner journeys in the London and south east contract area as to separate the escort of prisoners from police stations to prisons from the invoiced total could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Incorrect figures for the cost of escorting prisoners to and from courts were previously given in answer to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 572W.

Prisoners: Training

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which companies were contracted by his Department to provide training for *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prison staff in each of the last five years; [251182]

(2) what his Department's expenditure on companies contracted to train *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prison staff has been in each of the last five years. [251183]

Mr. Straw: Training for prisoners is largely undertaken in house through courses run by prison service [illegible]ructors. These courses enable prisoners to achieve vocational qualifications in areas including prison industries, catering, horticulture and gymnasium and are designed to assist prisoners gaining employment on release.

Training to support reducing reoffending and resettlement initiatives for prisoners are provided by the suppliers detailed as follows. The expenditure is included.

Fiscal year	*Contractor*	*Expenditure (£)*
2004-05	APEX Charitable Trust Ltd.	29,286
	Changing Tunes	1,221
	Connexions, Cheshire and Warrington Ltd.	363,716
	DWP, Job Centre Plus	570,145
	FPWP Hibiscus	40,050
	NACRO	1,541,861
	New Bridge	76,483
	PC Solutions and Support Ltd.	212
	Prison Fellowship England and Wales	15,632
	Shelter	162,205
	SOVA	1,851,429
	St. Giles Trust	295,626
	The Foundation Training Company	645,455
	Wigan Council	157,971
	Grand total	5,751,291
2005-06	APEX Charitable Trust Ltd.	143,784
	Changing Tunes	1,221
	Connexions, Cheshire and Warrington Ltd.	1,319,810
	DWP, Job Centre Plus	192,140
	FPWP Hibiscus	79,871
	NACRO	1,683,002
	New Bridge	90,491
	PC Solutions and Support Ltd.	2,564
	Prison Fellowship England and Wales	187,570
	Shelter	467,948
	SOVA	2,513,675
	St. Petrock's (Exeter) Ltd.	15,200
	St. Giles Trust	529,774
	The Foundation Training Company	858,349
	Wigan Council	393,655
	YMCA (Partnerships in Prisons)	57,612
	Grand total	8,536,665
2006-07	APEX Charitable Trust Ltd.	59,209
	Changing Tunes	3,571
	Connexions, Cheshire and Warrington Ltd	1,119,512
	DWP, Job Centre Plus	188,308
	FPWP Hibiscus	96,797
	Multiscreen Channel	117,247
	NACRO	1,042,486
	NCH	2,421
	New Bridge	38,562
	Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council	285
	PC Solutions and Support Ltd	114,395
	Prison Fellowship England and Wales	223,148
	Shelter	538,091
	SOVA	3,606,992
	St. Petrock's (Exeter) Ltd.	25,000
	St. Giles Trust	557,537
	The Foundation Training Company	845,940
	Wigan Council	444,754
	YMCA (Partnerships in Prisons)	145,543
	Grand total	9,169,797
2007-08	APEX Charitable Trust Ltd.	43,996
	Changing Tunes	6,347
	Connexions, Cheshire and Warrington Ltd.	100,899
	CXL	21,761
	DWP, Job Centre Plus	46,559
	FPWP Hibiscus	132,137
	Multiscreen Channel	71,075
	NACRO	276,779
	NCH	1,831
	New Bridge	46,715
	Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council	51,000
	PC Solutions and Support Ltd.	81,456
	Prison Fellowship England and Wales	293,950
	Shelter	605,238
	SOVA	3,943,928
	St. Petrock's (Exeter) Ltd.	23,900
	St. Giles Trust	668,196
	The Foundation Training Co.	1,103,240
	Wigan Council	1,039,051
	YMCA (Partnerships In Prisons)	259,877
	Grand total	8,817,934
2008-09	APEX Charitable Trust Ltd.	36,696
	Changing Tunes	12,736
	Connexions, Cheshire and Warrington Ltd.	4,824
	CXL	38,259
	DWP, Job Centre Plus	21,487
	FPWP Hibiscus	137,805
	Multiscreen Channel Ltd.	73,255
	NACRO	123,576
	NCH	485
	Newbridge	61,031
	Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council	813
	PC Solutions and Support Ltd	148,673
	Prison Fellowship England and Wales	253,810

Fiscal year	Contractor	Expenditure (£)
	Prison Radio Association	12,485
	Shelter	521,460
	SOVA	1,163,931
	St. Petrock's (Exeter) Ltd.	27,560
	St. Giles Trust	595,943
	The Foundation Training Company	1,190,307
	YMCA (Partnerships in Prisons)	242,180
	Grand total	4,657,105

The following table details the companies contracted to provide training for prison staff and spend for each of the last five years.

Fiscal year	Contractor	Expenditure (£)
2004-05	Cannock Chase Technical College	31,075
	Centre For High Performance Development	5,197
	National School of Government	228,540
	South West Peninsular Training	754
	Creative Forum Ltd.	53,506
	Empower Training Services Ltd.	31,314
	Forum UK Training and Human Resource Development Services Ltd.	71,840
	Greater Manchester Police (The)	1,931
	Harrop Associates Ltd.	69,203
	HB International	74,134
	Highfield Co. UK Ltd.	45,005
	Leeds College of Building	3,305
	National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Services Ltd.	999
	NETA Training Trust	6,472
	Newcastle College	5,095
	Office For Public Management Ltd.	10,491
	St. John Ambulance	29,114
	TDP Development Ltd.	469,561
	TSO Consulting	37,359
	Woodland Grange	39,709
	Industrial Training and Consultancy	14,510
	Abbeydale Training Ltd.	63,034
	RTW Training Services	367
	Hardaker Associates Ltd.	15,197
	Berkshire Consultancy Ltd.	6,512
	Grand total	1,314,213
2005-06	Blackburn College	3,141
	Bond Solon Training Ltd.	3,026
	Cannock Chase Technical College	99
	National School of Government	258,999
	South West Peninsular Training	1,899
	Creative Forum Ltd.	57,176
	Empower Training Services Ltd.	30,262
	Forum UK Training and Human Resource Development Services Ltd.	86,405
	Greater Manchester Police (The)	7,088
	Harrop Associates Ltd.	88,400
	HB International	156,718
	Highfield Co. UK Ltd.	73,001
	Leadership Research and Development Ltd.	27,491
	Leeds College of Building	3,080
	National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Services Ltd.	10,085
	NETA Training Trust	16,846
	Newcastle College	-3,778
	Office For Public Management Ltd.	734
	Passe-Partout Consulting Ltd.	22,623
	St. John Ambulance	47,195
	TDP Development Ltd.	827,092
	TSO Consulting	25,490
	Woodland Grange	78,958
	Industrial Training and Consultancy	25,334
	Abbeydale Training Ltd.	50,563
	RTW Training Services	18,841
	Hardaker Associates Ltd.	18,095
	METIS Psychological Services	4,000
	Rangecroft Communication Ltd.	801
	Bray Leino Ltd.	4,295
	Grand total	1,943,547
2006-07	Blackburn College	1,646
	Bond Solon Training Ltd.	1,191
	Cannock Chase Technical College	-99
	National School of Government	203,322
	South West Peninsular Training	5,199
	Creative Forum Ltd.	57,130
	Empower Training Services Ltd.	24,255
	Forum UK Training and Human Resource Development Services Ltd.	69,307
	Greater Manchester Police (The)	37,661
	Harrop Associates Ltd.	123,976
	HB International	173,284
	Highfield Co. UK Ltd.	84,713
	Leadership Research and Development Ltd.	4,668
	Leeds College of Building	9,867
	National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Services Ltd.	576
	NETA Training Trust	4,565
	Newcastle College	1,286

Fiscal year	*Contractor*	*Expenditure (£)*
	Office For Public Management Ltd.	32,995
	Passe-Partout Consulting Ltd.	152,648
	St. John Ambulance	54,583
	TDP Development Ltd.	566,377
	TSO Consulting	145,272
	Woodland Grange	64,527
	Industrial Training and Consultancy	29,317
	Abbeydale Training Ltd.	40,578
	Hardaker Associates Ltd.	21,209
	Grey Cell Training Ltd.	6,690
	METIS Psychological Services	6,400
	Rangecroft Communication Ltd.	11,988
	Bray Leino Ltd.	57,330
	Roffey Park Institute	87,545
	The Training Consultants Ltd.	12,978
	Paul Roscorla Associates Ltd.	1,743
	Grand total	2,094,727
2007-08	Blackburn College	16,601
	Cannock Chase Technical College	85,958
	National School of Government	328,312
	South West Peninsular Training	8,691
	Creative Forum Ltd.	40,376
	Empower Training Services Ltd.	22,525
	Forum UK Training and Human Resource Development Services Ltd.	61,808
	Greater Manchester Police (The)	88,848
	Harrop Associates Ltd.	136,913
	HB International	175,484
	Highfield Co. UK Ltd.	65,281
	Leeds College of Building	5,310
	National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Services Ltd.	32,016
	NETA Training Trust	22,208
	Newcastle College	1,062,056
	Office For Public Management Ltd.	393,063
	Passe-Partout Consulting Ltd.	192,893
	St. John Ambulance	52,126
	TDP Development Ltd.	542,660
	Training and Safety Services Ltd.	3,576
	TSO Consulting	48,511
	Woodland Grange	36,615
	Industrial Training and Consultancy	16,149
	Abbeydale Training Ltd.	19,665
	RTW Training Services	32,059
	Hardaker Associates Ltd.	4,641
	Grey Cell Training Ltd.	6,539
	METIS Psychological Services	14,707
	Rangecroft Communication Ltd.	3,550
	Bray Leino Ltd.	19,508
	Roffey Park Institute	44,358
	Industrial Training Services Ltd.	4,653
	The Faraday Centre Ltd.	4,688
	Todo Mundo Ltd.	3,267
	The Training Consultants Ltd.	123,825
	Paul Roscorla Associates Ltd.	11,701
	The Development Partnership	411
	Grand total	3,731,555
2008-09	Blackburn College	3,129
	Bond Solon Training Ltd.	13,322
	Cannock Chase Technical College	18,930
	National School of Government	123,670
	South West Peninsular Training	3,254
	Creative Forum Ltd.	26,951
	Empower Training Services Ltd.	19,534
	Forum UK Training and Human Resource Development Services Ltd.	38,011
	Greater Manchester Police(The)	63,740
	Harrop Associates Ltd.	173,037
	HB International	131,472
	Highfield Co. UK Ltd.	46,951
	Leeds College of Building	8,904
	NETA Training Trust	13,681
	Newcastle College	768,063
	Office For Public Management Ltd.	263,178
	Passe-Partout Consulting Ltd.	197,381
	St. John Ambulance	31,043
	TDP Development Ltd.	182,350
	Training and Safety Services Ltd.	3,322
	TSO Consulting	26,621
	Woodland Grange	54,721
	Industrial Training and Consultancy	12,080
	Abbeydale Training Ltd.	19,807
	RTW Training Services	18,833
	Hardaker Associates Ltd.	37,798
	Grey Cell Training Ltd.	3,895
	METIS Psychological Services	20,508
	Rangecroft Communication Ltd.	2,071
	Roffey Park Institute	5,806
	Industrial Training Services Ltd.	13,771
	The Training Consultants Ltd.	26,289
	Paul Roscorla Associates Ltd.	8,970

Fiscal year	*Contractor*	*Expenditure (£)*
	Magnetic North Education and Training Ltd.	86,624
	NICEIC Group Ltd.	51,406
	Eliesha	18,069
	SKAI Ltd.	3,306
	Grand total	2,540,499

Prisons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made towards its objective of increasing the prison capacity in England and Wales to 86,000 by September 2009. [252343]

Mr. Hanson: We estimate that prison capacity in England and Wales will reach 86,000 places around November 2009.

We are expanding prison capacity by 20,000 places and aim to achieve an overall net capacity of just over 96,000 by 2014.

Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders placed on the end of custody licence scheme have been recalled to custody since the scheme's inception; and how many of the alleged further offences committed were *(a)* robbery, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* theft and handling, *(d)* fraud and forgery, *(e)* drug offences, *(f)* rape, *(g)* attempted rape and *(h)* other sexual offences. [252345]

Mr. Straw: 47,515 offenders have been placed on the end of custody licence scheme (ECL), of whom 1,594 (approximately 3 per cent.) have been recalled to custody from the start of the scheme on 29 June 2007 to 31 December 2008.

Independent of the number of recalls is the number of offenders notified to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) as having allegedly re-offended during their period of ECL. NOMS may be notified of an alleged further offence for which it is not possible to recall the offender to custody because, for example, the ECL period has expired by the time the offender is charged with the offence.

Between 29 June 2007 and 31 December 2008, 712 offenders were notified to NOMS as alleged to have committed a total of 959 further offences while on the scheme. The following table shows the types of offences allegedly committed in the categories requested.

Alleged offence	*Number of alleged offences*
Robbery	39
Burglary	77
Theft and Handling	289
Fraud and Forgery	9
Drug Offences	25
Rape[1]	2
Attempted Rape	0
Other Sexual Offences[1]	5

[1] Of the seven alleged sexual offences listed in the table, one has resulted in a conviction; the remaining six cases have either been discontinued prior to trial or resulted in acquittal.

Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal were made by a local authority children's services department on behalf of a looked-after child in 2007-08. [251770]

Bridget Prentice: The First-Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), known as Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) prior to 3 November 2008, does not retain any statistical information on how many appeals are made by Local Authority Children's Services Departments on behalf of looked-after children. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The tribunal keeps data on the total number of appeals, the type of appeal, the category of the special educational need, the outcome of the appeal and the length of time to reach a decision.

In 2007-08, SENDIST received a total of 3,396 appeals.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people per 10,000 of the population in each region of the UK were prosecuted for non-payment of television licence fees in each of the last three years. [253086]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of persons per 10,000 of the population proceeded against for television licence evasion in England and Wales from 2005 to 2007 (latest available), broken down by region is in the following table. Information data held by the Ministry of Justice only cover England and Wales.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons per 10,000 of the population proceeded against for television licence evasion in England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by region[1, 2]

	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
Region	*Proceeded against*	*Proceedings per 10,000 of the population*	*Proceeded against*	*Proceedings per 10,000 of the population*	*Proceeded against*	*Proceedings per 10,000 of the population*
East of England	5,040	9	9,642	17	9,152	16
East Midlands	8,904	21	9,221	21	10,537	24
London	23,508	32	19,219	26	22,780	30
North East	5,820	23	9,407	37	8,455	33

Number of persons per 10,000 of the population proceeded against for television licence evasion in England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by region[1] [2]

	2005		2006		2007	
Region	*Proceeded against*	*Proceedings per 10,000 of the population*	*Proceeded against*	*Proceedings per 10,000 of the population*	*Proceeded against*	*Proceedings per 10,000 of the population*
North West	28,159	41	27,148	40	26,662	39
South East	8,707	11	8,802	11	9,786	12
South West	7,095	14	7,615	15	8,137	16
Wales	8,576	29	10,460	35	10,073	34
West Midlands	12,041	23	14,233	27	15,154	28
Yorkshire and Humberside	15,073	30	14,272	28	14,871	29
England and Wales	122,923	23	130,019	24	135,607	25

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Valuation Office: Land Registry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 153W, on Land Registry Direct, what property data the Land Registry Direct Service provides to the Valuation Office Agency. [252150]

Mr. Wills: The Valuation Office Agency will be able to obtain the same information as any other users of Land Registry's services, whether they are in the public or private sector. As users of Land Registry Direct the Valuation Office Agency will have access to our register. The Land Register has been available for public inspection since December 1990 and Official Copies of registers, title plans and deeds and most documents referred to on the register can be obtained by post or electronically. The information included on a register is:

title number of property or land

the tenure (freehold or leasehold)

the price paid (where available)

the name of the registered proprietor(s)

lease details (deed date, term, rent)

property address, including town name

property description (detached, flat etc)

local authority name.

There are over 22 million titles registered with Land Registry covering England and Wales.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on the Valuation Office: Land Registry, how much the Valuation Office Agency paid the Land Registry for access to the Land Registry Direct Service in the latest year for which figures are available. [252165]

Mr. Wills: There is no charge to access Land Registry Direct. All registered users, whether public or private sector, hold a credit account and only pay for particulars that they download.

HEALTH

Asthma

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were admitted to hospital due to asthma in the last five years. [252155]

Ann Keen: The Department uses information from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) for data of this kind. HES is the national statistical data warehouse for England of the care provided by national health service hospitals and for NHS hospital patients treated elsewhere. The data are freely available from:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk

For hospital admissions for asthma the HES data are not broken down by age, but they are broken down into age categories of 0-14 years old and 15 plus years old for finished episodes of asthma. Note that a patient may have more than one episode for each hospital admission, which explains why episode data exceed admission data in the following table. Data are currently only available for the five years previous to 2006-07, collected from April to April:

	Admissions	*Episodes (ages 0-14)*	*Episodes (ages 15 plus)*
2006-07	62,656	26,448	51,656
2005-06	59,072	22,542	51,698
2004-05	63,422	25,570	53,023
2003-04	56,698	22,125	47,992
2002-03	51,601	21,840	40,414

Breast Cancer: Screening

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* current and *(b)* planned capacity in each of the next five years is for the number of breast screenings in each primary care trust; and if he will make a statement; [252381]

(2) what steps his Department has taken in preparation for the planned extension of breast screening; and if he will make a statement. [252411]

Ann Keen: Information on current and planned capacity for breast screening in each primary care trust (PCT) is not collected centrally. It is for PCTs, in partnership with strategic health authorities, local services and other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations. PCTs are required to provide breast screening services for their eligible populations. They are responsible for ensuring that breast screening services are delivered to national standards.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme is a huge success, saving an estimated 1,400 lives each year. It is now screening more women and detecting more cancers than ever before. In 2007-08, 1.71 million women were screened and 14,110 cancers were detected.

We are extending routine breast screening to women between the ages of 47 and 73 years, with a guarantee that women will have their first screening before the age of 50. As a result, over 400,000 more women will be screened each year. This extension is being managed by NHS Cancer Screening Programmes in partnership with local health services and will be piloted in six sites from January 2009. The pilots will meet strict quality and performance criteria and will act as a learning platform to enable remaining services to model their rollout plans. Full implementation of the breast screening extension across England is due by the end of 2012.

Cancer

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government plans to spend to modernise health service equipment for cancer treatments over the next three years; and what types of equipment are planned to be replaced. [251456]

Ann Keen: As part of the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS), £250 million capital funding has been made available over the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11) to improve and modernise cancer equipment. This funding will be included in the total capital funding available to the national health service under the NHS capital planning process. Equipment which has reached the end of its useful life should be replaced under local capital investment strategies.

It will be for local determination to decide the level of funding required to meet the needs of their patients and to ensure local cancer services are delivered and equipment is maintained and replaced in accordance with commitments, standards and recommendations made in the CRS and other relevant guidance provided by professional bodies.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252374]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has expended the sum of £13,352.62 on works and refurbishment to Ministers' offices within the last 12 month period.

The expenditure is broken down into:

	£
Repairs to roof which caused water damage to Secretary of State's room	9,419.02
Redecoration following flood damage as above	3,936.60

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251382]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what scheduled capital expenditure in the NHS his Department is planning to delay. [253470]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans by the Department to delay any existing capital programmes or individual schemes.

General Dental Council

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the new General Dental Council to be in place. [252135]

Ann Keen: The General Dental Council (GDC) is working closely with the Department to deliver the new GDC in advance of the expiry of the terms of office of the current council, on 9 October 2009.

Health Professions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* qualified nursing, *(b)* midwifery and *(c)* health visiting staff were (i) male and (ii) female in each year from 2006. [252703]

Ann Keen: The following table gives a breakdown by gender for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff from 2006.

			Registered midwife		*Health visitor*		*Nurse*	
At 30 September each year	*Total*	*Unknown gender*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
2006	374,538	21,354	176	22,937	176	11,507	37,890	280,498
2007	376,737	35,978	113	23,415	139	11,140	36,787	269,165

Hospitals: Retail Trade

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many complaints his Department has received on prices charged in retail outlets within NHS hospitals in each of the last 12 months; [253162]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on his Department's policy on lease of retail spaces in hospitals; and if he will make a statement; [253163]

(3) how many NHS hospitals receive *(a)* a percentage of retail outlet revenue and *(b)* a flat fee when leasing space within their buildings to retailers. [253170]

Dawn Primarolo: Under income generation powers hospitals are able to establish and operate retail outlets that complement and extend the range of services and facilities for patients and visitors, as well as providing additional income that is re-invested directly back into local healthcare services.

The specifics of any contract and the operation of the outlets are a matter for local national health service management. The Department does not hold any records of these contracts.

There have not been any recent ministerial discussions regarding policy on the leasing of retail space in hospitals.

Income generation guidance advises that prices must conform to Fair Trading, Enterprise and Competition legislation. The Department's records of correspondence show no instances of complaints relating to prices charged in NHS retail outlets in the last 12 months.

Medical Records

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards ensuring that GP care record systems will be compatible with the Summary Care Record. [252340]

Mr. Bradshaw: Three general practitioner (GP) care systems have successfully demonstrated compatibility and have been used in the creation of patient summary care records in the early adopter primary care trusts. It is anticipated that a fourth supplier will have achieved compatibility by April 2009. These four suppliers represent 95 per cent. of all GP care systems in use throughout England. Other suppliers are making progress towards compatibility, but no firm timelines exist for their systems to achieve compatibility at this stage.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of patients in each *(a)* acute trust, *(b)* primary care trust, *(c)* mental health trust and *(d)* GP practice have had their care records uploaded; [252341]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* acute trusts, *(b)* primary care trusts, *(c)* mental health trusts and *(d)* GP practices in each region have deployed summary care records; and what the timetable for their full deployment is. [252342]

Mr. Bradshaw: A summary care record (SCR) early adopter programme has been established in a small number of primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure lessons were learned prior to national implementation of the SCR. The number of patient records created and the number of general practitioner (GP) practices that have created summary care records, as at 27 January 2009, are in the following table.

In accordance with the NHS operating framework 2009-10, strategic health authorities will agree the timeline for implementing the SCR with PCTs as commissioners, and have been asked to plan for roll-out of the SCR based on a two-year window for the full deployment of SCR from the date on which all GP systems used in the PCT area are compliant with national programme for information technology systems and services.

PCT	*General practices live with SCR*	*Number of SCRs created*
Bolton	13	91,146
Bury	17	100,183
South Birmingham	3	21,001
Bradford	1	19,173

Other NHS organisations and services able to access the summary care record:

Royal Bolton Hospital, Accident and Emergency Service;

Bolton Out of Hours Service;

Bolton Walk in Centre, Lever Chambers Centre;

Bury Out of Hours Service;

Bury and Rochdale Doctors on Call BARDOC;

Fairfield General Hospital Bury, Accident and Emergency Department; and

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, Mental Health Services.

Medical Treatments: EU Law

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department has on progress made recently in implementing the Medicines Directive in *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey; [252887]

(2) when he expects the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008 to come into force in Guernsey. [252888]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has a meeting with the government of Jersey on 11 February 2009 to begin discussions on the implementation of the Medicines Directive 2001/83/EC. Guernsey's Medicines Law received Royal Assent on 10 December 2008 and now requires an ordinance by the states of Guernsey to bring it in to force. This is expected in spring 2009. The MHRA continues to assist the government of Guernsey in the development of the additional legislation required for implementation of the Medicines Directive.

Midwives: Insurance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects on independent midwifery of the implementation of Article 5 of the draft European Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, with specific reference to the provisions on professional liability insurance. [252133]

Dawn Primarolo: The draft directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare is currently subject to negotiations as part of the European co-decision process.

The Government have already signalled their intention that independent midwives should have professional indemnity cover and are committed to supporting them to do so.

MRSA

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of MRSA infections in hospitals. [253127]

Ann Keen: The Department's strategy for reducing health care associated infections (HCAIs), including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), in the national health service (NHS) is set out in 'Clean, safe care', which has already been placed in the Library.

Infection control is one of the five top priorities in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* targets to 2010-11 have been set under the Better Care for All Public Service Agreement. Clean, safe care outlines the comprehensive range of measures being employed, backed by £270 million additional investment per year by 2010-11 to tackle HCAIs and improve cleanliness.

Steps include screening all relevant elective admissions to hospitals for MRSA from April 2009, and all emergency admissions by 2010-11; a technology programme designed to accelerate the development and uptake of new technologies to improve infection control; the development of a new national standard for cleanliness in the NHS and a new national minimum standard for MRSA. The Department has re-launched its nationwide antibiotic awareness campaign, and will be launching a HCAI patient awareness campaign in the summer.

These measures should support the NHS to meet their legal requirements on infection control, as set out in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, which has already been placed in the Library. All acute NHS trusts are inspected annually against the code of practice by the Healthcare Commission. From April 2009, the new Care Quality Commission will assess compliance against the code of practice and will have a broader range of powers to ensure high performance in infection control.

NHS: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department have been employed *(a)* on the Connecting for Health project and *(b)* in roles relating to press and public relations work on the project in each year since it was announced. [252332]

Mr. Bradshaw: Available information is in the following table. For 2003-05 it relates to the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) only. On 1 April 2005 the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency came into being. NHS Connecting for Health is responsible for delivering NPfIT, and maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority.

	Total		*Media team*[1]	
	Employees	*Other*	*Employees*	*Other*
July 2003	80	130	n/a	n/a
July 2004	250	214	n/a	n/a
February 2005	349	301	2	0
February 2006	994	460	3	0
February 2007	1,119.7	566.8	4	0
February 2008	933.6	392	5	6
January 2009	1,098	367.9	4	1

n/a = Not available

[1] Staff roles allocated on a 'best fit' basis with "press and public relations" duties.

Notes:

1. Figures are for full-time equivalent staff. 'Other' includes contract and temporary staff, and secondees.
2. Because of variation in staff numbers to meet workloads over time, figures are quoted for dates for which information is readily available. Figures since February 2005 are quoted as at February for ease of year-on-year comparison.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total premium payable to the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts has been in each financial year since 2000-01; and what estimate he has made of the amount of such premium payments in 2009-10. [251617]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) collects contributions in the third quarter of the current financial year to cover the estimated costs to be incurred by the clinical negligence scheme for trusts in the following financial year. The information requested is in the following table and was provided by the NHSLA.

Financial year	*Premium collected (£ million)*
2000-01	49.7
2001-02	41.2
2002-03	221.2
2003-04	247.9
2004-05	406.8
2005-06	468.3
2006-07	457.6
2007-08	447.3
2008-09	396.3

The premium to be collected for 2009-10 is £713.4 million. This is substantially higher than the previous year due to delayed settlement of over 100 high-value cases until a Court of Appeal ruling was made in the "Thompstone et al"[1] indexation cases, as well as other factors such as rising legal costs. We would expect this figure to fall back in 2010-11.

[1] (2008) 1 WLR 2207, (2008) EWCA Civ 5, (2008) 2 All ER 553

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250145]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W. Additionally:

> The Department does not own any vehicles.
>
> Two private lease vehicles are used by departmental staff under an arrangement operated by HM Revenue and Customs. Capacity details for these vehicles is not available.
>
> The Department has an arrangement with Arval PHH for hire of vehicles. The contract specifies that no vehicle with an engine capacity greater than 1600 cc should be provided.
>
> The Department has a contract with Addison Lee for the provision of taxis. Typically, vehicles supplied are 1.9 litre diesel.

The Department also has an arrangement with Government Car and Despatch Agency, part of Department of Transport. They provide Toyota Prius vehicles as part of their 'Green Cars' Scheme.

Orthopaedics

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the timetable is for the application to orthopaedic hospitals of amendments to the HRG4 national tariff; [252136]

(2) whether he plans to provide transitional relief to specialist orthopaedic trusts whose income is adversely affected by changes to the national tariff HRG4; [252137]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on the finances of each specialist orthopaedic hospital of *(a)* changes to the HRG4 national tariff and *(b)* adjustments to the market forces factor. [252138]

Mr. Bradshaw: From 1 April 2009 the national tariff which is used by all providers of NHS services will be based, in part, on the clinical grouping methodology HRG4.

Interim impact analysis, using historical activity data, has been undertaken centrally at several stages of tariff calculation. This has included the impact associated with the new market forces factor (MFF). A more accurate analysis can be carried out locally using locally available data, when the final tariff has been published.

Once the new tariff is in use strategic health authorities, involving primary care trusts where appropriate, will have discretion to manage both the transition towards the full impact of the revised MFF and the financi[illegible] impact of the move to tariffs based on HRG4.

Prescriptions: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the development of the electronic prescription service. [252339]

Mr. Bradshaw: Deployment of release 1 of the electronic prescription service (EPS) commenced in February 2005 when the software was delivered and is now largely complete. Currently, 86 per cent. of all general practitioner practice sites and 87 per cent. of pharmacies are technically enabled. On average, EPS is being used for around 30 per cent. of prescribed daily prescription messages.

The software for release 2 was delivered in August 2006 and final compliance preparations are under way by general practitioner and pharmacy information technology suppliers for the implementation of release 2. 17 initial implementer primary care trusts have been specified in Secretary of State Directions as those that may authorise the use of the EPS by their prescribers. Subject to the conclusion of ongoing compliance testing, deployment to an initial implementation site is expected to start shortly.

NHS Connecting for Health has engaged with clinicians and patient groups to help inform the development of communication and guidance materials that will support the initial implementation of release 2.

Stroke: East Midlands

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what strategy he is pursuing to ensure that the maximum number of patients in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust area have access to a computed axial topography scan within 24 hours of their stroke-related condition being diagnosed; and if he will make a statement. [250948]

Ann Keen: The new stroke strategy for England launched in December 2007, sets out the changes needed in the emergency management of strokes, and national support is available to drive improvements to acute care for both transient ischaemic attack (minor stroke) and stroke. All hospitals now provide computed tomography scanning and by far the majority also provide magnetic resonance imaging and carotid doppler.

We have made stroke a top priority for the national health service and this has been recognised in the recently issued NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10, where implementing the stroke strategy remains a Tier 1 Vital Sign: that is a 'must do' for the NHS.

Thalidomide Trust: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance his Department has provided to the Thalidomide Trust since May 1997. [252872]

Ann Keen: The Department has not provided financial support to the Thalidomide Trust. Responsibility for providing compensation to victims rests with Messrs. Distillers, now part of Diageo plc, the company that marketed the drug in the United Kingdom. A private compensation settlement was agreed with Distillers in 1973, and Diageo continues to make annual payments to the Thalidomide Trust, the charitable trust established [illegible]dminister payments to victims.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to inform parents of changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal system; and if he will make a statement. [252965]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

On 3 November 2008, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) became part of the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability—SEND). It sits within the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber.

In preparation for the move into the new tribunals structure there has been a two-part consultation process on the changes for those jurisdictions, including SENDIST: "Transforming Tribunals" discussed the proposals for a new tribunals structure and ran from 28 November 2007 to 22 February 2008; and, the "Health, Education and Social Care Chamber Rules" were consulted upon from 29 May until 11 July 2008.

Information on draft practice directions was available on the SENDIST website in July 2008, and the draft practice directions themselves were also sent out to a wide range of service user groups, including parents, parent representative groups and local education authorities, in early October.

Two newsletters were also issued to the service user groups, the first in July and the second in October 2008. Both contained detailed information on changes to processes and the latter addressed specific issues of concern raised by users.

There has also been a service user group made up of representatives from a range of voluntary groups and local education authorities working with the judiciary to ensure the rules, practice direction and case management system were fit for purpose.

Since November 2008, SEND judiciary and members of the user service group have provided free training on the rules, practice directions and case management system for 840 user and user representatives; a further 130 are booked for training in February 2009.

In addition, application forms for appeals and claims under the new system are available on the SEND website together with guidance on how to appeal and other relevant information. A clear link has been added to the site's front page to direct users to this information. Further briefing notes on particular issues, for example, the assessment of children under rule 15 (4) ("provision to have a child assessed"), have been produced and issued to users.

The tribunal has also provided a final list of appeal numbers for cases that will be dealt with under the SENDIST regulation, and how onward appeals from the First-Tier Tribunal's decisions will be dealt with under the new rules.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal: Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of looked-after children were considered by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal system in the last year for which figures are available. [251771]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The First-Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), known as Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) prior to 3 November 2008, does not retain any statistical information on how many appeals relate to looked-after children. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The tribunal keeps data on the total number of appeals, the type of appeal, the category of the special educational need, the outcome of the appeal and the length of time to reach a decision.

In 2007-08, SENDIST received a total of 3,396 appeals.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for breaches of the Civil Service Code in each of the last three years. [241407]

Mr. Watson: The Civil Service Code sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all civil servants and forms part of the Civil Service Management Code and other conduct rules.

Between 2006-08 16 Cabinet Office employees have either been disciplined or dismissed.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average pro-rata compensation of board members of non-departmental public bodies associated with the Cabinet Office was in each of the last five years; [251208]

(2) what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average salary of board members of non-departmental public bodies associated with the Cabinet Office was in each of the last five years. [251209]

Mr. Watson: Information on 2005-06 and 2006-07 is published in the Cabinet Office Public Appointments Plans for 2006 and 2007, available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/public_bodies.aspx

Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Details of remuneration before 2005-06 are not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Information on 2007-08 will be published in due course.

Government Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in Government departments and agencies have a title of head of messaging according to records held by *(a)* Government Communications and *(b)* the Central Office of Information. [250325]

Mr. Watson: Government Communication does not hold information on job titles of civil servants. COI do not have any record of civil servants bearing this job title.

Members Interests

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of the model declaration letter provided for Ministers to declare their interests. [249959]

Mr. Byrne: A list of Ministers' interests will be published shortly. It will include details of the categories of information required to be provided.

Public Service Forum

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) who the members of the Public Service Forum are; [250327]

(2) on what dates the Public Service Forum has met; and what the criteria for determining its membership are. [250509]

Mr. Watson: The Public Services Forum (PSF) was formed in 2003 to improve dialogue between Government, public service employers and trade unions. It has met three times a year until 2008 when this was increased to four times a year.

There is no fixed 'membership' of the PSF; the ministerial chair invites employers and trade union representatives in roughly equal numbers to engage in dialogue with the Government on public service work force issues. Representatives are sent from the CBI, Business Services Association, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations and the National Council of Voluntary Organisations are also invited to attend some meetings.

Public Services Forum Task Group

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 870W, on Warwick Task Force Group contact, what the names are of the members of the Public Services Forum Task Group; and if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of Group meetings held in the last 12 months. [249957]

Mr. Watson: The Public Services Forum Task Group was chaired by an official nominated by the Cabinet Office and attended by a further three civil servants from relevant Departments, four representatives from the CBI, private and third sector umbrella organisations and four Trades Union Congress representatives.

The group developed the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting, which came into effect on 15 July 2008. A copy of the Joint Statement has been placed in the Library of the House.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on trade unions, whether recognised trades' unions are allocated departmental office space in which to conduct trades' union work; [249939]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1619W, on trades' unions, what the Cabinet Office policy is on granting *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid time off for trades' union representatives to undertake (i) trades' union duties and (ii) political campaigning. [249940]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office has a partnership agreement with our Departmental Trade Union Side—Public and Commercial Services Union, First Division Association and Prospect. The agreement provides the trade unions' representatives with appropriate resources, including office working space, in order to fulfil their responsibilities.

Cabinet Office trade unions' representatives can apply to their managers for special leave to fulfil their responsibilities.

Unemployment

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of working age households in each parliamentary constituency in which no-one was in work in each month of the last two years. [252909]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number and proportion of working age households in each parliamentary constituency in which no-one was in work in each month of the last two years. (252909)

The available information is provided in the table, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Monthly estimates are not available and the information requested has been answered using annual estimates derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset for the years 2006 and 2007. Estimates for 2008 will not be available until summer 2009.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

It is vital to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. Estimates that are deemed unreliable for practical purposes are presented in italics. These estimates are based on small sample sizes and are subject to large variability. Estimates that are reliable are presented in bold.

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of children in each parliamentary constituency lived in *(a)* households claiming out-of-work benefits and *(b)* workless households in each month of the last two years. [252914]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many and what percentage of children in each parliamentary constituency lived in (a) households claiming out-of-work benefits and (b) workless households in each month of the last two years. (252914)

The available information for part (b) is provided in the table, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Monthly estimates are not available and the information requested has been answered using annual estimates derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset for the years 2006 and 2007. Estimates for 2008 will not be available until summer 2009.

Figures for children in households are based on children aged under 16 years old living in working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

It is vital to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. Estimates that are deemed unreliable for practical purposes are presented in italics. These estimates are based on small sample sizes and are subject to large variability. Estimates that are reliable are presented in bold.

The Department for Work and Pensions has provided the answer to (a) on how many and what percentage of children lived in families claiming out-of-work benefits in each year since 2004, broken down by parliamentary constituency (226150), and I refer you to the answer given on 27 October 2008, Official Report, column 702W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cemeteries: Complaints

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the Local Government Ombudsman has received relating to the administration of cemeteries in the last 24 months; and how many were upheld in whole or in part. [252466]

John Healey: During the two-year period January 2007 to December 2008, the Local Government Ombudsman received 73 complaints related to cemeteries and crematoria. Of these, five were outside their jurisdiction and 21 were premature and so were referred back to the council. Of the 47 cases that were investigated, six are still waiting a decision. Of the 41 cases determined, there were no formal findings of maladministration, although local settlements were reached in six cases, which can be regarded as an acceptance of fault by the Council.

Community Centres: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 962W, on community centres: valuation, how many properties there were under the category of hall and premises on the 1995 Rating Lists for England in each Government Office region in 1998 or in the most recent period for which figures are available. [252201]

John Healey: As at 1 April 1998, there were 15,851 properties described as hall and premises in the 1995 Rating Lists for England.

Government region	*Number of hall and premises as at 1 April 1998*
East Midlands	1,724
East of England	2,575
London	1017
North East	550
North West	1,159
South East	3,002
South West	3,146
West Midlands	1,453
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,223
Total	15,851

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the speech made by the Minister for Local Government to the Local Government Association on 2 July 2008, what the timetable for the review of the enforcement of council tax is; what the terms of reference of the review are; and what plans she has to introduce proposals to amend legislation in this regard. [251968]

John Healey: I announced on 2 July 2008 that I am working with the Ministry of Justice to look at new ways to collect and enforce council tax, in particular by allowing councils to transfer council tax debts from magistrates to county courts. Any necessary legislation will be introduced as parliamentary time allows.

Annex D of the Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report of 2004, summarises good collection practice for council tax. The report is published on Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of new homes built in each year since 1990 have been in each council tax band. [253240]

John Healey: The following table sets out the percentage of new homes in each council tax band by the year they first appeared in a council tax valuation list in England. As valuation lists were not compiled until 1 April 1993, no figures are available before that date.

	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
1993-94	19.9	20.6	22.0	15.6	11.2	5.9	4.1	0.7
1994-95	19.0	19.2	20.6	16.6	12.0	6.9	5.0	0.7
1995-96	17.7	17.4	20.2	16.7	13.3	7.9	5.9	0.9
1996-97	16.5	16.0	19.9	17.0	14.4	8.5	6.7	1.0
1997-98	14.7	14.3	19.0	17.6	15.7	10.0	7.7	1.2
1998-99	14.3	13.3	18.1	18.6	16.6	10.2	7.6	1.3

	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
1999-2000	12.7	13.0	18.2	19.0	17.2	10.8	7.7	1.3
2000-01	12.4	13.0	17.6	19.5	17.9	10.7	7.8	1.2
2001-02	12.4	13.8	18.4	19.1	17.7	10.1	7.5	1.1
2002-03	12.2	14.3	19.8	20.0	16.1	10.1	6.5	1.0
2003-04	12.8	15.6	21.2	20.1	14.9	8.6	5.9	0.9
2004-05	13.7	17.4	22.8	20.3	13.2	7.3	4.6	0.8
2005-06	15.5	19.9	24.0	18.3	11.3	6.1	4.1	0.8
2006-07	16.8	21.7	24.2	17.4	10.1	5.6	3.5	0.7
2007-08	18.3	22.9	24.0	17.0	9.4	4.8	3.0	0.6
2008-09	20.2	23.8	23.1	16.4	8.5	4.4	2.8	0.8

Council Tax: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the electronic sharing of council tax information across public sector bodies. [252495]

John Healey: The administration of council tax is a matter for local authorities, the Valuation Office Agency, the courts and the Valuation Tribunal Service. My Department currently has no plans to seek changes to the legislative framework within which they operate so far as the electronic sharing of council tax information is concerned.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 575W, on council tax: empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of the final report by Roger Tym and Partners. [251934]

John Healey: I have today placed in the House Library a copy of the report, "Application of Discretionary Council Tax Powers for Empty Homes", by Roger Tym Partners in Association with Three Dragons. The report is also available on Communities and Local Government's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/counciltaxemptyhomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place to compensate local authorities which report a reduction in their council tax base because of an increase in numbers of empty residential properties. [252502]

John Healey: The distribution of Formula Grant takes into account the relative needs and relative resources of each authority, relative to all other authorities providing the same services. There is also a central allocation and the floor damping mechanism.

The relative resources component reflects the authority's potential to raise income through council tax. For multi-year settlements, this is measured by projections of the council tax base.

The council tax base is the number of Band D equivalent properties. The number of dwellings in each band is calculated by taking the number of dwellings on the valuation list and adjusting for various exemptions and discounts.

For the 2008-09 to 2010-11 settlement, the projections of the tax base were calculated using the tax base as at 8 October 2007 and then applying the average annual increase between October 2005 and October 2007.

The number of dwellings that receive a discount because they are classed as long-term empty dwellings is taken into account in the calculation of the tax base.

Council Tax: Floods

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 484*W*, on council tax: floods, which local authorities have exercised their powers to grant council tax discounts to owners of uninhabitable properties. [252428]

John Healey: Pursuant to my answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 481W,on council tax: floods, I am aware that the following local authorities have exercised their power under Section 13 A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant discounts to owners of properties which were still uninhabitable due to the June and July 2007 floods after the 12-month exemption period, under Class A, has lapsed.

Bassetlaw District Council
Cheltenham Borough Council
Cotswold District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Forest of Dean District Council
Gloucester City Council
Herefordshire Council
Kingston upon Hull City Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Malvern Hills District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Wiltshire District Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Stratford-upon-Avon District Council
Swindon Borough Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
West Berkshire Council

West Oxfordshire District Council
Wokingham Borough Council
Wychavon District council
Wyre Forest District Council

Some other local authorities affected by the floods may have exercised their power to grant discretionary discounts: the Department does not have information about them.

Council Tax: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to right hon. Friend the Member for Tonbridge and Malling of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1045-6W, on council tax: pensions, what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* proportion was of local authority revenue expenditure that comprised employer's contributions to pension funds and other retirement benefits in each year since 1996-97. [251887]

John Healey: Information on employers' contributions to pension funds and other retirement benefits for local authorities in England for 2007-08 can be obtained from the Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing England 2007-08 Final Outturn statistical release published on CLG's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.Uk/finance/stats/natstats.htm#rev

Data for earlier years, where available, can be obtained from annual editions of Local Government Financial Statistics England.

Council Tax: Students

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for her Department to review *(a)* provision for student discounts on council tax and *(b)* the manner in which local authorities with student populations are compensated in respect of the discount. [252299]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government keeps the legislative framework governing council tax under continual review, including the provisions for student discount disregards and exemptions.

The distribution of Formula Grant takes into account the relative needs and relative resources of each authority, relative to all other authorities providing the same services. There is also a central allocation and the floor damping mechanism.

The relative resources component reflects the authority's potential to raise income through council tax. For multi-year settlements, this is measured by projections of the council tax base.

The council tax base is the number of Band D equivalent properties. The number of dwellings in each band is calculated by taking the number of dwellings on the valuation list and adjusting for various exemptions and discounts.

For the 2008-09 to 2010-11 settlement, the projections of the tax base were calculated using the tax base as at the 8 October 2007 and then applying the average annual increase between October 2005 and October 2007.

The projections of council tax base used in the calculation of the 2008-09 to 2010-11 settlements also reflect an adjustment for student exemptions. This adjustment uses the average of student council tax exemption numbers from counts as at 31 May 2007 and 8 October 2007, rather than using a count solely as at 8 October 2007.

We are continuing to discuss with local government how to best reflect student exemptions in these projections for the next three-year settlement.

Council Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1441-2W, on council tax: tax allowances, what types of local council tax discount were awarded in 2008; and which authorities were awarding each type of discount as at 8 October 2007. [252420]

John Healey: Details of the types of local council tax discount that were being awarded by billing authorities under the Local Government Act 2003 as at 8 October 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, are listed as follows. Authorities reported they were making local council tax discounts to either individuals or a particular class of taxpayer. The discounts shown may have been awarded by one or more authority.

Particular classes of taxpayer or property:

Difficult to let properties;

Occupied and unoccupied furnished properties that do not have the benefit of mains services including beach chalets;

Pensioners;

Properties affected by flooding;

Annexes that are not exempt and are part of the main residence;

Properties that are no one person's sole or main residence where access is restricted;

Taxpayers who can comply with the council's Mooring Policy;

Those to whom, because they have been affected by the change in regulations since a discount was originally awarded, a discount has been awarded so as to not disadvantage them;

Various classes of empty properties.

Other discretionary discounts based on individual cases:

Hard to sell property;

Hardship;

New unfinished property;

Problems with a chalk mine.

Details of the types of local council tax discounts awarded as at 8 October 2007, and the authority awarding the discount, are shown as follows.

Pensioners

Bury, Hillingdon, Kirklees, Wirral.

Properties affected by flooding

Carlisle, Chelmsford, Herefordshire UA, North Tyneside, Worcester, Wyre Forest.

Various classes of empty properties

Camden, Herefordshire UA

Those to whom, because they have been affected by the change in regulations since a discount was originally awarded, a discount has been awarded so as to not disadvantage them

Adur, Bracknell Forest, Exeter, North Norfolk, Waveney.

The following types of local council tax discounts were also awarded as at 8 October 2007.

A hard to sell property;

A new unfinished property;

A property affected by the proximity of an electricity generating wind turbine;

A property damaged by fire;

Difficult to let properties;

Hardship;

Occupied and unoccupied furnished properties that do not have the benefit of mains services including beach chalets;

Problems with a chalk mine;

Properties that are no one person's sole or main residence where access is restricted;

Single occupiers who are called up for 28 days or more as members of the reserve forces;

Taxpayers who can comply with the council's Mooring Policy;

To a member of the RAF where redundancy was delayed owing to events abroad.

These discounts were awarded by the following authorities. It is not possible to identify which authority awarded which discount as this may allow identification of individual properties or persons.

Bridgnorth;

Brighton and Hove;

Cambridge;

Canterbury;

Copeland;

East Riding of Yorkshire UA;

Kingston upon Hull;

Leicester UA;

Malvern Hills;

Oswestry;

Purbeck;

Restormel;

Shepway;

South Holland;

South Lakeland;

Tunbridge Wells;

Welwyn Hatfield.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 298W, on council tax: valuation, which local authorities provide *(a)* commencement notices, *(b)* completion notices and *(c)* plans to the Valuation Office Agency for council tax valuation purposes. [252172]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* her Department's executive agencies, *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by her Department and *(c)* the Government Offices for the Regions offset their air travel via the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. [252178]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government's executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and the Government offices for the regions do not offset their air travel via the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund.

The only air travel emissions offset via the Fund are from the central Department's operations.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by her Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if she will make a statement. [251403]

Margaret Beckett: On 2 September 2008 we announced a £1 billion market rescue package to increase confidence, stability and fairness in the housing market. On 24 November we brought forward additional capital spending as part of the 2008 pre-Budget report fiscal stimulus. Considering together the September housing announcement and the pre-Budget report, we are making £350 million, £1,275 million and £55 million of capital available for expenditure in years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively. In addition, £95 million has been made available for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support reforms to Support for Mortgage Interest announced in the September 2008 housing package. £25 million of the total £1,775 million package has been brought forward from 2009-10 and £1,750 million from 2010-11.

This includes the additional flexibility offered by the Government, at the pre-Budget-report, to the regional development agencies to bring forward £100 million of capital expenditure from financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10. Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are currently working closely with the regional development agencies to take this forward.

It also includes the flexibility offered by the Government to local authorities in England to bring forward up to £175 million of planned major housing repairs expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10. Communities and Local Government will invite local authorities in England to bring forward up to this amount to enable councils to invest in a way which will maximise investment in the housing stock in 2009-10.

Departmental Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure her Department incurred under general ledger account number 40001 (advertising) in the last year for which audited figures are available. [251792]

Mr. Khan: The Department's finance system records a total expenditure of £511,458.93 under General Ledger Account Number 40001 (advertising) for the financial year 2007-08.

Departmental Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of its nine public service agreement targets from the Comprehensive Spending Review her Department has met. [251825]

John Healey: We set out the latest reporting on our SR04 Public Service Agreements in Annex A of our Autumn Performance Report, published on 28 November 2008:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/autumnperformance2008.

Deprivation Indicators

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 760W, on deprivation indicators, which lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) fell within the 15 per cent. most deprived wards on the Index of Multiple Deprivation in each of the principal seaside towns in England in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007 for each field of the Index, listed (i) alphabetically by name of the town and (ii) by most to last deprived LSOA. [253556]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table that lists the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in principal seaside towns which fall within the 15 per cent. most deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2004 and 2007, for each domain of the index. This table lists all the LSOAs within the bottom 15 per cent. of the indices within local authority districts which are, or include, seaside towns. This table also identifies the ward in which each LSOA is located.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 41W, on energy performance certificates, how many of the home condition reports were produced with the assistance of funding provided by her Department. [252753]

Margaret Beckett: Our records show that 1487 HIPs with HCRs were subsidised as part of the first phase of the Home Information Pack area trials.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 315W, on the European Regional Development Fund, what further fines or financial corrections for programme irregularities her Department *(a)* is expected to receive and *(b)* has budgeted for. [252173]

John Healey: The European Commission is considering the imposition of two financial corrections in respect of ERDF programmes that operated in the late 1990s. Details are given in the Communities and Local Government Resource Accounts 2007-08 (HC791) published in July 2008.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 316W, on the European Regional Development Fund, for what reason each financial correction has been imposed; and what each of the programme irregularities was, further to the contingent liabilities referred to in her Department's accounts. [252743]

John Healey: The financial corrections imposed in 2007-08 related to the Commission's view on information and audit in relation to two English programmes.

The Commission has not yet notified the Department of its final findings arising from audits of English programmes. Therefore it is not yet known what irregularities, if any, will need to be covered by the contingent liabilities referred to in CLG's accounts.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what consultations she had with *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* regional development agencies and *(c)* other stakeholders prior to the decision not to agree to an extension in respect of unspent Objective 1 and 2 European Regional Development Fund monies for England; and if she will make a statement; [253083]

(2) what assessment she made of the merits of accepting the European Commission's proposed extension to the deadline for disbursement of unused monies from the 2000 to 2006 European Regional Development Fund Objectives 1 and 2 in respect of England; and if she will make a statement. [253084]

John Healey: Government took into account views from the regions, including on the extent to which any additional resources resulting from programme extension could be used given the lack of flexibility in the EC's offer of extension, and decided that there was insufficient benefit to justify changing existing spending plans.

Fleishman-Hillard

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments English Partnerships *(a)* has made and *(b)* is contracted to make to Fleishman-Hillard; and for what purposes. [252642]

Margaret Beckett: English Partnerships made one payment to Fleishman-Hillard of £3,500 plus VAT in June 2008. This was in relation to public affairs work on the Blackwall Reach project, commissioned by English Partnerships' Thames Gateway Team. Fleishman-Hillard were just one of a number of companies on the English Partnerships Public Relations Panel. Members of this panel are selected through a competitive tender process. There are currently no further contractual payments due.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what monitoring her Department undertakes on the number and type of house sales involving home information packs. [251809]

Margaret Beckett: The Department does not monitor the sales of residential homes. However, we estimate that over 1.2 million home information packs have been produced since their introduction on 1 August 2007.

Homes and Communities Agency: Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of its growth budget the Homes and Communities Agency has allocated for expenditure related to eco-towns. [251725]

Margaret Beckett: No allocations from the Growth Fund have been made by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) towards eco-towns as responsibility for eco-towns currently rests with Communities and Local Government. After decisions have been taken on which eco-town locations are going forward, we see the HCA being able to take a leadership role in helping to deliver some of the eco-towns and playing a major role in supporting local authorities on delivery.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to announce *(a)* the results of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Review and *(b)* the Government response to the Taylor Review; and if she will make a statement. [253239]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Review of Council Housing Finance and Rents Policy, which is considering the future of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System and related issues, will report to the Chief Secretary and Communities and Local Government Ministers in the spring. The Government expects this will be followed by the issue of a consultation paper later in the year.

The Government expects to make their formal response to the Taylor Review shortly.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 767W, on housing: low incomes, which 134 local authorities provided information via the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; and whether authorities were required to provide the information. [252200]

John Healey: Information, which was requested rather than required, was provided by the following local authorities:

Adur
Arun
Ashfield
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness
Basildon
Bassetlaw
Blaby
Blackpool
Bolsover
Bracknell Forest
Braintree
Brent
Bristol
Broxbourne
Broxtowe
Bury
Cambridge
Cannock Chase
Caradon
Carrick
Cheltenham
Cherwell
Chester-le-Street
City of Derby
City of York
Colchester
Corby
Crawley
Dacorum
Darlington
Dartford
Daventry
Derwentside
Dover
Dudley
Easington
East Hertfordshire
East Riding of Yorkshire
Epping Forest
Fareham
Fenland
Forest Heath
Gateshead
Gedling
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Greenwich
Guildford
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Harlow
Havering
Hyndburn
Ipswich
Islington
Kettering
Kingston upon Hull
Kirklees

Lancaster
Leicester
Lewes
Macclesfield
Manchester
Mid Devon
Newark and Sherwood
Newham
North Cornwall
North East Lincolnshire
North Kesteven
North Lincolnshire
North Shropshire
North Somerset
North Tyneside
North West Leicestershire
Northampton
Norwich
Nottingham
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oadby and Wigston
Pendle
Plymouth
Poole
Preston
Reading
Redditch
Rochford
Rossendale
Rotherham
Rutland
Salford
Salisbury
Sedgefield
Sedgemoor
Sefton
Sheffield
Shepway
Solihull
South Cambridgeshire
South Gloucestershire
South Norfolk
South Northamptonshire
South Tyneside
Southend-on-Sea
Stafford
Stevenage
Stoke-on-Trent
Stroud
Sutton
Swindon
Tendring
Thanet
Tower Hamlets
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Wansbeck
Warwick
Watford
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
Wellingborough
Welwyn Hatfield
West Lancashire
Westminster
Wigan
Winchester
Wirral
Woking
Wokingham
Wolverhampton

Housing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, whether changes were made to the text of the written statement published on her Department's website after its initial publication online. [252191]

Margaret Beckett: No changes were made.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1322W, on housing: valuation, whether a material change to a domestic dwelling because of a new state of disrepair may result in a change to the potential valuation of a dwelling for business rates *(a)* prior to and *(b)* during the 2010 revaluation. [251969]

John Healey: Domestic dwellings are not liable for business rates. A composite dwelling forms part of a domestic and non-domestic occupation, but the domestic dwelling value apportionment is banded for council tax, while the non-domestic element will appear in a rating list. All domestic dwellings, whether composite or not, are subject to the assumption they are in reasonable repair, thus a state of disrepair to the dwelling would not affect the band. This will apply to situations *(a)* and *(b)*.

Lighting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on night time street lighting and efficiency savings. [251787]

John Healey: No guidance has been issued to local authorities by the Department that specifically deals with the achievement of efficiency gains by switching off street lights at night. The Department has issued general guidance to councils on the measurement of efficiencies; the current version of this guidance is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/reportingvfmguide

Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the (a) remit and (b) specification is of her Department's research project into unitary and pathfinder councils; and which body is undertaking the research. [252192]

John Healey: The Department has commissioned an evaluation of unitary and pathfinder local authorities being implemented following an invitation to local authorities to make proposals for their area alongside the October 2006 Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities (Cm6939-1). An overview of the evaluation brief has been placed in the Library of the House. Following a competitive tender, a consortium comprising PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Office for Public Management and Cardiff Business School is undertaking the first stage of the evaluation.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the Central-Local Concordat on local government since its introduction. [252461]

John Healey: Since the concordat was signed in December 2007, significant progress has been made, including:

the signing of 150 local area agreements across all of England in June 2008, which means that councils and their partners can concentrate their efforts on the specific needs of the local people they serve;

reducing the national indicators to a single set of 189 covering all the priority outcomes for which local authorities and their partners will be responsible for to Government. Each local area agreement has up to 35 of these agreed as priorities. This will reduce the reporting burden on local government;

implementing, as approved by Parliament, the proposals from local government for nine unitary councils which will be fully up and running from 1 April 2009;

the passing of the Sustainable Communities Act in October 2007 as a way of empowering councils and citizens to shape their communities in the way that best suits their needs;

the devolution of parish governance arrangements in February this year and proposals for devolving certain byelaw powers;

greater financial flexibility in relation to providing for local decision-making on spending priorities and funding which demonstrate the Government's commitment to providing local government with additional freedom and flexibility to use the funding they have in the most appropriate way to fit their local circumstances. This has been achieved through:

the first ever three-year finance settlement which has given local government the flexibility to make longer-term plans and investments funded through an extra £8.9 billion for local government over the CSR07 period. We have announced three year individual allocations by both number and value for all specific grants where it is possible to announce them in advance;

a major change in the controls on capital spending through the introduction of the Prudential Borrowing regime which empowers councils to make the best decisions for their areas on the level of borrowing they think is affordable to support spending on capital projects;

by 2010-11, moving £5.7 billion into general grants which are not ring-fenced, to allow councils to spend money on the issues that matter most too local people;

reducing the overall amount of ring-fenced funding (excluding schools) over from 11.2 per cent. in 2008-09 to 8.0 per cent. in 2010-11;

reducing the number of specific revenue grants from 83 separate specific revenue grants that were provided in 2007-08, to 47 in 2009-10, which lifts the bureaucratic burden on councils;

the introduction of the Business Rates Supplement Bill.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have not yet been brought into force. [252467]

John Healey: Following Commencement Order No 8 which was made on 3 December 2008, the vast majority of provisions within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have now been commenced. These include the successful negotiations of all 150 local area agreements (LAAs) which were signed-off on 30 June 2008 and the implementation of nine new unitary councils, approved by Parliament, which is on track for 1 April 2009.

There are three areas which have taken longer to implement than the estimated timetable set out in the November 2007 Implementation Plan. These are:

Community Governance (parishes reform)—including new arrangements for appointing parish councillors. We are aiming to bring the appointment of councillors' regulations into effect in the spring.

Devolution of byelaw powers - originally listed for implementation from April 2008, the Department intends to have the provision for devolving byelaws, both in terms of local authorities being able to make certain byelaws without their needing to be confirmed by the Secretary of State, and to enforce new byelaws through Fixed Penalty Notices, in force by April 2009.

Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, incorporating the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) powers. The Department is committed to implementing these new arrangements in an integrated package by April 2009.

A final version of the White Paper Implementation Plan will be published in the spring.

Local Government Delivery Council

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the membership of the Local Government Delivery Council is; and when the Council was established. [251815]

John Healey: The Local Government Delivery Council was established in September 2007. Its members are set out in the relevant section of the website of the Improvement and Development Agency at

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8001602.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the (a) budget and (b) remit of the Local Government Delivery Council is. [251817]

John Healey: The Local Government Delivery Council has been supported through the Improvement and Development Agency since it was established in September 2007. Its objectives are set out in the relevant section of the website of that Agency at

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/
page.do?pageId=8001600#contents-1

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what government funding is related to local authority achievement of local area agreement targets. [252297]

John Healey: Performance Reward Grant is paid based upon performance against Local Area Agreement targets. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 265*W* - 269*W* and also to my announcement to the House in February 2008 of least £340m to continue this financial incentive for LAAs agreed in 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any local authority which has increased council tax revenue through reviewing or reducing the number of households entitled to council tax discounts or exemptions has sought her Department's agreement to count that increased revenue as an annual efficiency saving. [252298]

John Healey: Our guidance to councils states that efficiency savings are realised where

> "an organisation is able to: reduce inputs for the same or improved outputs; reduce unit costs to meet increased demand; or optimise use of assets to improve outputs from them."

It also states that

> "new sources of income or increases in the level of existing charges should not be counted."

Local Government Finance: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be compensated under the new burdens principle for costs arising from the introduction of the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [251777]

John Healey: The Carbon Reduction Commitment is not a new burden. The Government have determined that there are no net additional costs to local authorities.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission has given to local authorities on depositing funds with financial institutions outside (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) the European Union. [251813]

John Healey: Neither the Department nor the Audit Commission provide advice to local authorities about the financial institutions in which they should deposit funds.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects local authorities to recover funds which they had deposited in Icelandic banks; and what proportion of those funds she expects will be recovered. [253571]

John Healey: The Government's priority has been to do everything that we can to help local authorities, along with other creditors, to get back the money which they had deposited in the banks. HM Treasury is continuing to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure fair treatment for all UK depositors and creditors. The Local Government Association are co-ordinating activity on behalf of local authorities, and local authorities are representing themselves at creditors' meetings.

Local Government: Data Protection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions there are on the sharing of *(a)* electoral roll and *(b)* council tax data between departments within a local authority. [252745]

John Healey: Regulation 107 of the Representation of the People Regulations 2001 places restrictions on use of the electoral register by the local authority. In summary no councillor or employee of the council may

> supply a copy of the full register to any person other than to another councillor of or employee of the same local authority;
>
> disclose any information contained in it that is not included in the edited register; or
>
> make use of any such information.

It is a matter for local authorities to decide whether to share council tax data between departments within their organisation.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administration costs of each individual scheme within the Local Government Pension Scheme were in the last year for which figures are available. [251829]

John Healey: Details of the administration costs of each of the 89 individual pension funds within the Local Government Pension Scheme in 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available, are shown in the following table. The information is taken from annual returns submitted to the Department by scheme administering authorities in England and Wales.

£000

	Administration costs charged to the fund
Barking and Dagenham	617
Barnet	832
Bath and North East Somerset	1,985
Bedfordshire	1,212
Bexley	660
Brent	1,047
Bromley	454
Buckinghamshire	1,315
Cambridgeshire	1,873
Camden	555
Cheshire	1,743
City of London	708
Cornwall	629
Croydon	1,004
Cumbria	1,035
Derbyshire	1,067
Devon	1,346
Dorset	1,184

	£000
	Administration costs charged to the fund
Durham	1,276
Ealing	640
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	1,748
East Sussex	1,347
Enfield	538
Essex	2,267
Gloucestershire	1,238
Greenwich	905
Hackney	936
Hammersmith and Fulham	995
Hampshire	2,547
Haringey	595
Harrow	1,060
Havering	571
Hertfordshire	1,854
Hillingdon	648
Hounslow	862
Isle of Wight UA	443
Islington	1,323
Kensington and Chelsea	494
Kent	2,768
Kingston upon Thames	521
Lambeth	942
Lancashire	2,590
Leicestershire	1,356
Lewisham	439
Lincolnshire	1,044
London Pensions Fund Authority	5,370
Merseyside Pension Fund	2,490
Merton	214
Middlesbrough UA	1,357
Newham	663
Norfolk	1,494
North Yorkshire	1,189
Northamptonshire	1,717
Northumberland	825
Nottinghamshire	1,164
Oxfordshire	958
Redbridge	492
Richmond upon Thames	830
Shropshire	985
Somerset	698
South Yorkshire Pensions Fund Authority	3,154
South Yorkshire PTA	152
Southwark	1,098
Staffordshire	1,919
Suffolk	1,147
Surrey	1,404
Sutton	493
Tameside	3,588
Tower Hamlets	946
Tyne and Wear Superannuation Fund	3,545
Waltham Forest	633
Wandsworth	372
Warwickshire	1,141
West Midlands Pension Fund	3,760
West Midlands PTA	283
West Sussex	926
West Yorkshire Superannuation Fund	5,212
Westminster	896
Wiltshire	991
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	673
Worcestershire	881
Cardiff UA	1,202
Carmarthenshire UA	765
Flintshire UA	1,079
Gwynedd UA	884
Powys UA	548
Rhondda Cynon Taff UA	1,685
Swansea UA	547
Torfaen UA	1,308
Total	112,891

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on local government: pensions, if she will place in the Library a copy of the report on the 2007 valuation exercise produced by each local authority pension fund. [252169]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 349W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate of the unfunded liability in present value terms of the Local Government Pension Scheme was made in each valuation held since 1997. [252386]

John Healey: The funding position of the 89 pension fund authorities in England and Wales is determined by actuaries appointed to carry out each authority's triennial valuation. There have been three valuations since 1997 in 2001, 2004 and 2007.

Details of funding levels at each valuation are not held centrally but a summary of the 2004 and 2007 exercises undertaken by the Society of County Treasurers can be found at:

http://www.cipfa.org.uk/panels/pensions/download/2007_LGPS_Valuation_Survey_Results.pdf.

Local Government: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 912W, on surveys, whether a report on the Place Survey pilots has been published; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the conclusions of the evaluation of the pilots. [251773]

John Healey: Two final reports, which summarise the results of two separate pilot phases, were delivered by the external authors in December 2008. I expect to publish these reports in due course on the Communities and Local Government website and will place copies in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many charters conferring the status of a borough have been granted by Her Majesty the Queen through the Privy Council Office since May 1997; and in which local authority areas such charters have been granted. [251775]

John Healey: Eight Charters have been granted since May 1997 conferring borough status to the districts of Brighton and Hove, Medway, North Lincolnshire, Telford and Wrekin, Wokingham, Cheshire West and Chester, West Lancashire and Cheshire East.

Local Government: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the political affiliation of each member of the interim authority established to run Shrewsbury Town Council between March 2009 and June 2009. [251026]

John Healey: This information is not held by the Department.

Local Government: Statistics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many items of data local authorities are required to collect for the purposes of *(a)* compilation of the national indicator set and *(b)* data returns to her Department outside the national indicator set. [252290]

John Healey: The data items required to underpin the national indicator set are either collected by individual Whitehall Departments or input directly into the Data Interchange Hub by local authorities. The NIS hand book, available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicators

gives details of the data required for each indicator.

Regarding data returns outside of the national indicator set, work is underway within the Department to categorise all data collections and implement a 30 per cent. reduction in data collected by May 2010. This in line with the commitment made in the Local Government White Paper to limit data collection to that which is necessary for reasons such as financial management and policy development. Until this work is further advanced, the number of data returns which local authorities are required to continue to collect could be established only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has recently published an update to its simplification plan, which is available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1094604.pdf.

This contains a list of data which the Department has already stopped collecting for local authorities and also sets out other activity underway to reduce the burden of data collection.

Local Government: Termination of Employment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on severance packages given to local government officials who are sacked for not properly fulfilling their duties. [252497]

John Healey: The Department issues no guidance on staff severance arrangements. Decisions to terminate a local authority employment, for any reason, are a matter for the local authority involved.

Microgeneration: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology the Valuation Office Agency uses to calculate the value of microgeneration equipment within *(a)* a domestic and *(b)* a non-domestic dwelling. [252462]

John Healey: The basis of valuation for domestic dwellings is market value. For a new dwelling, the degree to which such fixed equipment would affect a band would be an estimation as to what effect, if any, such equipment would have on the market value, and hence banding, of the dwelling. No improvement will affect a valuation band on an existing dwelling unless:

(i) there is a subsequent sale, and

(ii) any such measurable increase is significant enough to move the value to a higher band.

There is, strictly, no such thing as a non-domestic dwelling in local taxation.

The same principles, however, would apply to the domestic part of a composite dwelling (a part domestic/part non domestic property), where the microgeneration equipment was provided for the domestic portion.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much additional revenue the higher multiplier on large and medium-sized businesses raised in England in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [252175]

John Healey: The following table gives details of the amount (in £ million) that local authorities in England reported they raised from the higher national non-domestic rates multiplier.

	£ million
2005-06	306
2006-07	311
2007-08	133

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been undertaken of the effect on local businesses of the change in the rate of national non-domestic rates effective from April 2009. [252463]

John Healey: BERR guidance

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44544.pdf

on impact assessments states that they are not required where a predetermined formula, such as the rate of inflation, changes the rate of a tax.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the change in revenue accruing from supplementary business rates as a result of the 2010 rates revaluation. [252494]

John Healey: No estimate has yet been made of the change in revenue accruing from business rate supplements as a result of the 2010 rates revaluation.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons were for the time taken in *(a)* publishing and *(b)* laying before Parliament regulations on (i) empty property and (ii) small business rate relief. [251736]

John Healey: The proposed changes to empty property rates and small business rates relief announced at the pre-Budget report are due to be implemented from 1 April 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effects of the economic downturn on local authority revenues from business rates. [251732]

John Healey: Local authority revenues are unaffected by the amount of income from business rates which fluctuates from year to year. The distributable amount of business rates is one component of Formula Grant. The Government have announced totals for Formula Grant for 2008-09 to 2010-11. Within the total Formula Grant for each year, the amount of Revenue Support Grant varies to compensate for fluctuations in the distributable amount. The Government have delivered the first three year settlement for individual local authorities providing the predictability and stability which allow them to deliver effective services and to plan to deliver continued efficiency gains to help residents and local businesses in the current economic climate.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what way the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme is being built systematically into the business rates system. [253650]

John Healey: The Local Authority Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) scheme has operated for three years, taking increases in business rateable value as a proxy for economic growth. The Government have recently consulted on proposals for a revised LABGI scheme for 2009-10 and 2010-11, which will take increases in business rate yield as the proxy. We intend to see the LABGI principle mainstreamed as part of the local government finance system. It will be subject to review and consultation, and to decisions made during future spending reviews.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for publication of the new rateable values for each local business based on the 2010 rating list arising from the 2010 business rates revaluation is; and in which month she expects new bills be sent to local firms. [253651]

John Healey: Valuation officers in England and Wales will publish a copy of the new rating lists that they propose to compile (known as the draft rating lists) on 30 September 2009. The lists proper (known as the compiled rating lists) will be published and will come into effect on 1 April 2010.

Distribution of rates bills is a matter for local authorities. Regulations require that the bill is served by 1 April of the year due, or as soon as is practical after.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions on the number of non-domestic properties affected by recent changes to empty property business rate relief were made for the purposes of the most recent impact assessment made of those changes. [251730]

John Healey: VOA records show that 70 per cent. of all properties are under the £15,000 exemption threshold announced at the pre-Budget report and if these are unoccupied in 2009-10 they will not pay empty property rates. We have assumed that there will be no significant increase in the number of claimants of empty property relief and that the distribution of empty properties below the rateable value threshold of £15,000 will follow that of all non-domestic properties. We have based our costs of the amendment on the rateable value below this threshold.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-domestic dwellings are liable for empty property business rates. [252626]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to answer given by the Minister with responsibility for Housing, my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Iain Wright) to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1493W.

Non-domestic Rates: Inflation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on business rate revenue should the retail price index measurement of the rate of inflation fall below zero; [252329]

(2) what effect negative retail price index inflation would have on the business rates multiplier for the relevant year. [252388]

John Healey: No such assessment has been made. The impact of the retail price index on business rates is determined by a formula in the Local Government Finance Act 1988, schedule 7, which outlines how to calculate the business rate multipliers using the RPI figure.

Non-domestic Rates: Licensed Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a licensed premises is eligible for exemption from empty property business rates in circumstances where the licence has been suspended by a local authority for up to three months, but where occupation of the premises has not been prevented. [252287]

John Healey: Empty property rates apply where a property is unoccupied and those properties that are not liable for empty property rates are set out in section 4 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the new business rate valuation lists for British ports. [251827]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1283W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of applying transitional relief to lower retrospective increases in business rates levied on businesses in the registered ports. [253244]

John Healey: The current transitional relief scheme allows properties which first came on to the rating list on 1 April 2005 as a consequence of an existing property being split (as is the case with the property in ports) to be allocated a certified rateable value for 31 March 2005 (see regulation 17 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2004.

The purpose of the certified value is to ascertain whether the increase in the rateable value of property which has been split or merged from the 2000 to the 2005 rating lists results in an increase in rates in respect of that property and therefore to ascertain whether there should be an entitlement to transitional relief.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Minister for Local Government of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 600, (1) whether changes to the ratings system of businesses in the registered ports will be revenue-neutral; [253471]

(2) what the estimated increase in net revenue in business rates from the changes to rateable values made over the 2005 to 2009 period is; and whether the revenue was taken into account in the business rate revenue estimates prepared for the pre-Budget report 2008. [253472]

John Healey: The purpose of the review is not to raise revenue but to ensure that all rateable property pays its fair amount of rates, from the point the property should be rated, and with all businesses being treated equally.

Individual changes in rateable values of the ports and businesses within the ports are variable; some have increased while others have decreased. I am unable to be specific about the effect on revenue, as calculation of bills and any reliefs that may be due, are matter for individual billing authorities. However, the estimated cost of the Schedule of payments policy allowing certain backdated liabilities to be spread over eight years was set out in the pre-Budget report.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Minister for Local Government of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 600, whether the £9 million increase in net rateable value was set as an international objective of the change in the way in which rates on businesses in the registered ports are calculated. [253473]

John Healey: No. The intention was to ensure that all rateable property pays its fair amount of rates, from the point the property should be rated, and with all businesses being treated equally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Public Houses

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 773W, on public houses: non-domestic rates, whether *(a)* darts boards and *(b)* pool tables will be taken into account when valuing licensed premises as part of the 2010 business rates revaluation. [251864]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's Rating manual, Volume 5, Section 825 sets out the basis of valuation for licensed premises. This is available on their website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-domestic dwellings are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claiming small businesses rate relief. [252625]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's documents for the 2010 rates and revaluation *(a)* Urinal Cost Guidance and *(b)* Pop-up Urinals—Cost Guidance. [252188]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's operational instructions on the 2010 rating revaluation relating to urinals are available in the Rating Manual Volume 5 Sec 625 Practice Note 1:2010 which is published on its website:

www.voa.gov.uk

Parish Councils: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 353-54W, on parish councils: council tax, what estimate her Department has made of the average band D parish council precept for 2008-09. [252147]

John Healey: No estimate has yet been made of the average Band D parish council precept for 2008-09. A figure will be published in Local Government Financial Statistics England No 19 that is to be published later in the year.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which month she expects the Infrastructure Planning Commission to start considering planning applications. [251729]

John Healey: Our expectation is that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be ready to begin receiving applications in spring 2010. When applications are made is a matter for the project promoters.

Regional Assemblies: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* administrative costs were of each regional government office in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the administrative cost of each in 2008-09. [252570]

Mr. Khan: The budget/administration cost figures for the Government offices for financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 are as shown in the following table.

GO	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East	12,841.51	15,075.61	13,296.12	12,211.64	11,398.50
East Midlands	11,153.67	11,937.13	12,530.66	11,490.17	10,857.39
London	16,654.91	18,870.09	18,483.70	17,595.20	16,198.99
North East	12,367.24	13,887.09	13,138.16	12,730.25	11,826.45
North West	16,808.98	17,777.86	17,745.45	16,933.67	16,095.53
South East	14,099.03	14,372.51	14,624.51	13,677.13	13,105.84
South West	13,980.23	14,724.92	14,823.08	14,570.49	13,763.68
Yorks and Humber	12,480.23	13,453.18	13,494.30	10,676.64	13,447.21

The administrative budget for each GO in 2008-09 is as follows:

GO	*2008-09*
East	9,505.75
East Midlands	8,951.99
London	12,002.99
North East	9,723.87
North West	12,208.56
South East	10,613.61
South West	10,645.94
Yorks and Humber	9,125.90

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's timetable is for the implementation of conclusions arising from the consultation on the Sub-National Review. [252624]

John Healey: Provisions to implement reforms relating to regional strategies, local authority economic assessments and sub-regional governance arrangements are included in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

As the Government's response to the consultation stated, the Government have concluded that legislation is not needed to the deliver the spirit of the reforms relating to delegation of regional development agency functions to local authorities. Guidance on a new investment planning approach involving RDAs, local authorities and other delivery partners will be published in summer 2009.

European Charter of Regional Democracy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has made to the Recommendation by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe on the draft European Charter of Regional Democracy; and what assessment she has made of the content of the Recommendation. [252291]

John Healey: Whilst the official level Steering Committee has now advised, with the support of the UK delegation to that Committee, that no further CoE resources should be used to pursue a legally binding convention on regional democracy, I understand that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has not yet responded to the Congress on their Recommendation. Whilst recognising the value that regions can have for democracy, the Government has consistently opposed a prescriptive legally binding charter of regional self-government on the grounds that democratic regional institutions are not a pre-requisite for a modern democracy and it is for each state to decide, having regard to what its people want, whether to adopt any regional governance structures.

Reposessions: Mortgages

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications were received for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in December 2008, broken down by individual Fast Tracker Authority. [253317]

Margaret Beckett: The Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme was "fast tracked" by 76 local authorities on a voluntary basis from 1 December 2008.

An informal telephone survey of approximately half the "fast track" local authorities was conducted by officials at Communities and Local Government on 5 January 2009. This showed that up to 200 approaches had been made, resulting in approximately 80 cases meeting the eligibility criteria. We are putting in place formal monitoring arrangements from early February.

We continue to work closely with all participating local authorities following the Mortgage Rescue scheme's official launch on 16 January 2009.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1681W, on Valuation Office Agency, which property attribute variables may be used in billing authorities. [252209]

John Healey: All variables which are based on property attributes, used in modelling in the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model, may be used in billing authority areas.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* composite properties in England have an entry on the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model database; and how many have one or more digital photographs associated with an entry on the Agency's databases. [252294]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model is not in itself a database. The Agency's central database stores the data that feed into its automated valuation modelling.

The number of domestic properties in England with a live council tax band was 22,354,681 as at 30 November 2008. Of these, 832,982 had one or more digital photographs associated with them. The number of composite properties in England with a live council tax band was 284,843 as at 30 November 2008. Of these, 13,190 had one or more digital photographs associated with them.

Valuation Office: Legal Costs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal costs were incurred by *(a)* the Valuation Tribunal and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency in relation to the legal action on the rating of coffee shops within bookshops which concluded in September 2008. [252202]

John Healey: In the valuation tribunal appeal concluded in September 2008 on the rating of coffee shops within bookshops the Valuation Office Agency incurred legal costs of £600 plus VAT; the Hertfordshire Valuation Tribunal incurred no legal costs.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency utilises property data from estate agent industry organisations other than Rightmove.co.uk plc. [252464]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency makes use of freely available and publicly published information from the estate agent industry to support its current work and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Waste Management: South East

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for the South East has given to the Waste Improvement Network. [252306]

John Healey: The budget for the Waste Improvement Network for 2008/9 is £90,000 of which DEFRA contributes £45,000 and the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for the South East contributes the remaining £45,000. This is an annual cost for the service and contributions are expected to remain around the same for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 3 February 2009

OLYMPICS

CompeteFor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which companies tendered for the CompeteFor website contract. [251302]

Tessa Jowell: The London Development Agency (LDA) commissioned specialist support to identify the most appropriate sourcing strategy for the electronic brokerage service which is now known as CompeteFor. The Office of Government Commerce's Catalist framework was used to ensure an efficient procurement process.

CompeteFor, primarily a web portal, would also contain substantial e-transactional and customer relationship management elements. Seven suppliers met all three of these requirements, these were:

Deloitte MCS
Electronic Data Systems Ltd
Fujitsu Services
Hedra
LogicaCMG
Parity Solutions
Serco Ltd.

Both Hedra and Parity Solutions were later ruled out. Of the five remaining bidders four expressed an interest in bidding and tenders were received from Deloitte and Serco.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the procurement process for the CompeteFor website contract took place in accordance with the European Union's competitive dialogue procurement procedure. [251303]

Tessa Jowell: The procurement was undertaken through a mini-competition using the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC) Catalist framework. This was undertaken in accordance with the OGC's guidance and in line with European Union requirements; however, the approach did not use the competitive dialogue procedure. The competitive dialogue process is normally used when a specification may be unclear, and ongoing engagement is needed with potential suppliers. In this instance a specification was sufficiently developed and so a competitive dialogue was unnecessary.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the CompeteFor website will continue to operate after all the contracts for the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded; and if she will make a statement. [251739]

Tessa Jowell: The Government have accepted the recommendation made in Anne Glover's report, published alongside the pre-Budget report 2008, that there should be a single, free, and easy to search online portal for Government procurement. The Department for Business is looking at what companies want from a single portal and whether this matches the CompeteFor specification. This will influence the future of CompeteFor beyond 2012.

Departmental Press Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority. [250431]

Tessa Jowell: The information is as follows:

(a) The Government Olympic Executive has responsibility for ensuring the London 2012 games are delivered, established a communications team in June 2008. Currently four full-time officers are employed.

In addition, the Minister's press support is provided by the DCMS communications department where three press officers are employed to work on the Olympics desk.

(b) As answered in October 2008, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) communications team employs 25 members of staff. This consists of permanent staff, fixed term contract staff and secondments.

The ODA communications team are responsible for all elements of communication and stakeholder engagement activities across the entire ODA programme. These activities include:

Dealing with public inquiries about the ODA's work;

Engagement with the local people in the five boroughs in and around the Olympic Park, including reactive and proactive community relations work;

Stakeholder engagement with external groups for example the design, transport, construction, political and sporting communities;

Statutory consultation for planning applications;

Communication with a wide range of national, international, specialist, trade, regional and local media;

Filming and photography of the work on the Olympic Park; including internet and new media.

Of the aforementioned, there are four press officers and one head of media dealing specifically with the press.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost of her Office's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each year since its establishment. [251536]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive Communication function began in June 2008. Since this date, it has spent £1,175.00 on contracts with public relations consultancies.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Alan Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her assessment is of the extent to which Aggregate Industries Ltd is meeting the contractually stipulated target of delivering 99 per cent. of aggregate materials to the Olympic Park by sustainable means. [250419]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority's target that at least 50 per cent. of all materials, by weight, be transported to the Olympic Park by non-road methods is being exceeded. Aggregate Industries Ltd is currently achieving a performance level of 84 per cent. against that target.

Aggregate Industries' own target is that 99 per cent. of materials be transported by non-road methods.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether companies tendering for contracts at the Olympic site are required to have business continuity plans in place as part of their tenders. [250569]

Tessa Jowell: Companies tendering for contracts on the Olympic Park site are required to have business continuity plans in place, the details of which are reviewed during the procurement process.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the likely effects of recent sterling exchange rates on budgetary provision for the London 2012 Olympics. [250905]

Tessa Jowell: The Government's assessment is that current sterling exchange rates will not have significant effects on budgetary provision for the 2012 Olympics. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) receives its revenues, and makes its payments, in sterling. It is the responsibility of the ODA tier one contractors to manage exchange risks as defined by their contractual arrangements with the ODA. The ODA is reviewing the current exchange rate fluctuations with its Delivery Partner and the tier one contractors to assess the level of impact on future procurement. To date, no call has been made on the contingency in relation to exchange rate fluctuations. The contingency (within the £9.325 billion funding package) does, however, include provision for identified risks with the potential to impact on projects across the ODA programme such as exchange rate fluctuations.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is due some revenues in both US dollars and euros. As a result, LOCOG has taken steps to effectively minimise exposure to exchange rate shifts and it is expected that recent movements in both currencies against sterling will have no significant impact on LOCOG's revenues. As the majority of LOCOG's costs are sterling-based, it is expected that recent movements in both currencies against sterling will have no significant impact on LOCOG's costs.

Olympic Games 2012: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her latest assessment is of the legacy which will accrue to Peterborough constituency as a result of the 2012 London Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [250947]

Tessa Jowell: We are fully committed to ensuring a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Games which spreads to all communities in the UK.

At a regional level this work is being taken forward by the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) who are working hard to ensure the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK. The east of England representative is Councillor Stephen Castle who also chairs Nations and Regions East (NRE). NRE is the partnership, which includes representation from both Peterborough city council and Cambridge county council, set up to provide strategic direction and support to county level working groups to take forward relevant and appropriate activity to maximise the benefits of 2012.

The east of England launched its regional plan to maximise the benefits of the Games on 13 November 2007. This can be found on the east of England regional development website:

http://www.eeda.org.uk/1607.asp

I am delighted to say that progress on legacy in the east of England and Peterborough is already being made. For example, of the 48 local authorities in the east of England, 26 are offering free swimming to both those aged 16 or under and 60 or over (including Peterborough). 65 facilities from the east of England, including Grange Farm Equestrian Centre in Peterborough are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide; 22 events took place in the region during the Cultural Olympiad 'Open Weekend' and 60 special 'handover flags' were raised.

Furthermore, 353 schools and colleges covering 220,507 students in the east of England have registered on 'Get Set', the London 2012 education programme launched in September last year. Get Set provides a whole range of flexible, interactive learning resources and is designed to give expression to Olympic and Paralympic values.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advice English Heritage has provided in connection with the work in 10 Downing Street associated with Westminster city council planning application reference 08/00696/1884. [252478]

Barbara Follett: Westminster City Council planning application reference PT/08/00696/1884 refers to an application dated 10 January 2008 for listed building consent to refurbish ground floor lavatories off the Inner Lobby of 10 Downing Street. English Heritage was notified on 29 January 2008 of the application and replied to Westminster on 7 February 2008 with a 'non-intervention' letter. This authorised the city council to determine the application for listed building consent as it saw fit.

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* events and *(c)* other activities are planned for the Creativity and Business International Network between now and October 2009. [250246]

Andy Burnham: Ministers and officials in my Department regularly hold meetings concerning the content and planning for the Creativity and Business International Network (c&binet) with a range of stakeholders in the public and private sector.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on producing branded ampersands for the meeting of the Creativity and Business International Network in Liverpool on 20 November 2008. [250248]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend, the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, gave him on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1210W. The cost of the ampersands is included within the £1 million allocated towards the running of the World Creative Business Conference in each of the next three years, including 2008-09.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on food and drink for the meeting of the Creativity and Business International Network in Liverpool on 20 November 2008. [250249]

Andy Burnham: The total cost of food and drink at the reception and dinner held for the Creativity and Business International Network on 20 November 2008 was £3581.

Culture: Research

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions Ministers from his Department have had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on funding for media and cultural studies research in the last 12 months; and what the outcome of those meetings was. [252932]

Andy Burnham: I regularly meet with ministerial colleagues to discuss a wide range of issues.

Departmental Administration

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of his Department's outturn expenditure on administration for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [240338]

Andy Burnham: The Department's outturn expenditure on administration for 2008-09 is estimated to be £56.029 million according to the management accounts produced to 31 October 2008.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241234]

Barbara Follett: The Department's accounting system does not separately record information on expenditure on ministerial hospitality and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance, based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guests attended the dinner hosted by his Department at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool on 20 November 2008. [250250]

Andy Burnham: The following people attended the launch event for the Creativity and Business International Network on 20 November 2008.

Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Barbara Follett, Minister for Culture and Creative Industries and Tourism

Jon Zeff, Director, Media, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Martha Kearney, Journalist (acting as moderator)

Andy Duncan, Chief Executive, Channel 4

Boko Inyundo, Global Sector Manager Linklaters LLE

Chris Clarke, CEO, Nitro Group

Ian Findlay, Director, Ariadne Capital

Jatin Das, Artist

Jocelyn Stevenson, Creative Director, TT Animation

John Smith, Chief Executive, BBC Worldwide

Julia Barfield, Founder Director, Marks Barfield Architects

Laurence Green, Founding Partner and Chairman, Fallon London

Lorna Tilbian, Executive Director, Numis Corporation plc.

Lucian Grainge, Chairman and Chief Executive, Universal Music Group International

Mark Thompson, Director-General, BBC

Martin Lambie-Naim, Founder ML-N Brand Consultancy

Nicholas Coleridge, Managing Director Condé Nast Publications UK, and Vice-President Condé Nast International

Patrick McKenna, Chief Executive, Ingenious Media

Paul Bennett, Managing Partner, Europe and Chief Creative Officer IDEO

Peter Molyneux, Founder and CEO, Lionhead Studios

Phil Redmond, Chair of National Museums Liverpool

Spencer Hyman, Chief Operating Officer, Last.fm

Tony Orsten, Chief Executive Officer, twofour54

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid to ML-N for its work in creating the brand for the Creativity and Business International Network. [247418]

Barbara Follett: I refer to the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 950W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251262]

Andy Burnham: The costs of the Department's contracts with public relations consultancies in each of the last five years are as follows:

	PR consultancy	*Spend (£)*
2004-05	Harrison Cowley	117,500.05
2005-06	Harrison Cowley	295,148.25
2006-07	Harrison Cowley	84,600
2007-08	n/a	0
2008-09	Edelman	186,495

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251289]

Andy Burnham: The information relating to the spend on agency staff by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in each financial year since 2005-06 is shown as follows. The information on the cost of temporary staff could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2005-06	1,147,516
2006-07	1,671,119
2007-08	2,226,899

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the take-up rates were for digital television in each region on the latest date for which figures are available. [253277]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the percentage of households in each region that have taken up digital television.

Region	*Percentage*
Border	84
West Country	87
Wales	90
Granada	89
West	87
STV North	85
STV Central	92
Central[1]	80
Yorkshire[1]	93
Anglia[1]	89
Meridian[1]	84
London	84
Tyne Tees[1]	97
Ulster	n/a

[1] Very small base size—data should be viewed as indicative only.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households in each region who will not receive a full service from Freeview after digital switchover. [251299]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows Ofcom's estimate of the number of households that will be able to receive the full six multiplex Freeview service of approximately 40 channels following digital switchover.

Region	*Percentage*
Anglia	86
Border	53
Central	98
Granada	97
London	95
Meridian	84
STV Central	93
STV North (Grampian)	79
Tyne Tees	96
Ulster	78
Wales	73
West	94
West Country	74
Yorkshire	97

Digital Switchover: Wales

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 1085W, on Digital Switchover: South Wales, (1) whether the Core Receiver Requirements set in November 2008 in respect of audio description will apply to all equipment supplied through the Helpscheme for digital changeover in South Wales; [252947]

(2) whether the Core Receiver Requirements set in November 2008 in respect of audio description will apply to all equipment supplied through the Helpscheme for digital changeover in Mid and West Wales; [252948]

(3) whether the Core Receiver Requirements set in November 2008 in respect of audio description will apply to all equipment supplied through the Helpscheme for digital changeover in North Wales. [252951]

Andy Burnham: As detailed within the Scheme Agreement (Chapter 3, 20 (3)), the Core Receiver Requirements in respect of audio description only apply to Most Cost Effective Offer equipment in North Wales, South Wales and Mid and West Wales.

English Heritage: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what non-heritage *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by English Heritage; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250258]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage has advised that it owns one building, Brooklands in Cambridge, which is not part of its historic properties portfolio, and no non-heritage land. No part of Brooklands is leased in any way.

Hotels: Regulation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the size of the regulatory burden for *(a)* bed and breakfast establishments and *(b)* hotels; and if he will make a statement. [250493]

Barbara Follett: Visit Britain (VB) have advised that during the British Tourism framework review, they received a number of submissions from stakeholders in the tourism sector about the burden of regulation. The cost is not quantified, and, indeed, individual regulations are rarely mentioned other than the 'overall' effect. However, there has been a clear sense of concern among accommodation providers about fire risk assessments introduced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The former Minister for Tourism, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge), met with the then Fire Minister, Parmjit Dhanda and one of VB's quality managers to press the case for clearer interpretation of rules across fire authorities and it was agreed that DCLG would look at it again and issue new guidance.

DCLG have provided a new guidance briefing for accommodation providers. VB is delivering these with its magazine, "Quality Edge", which was circulated on Monday 19 January to businesses that are quality assessed by VB.

ICT: Training

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on increasing levels of digital literacy. [250640]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The Government and a number of other bodies have undertaken work on various aspects of digital and media literacy. In the Communications Act 2003, we gave Ofcom a statutory duty to work with others to promote media literacy in the UK. My Department works closely with Ofcom on its media literacy priorities and contributes annual funding to Ofcom's work in this area, which includes the periodic audit of changes in media literacy skills across the UK. Their audit has demonstrated that progress has been made, but we recognise that there is more work to be done.

The new BBC Charter and Agreement also places a specific duty on the BBC Trust to promote media literacy. Furthermore, a wide range of activity is being undertaken by both education providers and industry—such as the Media Literacy Task Force—aimed at increasing levels of media literacy.

In addition, the Government have set out a range of cross-departmental strategies that will further enhance media literacy. The Prime Minister has appointed my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales as Minister for Digital Inclusion and he has recently consulted on a Digital Inclusion Action Plan, aimed at improving access and skills to encourage the best use of digital technologies, building on the success of the 6,000 UK online centres in England. Furthermore, as one of the key recommendations from the Byron Review on internet safety, we have established the UK Council for Child Internet Safety which is developing a strategy including education and awareness for parents, carers and children.

The interim Digital Britain report (Cm 7548) identifies the skills and literacy challenges to a fully digital Britain. We have therefore asked Ofcom to make an assessment of its current responsibilities in relation to media literacy and, working with the BBC and others, to recommend a new definition and ambition for a National Media Literacy Plan as a contribution to the final Digital Britain Report in the summer.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251214]

Andy Burnham: The Department has a press cuttings contract with EDS Media that began in April 2008. The cost to-date is £36,283.33.

The Department pays an annual subscription charge to the Media Monitoring Unit (this is part of the Central Office of Information, previously part of the Cabinet Office). This includes a number of media monitoring services—the cost of press monitoring is not charged separately.

National Lottery: Complaints

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many disputes between a National Lottery player and a retailer referred to *(a)* Camelot and *(b)* the Lottery Commission were resolved in favour of (i) the player and (ii) the retailer in each of the last three years. [253085]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The Department does not hold information on disputes between National Lottery players and retailers. The National Lottery Commission (NLC) have advised that neither Camelot nor the NLC record the requested information in the requested format.

Public Bodies: Assets

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land is owned by (i) Arts Council England, (ii) the Big Lottery Fund, (iii) the Heritage Lottery Fund, (iv) UK Sport and (v) the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council; and what recent estimate has been made of the value of those assets. [249813]

Barbara Follett: The information as follows has been provided by the bodies in question.

Arts Council England

Buildings owned:

21 Bond Street, Dewsbury

Land owned:

Arts Council England own the freehold on a section of land in the London South Bank area covering the area of the South Bank Centre and British Film Institute, and an area covering the Royal National Theatre. All the land is passed back to the South Bank Centre, British Film Institute or Royal National Theatre at no cost to them and the leases run for 150 years.

Value:

£600,000 open market value of Bond Street, Dewsbury, established by a valuation at 31 March 2005. It is Arts Council England accounting policy to refresh the valuation of this freehold property once every five years.

As the land on the South Bank is leased for 150 years, it has no bankable value.

The Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and UK Sport do not own any land or buildings.

Public Libraries: Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how long each local authority took to replenish to Public Library Service Standard 10 its library lending stock on open access or available on loan in each of the last three years. [251741]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not collated centrally. The appendix to Public Library Statistics, a report published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), shows the time taken by each local authority to replenish its lending stock. It may therefore be possible to calculate how long each local authority took to replenish to Public Library Service Standard 10 its library lending stock by comparing issues of the report for the period in question. The House of Commons Library holds copies.

Public Libraries: Statistics

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his answer of 21 January, *Official Report*, column 1456W, what statistical information his Department gathers relating to library services. [252956]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport gathers statistical information relating to library services through its Taking Part survey. This is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

In relation to libraries, Taking Part asks respondents whether they have visited one in the past 12 months and, if so, how often. It also asks about their experiences during their last visit; their satisfaction with the library's services, and whether they would repeat the visit. The survey also tries to find out why respondents have not visited a library. The latest available data for libraries, which includes demographic breakdowns of attendance, can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5396.aspx

In April 2008, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport added questions to Sport England's Active People survey to collect data for participation in cultural activities for the purposes of the National Indicator Set. Respondents are asked whether they had used a public library service in the past 12 months. Baseline estimates of attendance for all upper-tier local authorities can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/research_and_statistics/5607.aspx

South Bank Centre: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Arts Council England provided to the South Bank Centre in each of the last five years; and how much came from (i) Exchequer funding and (ii) the National Lottery in each such year. [249415]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's funding to the South Bank Centre is made through Arts Council England according to the arm's length principle. Arts Council England distributes the Department's funding for the arts. Arts Council England has advised that it has provided funding for the South Bank Centre as set out in the following table.

Arts Council England funding for the South Bank Centre

					£
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(i) Exchequer funding					
Regular funding	16,596,012	17,393,525	17,948,586	18,442,200	18,949,300
Other	150,500	7,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	50,300
Creative partnerships	—	—		—	20,000
(ii) Lottery funding					
Grants for the Arts	—	10,680	—	25,717	100,000

Note:
In addition, Arts Council England advises that between 1995-96 and 2007-08, the South Bank Centre received £37,369,643 towards the costs of its redevelopment.

Swimming: Elderly People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1073W, on swimming, which local authorities made representations on plans for free swimming for those over the age of 60; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such representation. [252208]

Andy Burnham: Local authority responses are still being collated ahead of the launch of the Free Swimming programme on 1 April 2009. To date we have received approximately forty representations from local authorities on plans for free swimming for those over the age of sixty. We are taking account of these representations and are in continuing discussion with authorities in the run-up to the start of the scheme. At this stage I have no plans to put in the Library copies of local authority correspondence regarding the Free Swimming programme.

Swimming: Young People

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of local authorities he expects will take part in the initiative to provide free swimming for under 16 year olds. [251837]

Andy Burnham: Of the 354 local authorities 211 (59.6 per cent.) have signed up to offer free swimming to under 16-year-olds. I am arranging for a list of participating authorities to be deposited in the Library of the House.

Tourism: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what budget his Department provided for Visit Britain in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; what budget he proposes for Visit Britain in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011 and (iv) 2012; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of such funding spent on promoting the UK as a tourist destination (A) within the UK and (B) overseas in each year. [251201]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is as follows:

Budget provided for VisitBritain by the Department for Culture Media and Sport since 2004-05

£ million

	Total	*Overseas Budget*	*Domestic[1] Budget*
2004-05	48.4	35.5	12.9
2005-06	48.9	35.5	13.4
2006-07	49.9	35.5	14.4
2007-08	[2]50.6	35.5	15.1
2008-09	47.9	[3]35	[3]12.9
2009-10	45.4	[4]—	[4]—
2010-11	40.9	[4]—	[4]—
2011-12	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—

[1] Domestic budget denotes VisitBritain's budget to market England domestically

[2] For the period 2007-08, DCMS also gave £750,000 to VisitBritain to support a campaign to promote rural England following the floods and outbreak of foot and mouth of 2007.

[3] Estimated figures.

[4] Budget allocation due to be finalised following outcomes of VB Strategic framework review and discussions between VisitBritain and VisitEngland.

[5] Not available—outside current HMT spending review round.

World Creative Business Summit

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many firms bid for the contract to deliver the World Creative Business summit. [250247]

Andy Burnham: A total of 12 firms were invited to bid to deliver the World Creative Business conference (now the Creativity and Business International Network) of which six moved to pitch after a pairing process. All the firms were on the Central Office of Information (COI) framework of approved agencies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1521W, on apprentices, what progress has been made in increasing the number of apprentices in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employs. [251928]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office currently has 12 staff completing apprenticeships, and 33 staff have already completed. The Department will offer 16 new places to staff each year.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251446]

Paul Goggins: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

With respect to correspondence from members of the public, this information could not be provided within disproportionate costs limits but the Northern Ireland Office aim to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days. The Department publishes statistics annually on 'answering letters quickly and clearly' in the departmental report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [251134]

Paul Goggins: There has been one ICT project abandoned by the Northern Ireland Office before completion since 1997. The Product Logging ICT Project was cancelled by the Forensic Science Agency at a cost of £8,500. The contractors were ICS Computing. The project commenced in June 2006 and was abandoned in November 2006.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 773W, on departmental ICT, what his most recent estimate of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* completion date of each of the projects referred to is; and if he will make a statement. [251242]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Project name	*Completion date*	*Estimated cost (£ million)*
Causeway Programme	March 2011	61
Prisoner Record Information System (PRISM): Technical Refresh	March 2010	1.3

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which websites his Department maintained other than its main departmental website in the last five years; and what the operating budget for each was in each year of its operation. [251278]

Paul Goggins: The websites maintained by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding the main departmental website, and their associated operating budgets for the last five financial years are set out in the following table.

£

Website	*Operating budget by financial year* *2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Youth Justice Agency					
www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk	11,338.75	1,938.75	12,069.96	3,125.50	7,252.69
www.youthconferenceserviceni.gov.uk	7,637.50	0	193.88	0	0
Northern Ireland Prison Service					
www.niprisonservice.gov.uk	0	12,000	25,000	20,500	6,000
Organised Crime Task Force					
www.octf.gov.uk	1,457.00	423	14,092.95	4,674.15	2,294.78

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251251]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides details of the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure on contracts with public relations companies (excluding agencies and Executive NDPBs) in each of the last five years:

Financial year	*Value of contracts (£)*
2003-04	160,397
2004-05	153,723
2005-06	91,858
2006-07	146,906
2007-08	121,504

These companies have been used to provide goods and services in relation to newspaper and television advertising, such as crime prevention campaigns, and the production of leaflets and DVDs which were issued to the public.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252239]

Mr. Woodward: Staff within the Northern Ireland Office have not undertaken any digital media courses provided by the Intranet Advertising Bureau in 2008.

Saville Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W, on the Saville Inquiry, (1) which firms have worked for the inquiry; for how many hours they have worked; and whom they have represented; [243241]

(2) how much each legal firm has received. [243242]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the expenditure on legal representatives (both Counsel and solicitors' firms) by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry up to the end of December 2008 is:

	Payments made (£)
Counsel for the inquiry	
Christopher Clarke	4,488,266
Jacob Grierson	394,879
Alan Roxburgh	2,978,989
Cathryn McGahey	2,268,093
Bilal Rawat	2,203,633
Solicitors employed for the taking of witness statements	
Eversheds	13,253,720
Senior counsel representing the families	
Lord Gifford	803,040
Arthur Harvey	1,326,426
Michael Lavery	678,191
Barry J. McDonald	1,203,275
P. T. McDonald	120,144
Michael Mansfield	743,421
Eilish McDermott	1,405,133
Seamus Treacy	1,008,703
Eoin McGonigal	134,556
Kevin Finegan	551,815
Senior counsel representing NICRA	
Sir Louis Blom Cooper	587,746
Junior counsel representing the families	
John Coyle	812,614
Fiona Doherty	641,326
Ciaran Harvey	673,951
Richard Harvey	679,869
Brian Kennedy	661,153
Philip Magee	83,175
Kieran Mallon	823,196
Brian McCartney	874,398

	Payments made (£)
Karen Quinlivan	571,548
Patricia Smyth	360,927
Michael Topolski	159,915
Mary McHugh	424,524
Junior counsel representing NICRA	
Paddy O'Hanlon	442,732
Solicitors representing the families	
Barr and Co.	696,319
Brendan Kearney and Co.	953,451
Desmond Doherty and Co.	1,449,837
MacDermott and McGurk	1,503,840
Madden and Finucane	12,968,409
McCann and McCann	707,652
McCartney and Casey	1,483,283
Solicitor representing NICRA	
Francis Keenan	594,328
Legal representatives for other witnesses	
Various solicitors and counsel	3,173,210

I am advised that payments made by the Ministry of Defence for legal representation up to the end of December 2008 are:

	Payments made (£)
Senior counsel representing HM armed forces	
Edwin Glasgow QC	4,065,817
Edmund Lawson QC	942,943
David Lloyd Jones QC	1,095,966
Gerard Elias QC	1,795,752
Peter Clarke QC	958,853
Sir Allan Green QC	1,522,441
Rosamund Horwood-Smart QC	677,874
Sir Sydney Kentridge QC	52,875
Anna Worrall QC	100,457
Senior counsel representing MOD	
Ian Burnett QC	231,386
Philip Havers QC	7,138
Junior counsel representing HM armed forces	
Alexander Milne	409,121
Bridget Petherbridge	126,197
Huw Davies	361,638
Ian Leist	965,146
Michael Hick	253,895
Gaby Bonham-Carter	277,393
Pamela Morrison	131,378
Kristian Mills	56,929
Nicholas Moss	991,892
Sam Grodzinski	1,877
Stephen Requena	88,161
Alan May	299,009
Andrew Hurst	590,803
David Bradly	1,291,966
Michael Bools	990,071
Nicholas Griffin	1,195,062
Thomas Quinton	426,072
Junior counsel representing the MOD	
William Hoskins	49,892
Sacha Ackland	2,776
Jonathan Hough	4,488
Solicitors representing HM armed forces	
Devonshires	2,727,581
Kingsley Napley	1,943,586
Payne Hicks Beach	3,789,748
Jacqueline Duff	175,163
Treasury Solicitor	3,915,980

Given the volume of legal representation involved throughout the lifespan of the inquiry, information on hours worked is not readily available, particularly where final settlements were negotiated. A comprehensive and accurate breakdown of the number of hours worked by each legal representative would require a manual trawl of thousands of claims, and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W, on the Saville Inquiry, what the reasons are for increases in expenditure on legal fees. [243243]

Mr. Woodward: The figure for expenditure on legal fees provided in my answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W, included payments to lawyers working for the inquiry and to lawyers representing interested parties and witnesses before the inquiry (including those funded by the Ministry of Defence).

I would expect some further increase in this figure as the final few settlements are reached in respect of fees for work already carried out. The vast majority of such fees have already been settled, but there remain a small number to be resolved. There will also be a continuing need for some legal work, particularly by lawyers working for the inquiry on preparation of its report.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reasons Lord Saville has given for his discussions to set the date for delivery to him of the report of the Saville Inquiry in autumn 2009. [243377]

Mr. Woodward: In Lord Saville's letter to me of 4 November 2008, notifying me of the delay in submission of his report, he gave me the following explanation:

> "Since I last wrote to you, my colleagues and I have continued our work on the report, but I regret to say that it is now clear that the indication that I then gave of the time that was likely to be required for its completion was a substantial underestimate. As you know, we have always found it difficult, given the scale and complexity of the material with which we are dealing, to predict accurately how long it will take us to complete our task. We are however most anxious to ensure that any further estimate is realistic, and with that in mind we now think it right to say that we expect to deliver the completed report to you in the autumn of next year."

Copies of this letter were placed in the Libraries of both Houses last year.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, on the Saville Inquiry, what the basis is for the estimate that the final cost of the inquiry will be £191 million. [243444]

Mr. Woodward: The estimate provided in my answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, that the final cost of the inquiry would be approximately £191 million was based on the inquiry's own estimate of the remaining costs (including an estimate provided by the Ministry of Defence for the remaining costs falling to that Department). That estimate has now been reduced to approximately £190 million.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, on the Saville Inquiry, what the reasons are for the differences between the estimated final cost of the Inquiry and the original estimated cost. [243445]

Mr. Woodward: In a statement to this House on 29 January 1998, the then Prime Minister set out his intention to establish the inquiry into Bloody Sunday and said:

> "It is not possible to say now exactly how long the Inquiry will take but it should be allowed the time necessary to cover all the evidence now available thoroughly and completely."

At this early stage, there was limited information on which to base projections of the likely total cost. The inquiry initially anticipated that its work would last about two years and £11 million was allocated for this in the Government spending review. However the unprecedented scale of the inquiry was not predicted, in terms of number of witnesses identified and available to give oral evidence, the number of legal challenges, and the ensuing increase in legal costs.

At this late stage in the inquiry's lifespan, future spend is for the most part limited to running costs and the final total is therefore easier to predict with more certainty.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answers of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 3W and 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, on the Saville Inquiry, what the evidential basis is for the statements that *(a)* the final cost of the Inquiry will not exceed £191 million and *(b)* the Inquiry's final report will be delivered by autumn 2009. [244058]

Mr. Woodward: The estimate of £191 million provided in my answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, for final cost of the inquiry was based on the inquiry's own estimate of its remaining costs and an estimate provided by the Ministry of Defence for the remaining costs falling to that Department. That estimate has now reduced to approximately £190 million.

Lord Saville notified me in a letter dated 4 November 2008 that he expected to deliver the report in autumn 2009.

SCOTLAND

Banks

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future of the banking industry in Scotland. [253173]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend is in regular contact with the Chancellor and discusses a variety of issues. The Scottish banking sector has benefited from the significant intervention by this Government to stabilise the market.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254076]

Ann McKechin: There have been no complaints of bullying or harassment in the Scotland Office during the period requested.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Prime Minister how many civil servants in his Office have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242913]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 867-68W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many young people in Iran the British Council have helped to learn *(a)* English or *(b)* about the UK. [249292]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The British Council does not work directly with young people in Iran. However, by working with leaders in the field of education, the British Council has helped young Iranians develop both a more international outlook and connections with the UK that lead to better understanding of our country and culture.

In 2007-08:

8824 people participated in a range of British Council educational and cultural programmes;

2000 students from Iran studied in further and higher education in the UK;

17,406 educational enquiries were answered by the British Council in Tehran;

78,000 people visited the British Council website www.britishcouncil.org/iran.

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any official in his Department was given notice by any representative of *(a)* the Pakistan government and *(b)* the US administration of the US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on or before 22 November 2008. [245651]

Bill Rammell: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he was first informed of the suspected death of Mr. Rashid Rauf following the US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on 22 November 2008. [245658]

Bill Rammell: We first learned of his suspected death from media reporting coming out of Pakistan.

Ukraine: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Ukraine on *(a)* levels of anti-Semitism and *(b)* anti-Semitic (i) organisations and (ii) publications in Ukraine since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247759]

Caroline Flint: Our embassy in Kiev regularly raise issues relating to anti-Semitism with the Ukrainian authorities and remains in close contact with local human rights organisations and representatives of the Jewish community. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the International Commission Combating Anti-Semitism are co-hosting a high level meeting in the UK on the 16 and 17 February 2009 to which we are inviting a broad range of countries, including Ukraine. We continue to work with our EU partners to keep these issues under close review.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Aviation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the cumulative effect on UK carbon dioxide emissions of returning to 2005 levels of emissions from aviation between now and 2050, as a proportion of total UK carbon dioxide emissions. [250713]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have asked the Committee on Climate Change to advise by December 2009 on the basis for measurement of the Government's target to reduce UK aviation emissions in 2050 below 2005 levels.

Once aviation joins the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) in 2012, carbon dioxide emissions from all flights departing and arriving at airports in the EU will be capped at 97 per cent. of average 2004-06 levels, with the cap tightening to 95 per cent. of average 2004-06 levels from 2013 onwards. Any aviation emissions above this cap will need to be matched by airlines securing reductions from other sectors within the EU ETS. 95 per cent. of UK aviation emissions in the 2004-06 period is estimated to be 35.6 million tonnes.

At present there is no clear relationship between international aviation emissions and the UK's greenhouse gas inventory, as there is no internationally-agreed methodology for assigning emissions from international aviation to individual countries. The UK continues to press internationally for agreement on measures to address aviation emissions.

Carbon Emissions: Subsidies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what each of the offsetting projects is that EEA Fund Management subsidises as part of the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund; and what the location of each project is. [250507]

Joan Ruddock: The following projects are currently part of the approved pool of projects from which EEA Fund Management will deliver Certified Emission Reduction credits to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund:

Horizonte Wind Power Generation Project

Average annual emission reductions: 6,227 t CO_2e

Location: Brazil

The Horizonte project became operational and started generating electricity in 2004. The wind farm consists of eight turbines of 600 kW each for a total generation capacity of 4.8 MW. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by substitution of energy from fossil fuel power plants as it generates electricity with clean wind energy. Energy from the plant is sold to the Brazilian South-Southeast-Midwest Grid.

Sri Balaji 6 MW Non-Conventional Renewable Sources Biomass Power Project

Average annual emission reductions: 28,590 t CO_2e

Location: India

The project installed a 6 MW biomass-fired power plant that utilises surplus biomass waste residues usually burnt in the local area. The electricity generated by the project is sold to the grid, reducing reliance on fossil fuel power generation as well as creating benefits and job opportunities to the local community. The project reduces local pollution by avoiding uncontrolled burning of waste in the fields.

Cucaú Bagasse Cogeneration Project (CBCP)

Average annual emission reductions: 2,082 t CO_2e

Location: Brazil

This project increases the energy efficiency of bagasse cogeneration at Cucaú sugar mill through the installation of more efficient boilers. The project also allows the mill to increase the steam efficiency in the sugar and alcohol production processes. Cucaú is thus able to generate surplus steam and use it exclusively for electricity production. This electricity is then sold into the national grid, avoiding the dispatch of the same amount of energy generated from fossil fuel-fired thermal plants.

6 MW renewable energy project for a grid system by Gayatri Agro Industrial Power Ltd., India

Average annual emission reductions: 23,738 t CO_2e

Location: India

The project activity will utilise surplus biomass residues such as rice husk, paddy straw, castor stems, pulse stalks and other renewable woody biomass (Juliflora) materials to generate electricity for a grid system owned by the state owned power utility, Central Power Distribution Company Ltd.

6 MW renewable energy project for a grid system by Sri Indra Power Energies Ltd., India

Average annual emission reductions: 29,100t CO_2e

Location: India

The project activity utilises surplus biomass residues to generate electricity for a grid system owned by the state power utility, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

Gansu Zhouqu Shimenping 15 MW Hydropower Station Project

Average annual emission reductions: 66,8171 CO_2e

Location: China

The Gansu Zhouqu Shimenping Project is a small hydropower plant using water from the Bailong River in Zhouqu County in China. This project generates clean electricity, reducing reliance on fossil fuel power generation as well as creating job opportunities to the local community.

Further details of these projects can be found on the website of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which 100 firms of solicitors his Department and its predecessors has paid the most in costs in respect of the coal health compensation scheme. [252851]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]*: The following table shows the top 100 claimants' representatives who have earned the most under the Coal Health Compensation Schemes.

Claimants' representatives	*Total costs (£)*
Beresfords Solicitors	130,055,137
Thompsons Solicitors	119,912,048
Hugh James	100,259,520
Raleys Solicitors	77,949,197
Mark Gilbert Morse	57,593,099
Browell Smith and Co	54,998,663
Avalon Solicitors	40,244,425
Watson Burton LLP	26,336,328
Graysons Solicitors	25,106,393
Barber and Co	23,538,872
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	23,121,615
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	18,199,775
TLW Solicitors	15,911,685
Ingrams Solicitors	13,875,567
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	13,228,092
Delta Legal	13,026,272
Towells Solicitors	12,642,096
Moss Solicitors	12,541,779
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	11,872,714
Corries Solicitors	10,771,536
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	10,013,285
BRM Solicitors	9,543,665
Birchall Blackburn	9,266,868
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	9,135,712
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	8,571,250
Corries York	8,085,834
Atteys	7,751,534
O H Parsons and Partners Solicitors	6,639,240
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	5,652,110
Shaw and Co Solicitors	5,182,627
Furley Page	4,377,089
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers	4,263,565
Simpson Millar Solicitors	4,219,485
Mortons Solicitors	3,668,028
Thompson and Co Solicitors	3,618,088
Marrons Solicitors	3,580,330
T S Edwards and Son Solicitors	3,462,860
Onyems and Partners	3,414,000
Morisons Solicitors	3,358,130
I Legal Solicitors	3,335,346
Meloy Whittle Robinson	3,037,416
Latham and Co Solicitors	3,012,486
Proddow and Mackay Solicitors	3,007,600
Hopkins	2,955,018
Bailey Bravo Jobling	2,792,226
Kingslegal	2,777,928
Hickmotts Solicitors	2,481,773
Cordner Lewis Solicitors	2,371,372
Recompense Limited	2,291,988
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	2,158,034
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	2,143,472
Saffmans Solicitors	2,112,984
BHPLAW	2,077,369
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	2,072,521
Hindle Campbell Solicitors	2,055,823
Gervin Smith Fort Solicitors	1,889,313
Morgan Cole	1,836,341
Pannone and Partners Solicitors	1,831,419
J M Skinner Solicitors	1,705,843
Wheelers Solicitors	1,470,108
Gabb and Co	1,379,845
Emsleys Solicitors	1,300,966
MLM Solicitors	1,206,965
McLeish Carswell	1,194,862
Canter Levin and Berg Solicitors	1,149,222
J Keith Park and Co Solicitors	1,135,502
DMH Stallard	1,120,278
Farleys Solicitors	1,113,987
SIS Law	917,862
Colemans Solicitors	905,171
Campbell Smith WS	890,268
Lopian Wagner Solicitors	855,162
Keeble Hawson	842,308
Ben Hoare Bell and Co Solicitors	788,029
Elliot Mather Solicitors	784,560
Stripes Solicitors	632,696
Pinto Potts Solicitors	605,268
Mincoffs Solicitors	543,040
Foys Solicitors	537,242
Mills Donkin and Co	533,391
Morrish and Co Solicitors	530,065
Russell Jones and Walker Solicitors	529,492
Oakley and Davies	506,434

Claimants' representatives	*Total costs (£)*
MK Legal LLP Solicitors	698,297
Brunton Bridge	677,943
Holmes and Hills Solicitors	666,209
Houseman and Hails Solicitors	650,849
Endlars Solicitors	638,747
Lloyd Green Solicitors	398,320
Stuart Bell and Associates	387,839
SBH Solicitors	385,834
St Davids Solicitors	377,498
Hayward Baker	344,701
Dibson Brady Solicitors	324,578
Peace Revitt Solicitors	319,899
Robinson King Solicitors—ceased trading	303,378
Richard J Knaggs and Co	265,050
DMH	254,855
Treanors Solicitors	246,740
Chappell Pascoe Solicitors	235,880

The figures take into account monies recovered under the LOROS costs.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which 20 firms of solicitors are handling the most unresolved claims under the coal health compensation scheme; and how many unresolved cases each such firm is handling. [252852]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The following tables shows the 20 claimants' representatives handling the most unresolved claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) under the coal health compensation schemes.

The table also indicates the number of claims that may potentially be 'struck out' under the COPD scheme. These are claims which are denied or withdrawn, or have failed a hard cut-off.

COPD

Claimant's representatives	*Total outstanding claims*	*Potential for strike out*
Beresfords Solicitors	2,769	1,026
Raleys Solicitors	2,562	846
Hugh James	2,135	1,189
Thompsons Solicitors	1,961	880
Browell Smith and Co	1,251	565
Mark Gilbert Morse	654	227
Barber and Co	593	273
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers	567	42
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	553	394
Avalon Solicitors	530	283
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	470	334
Moss Solicitors	446	276
J Legal Solicitors	442	389
Graysons Solicitors	414	193
TLW Solicitors	350	284
Watson Burton LLP	320	119
BRM Solicitors	298	222
Corries Solicitors	279	114
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	252	142
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	183	47

VWF

Claimant's representatives	*Total outstanding claims*
Thompsons Solicitors	209
Raleys Solicitors	91
Browell Smith and Co	37
O H Parsons and Partners Solicitors	31
Corries Solicitors	26
Graysons Solicitors	21
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	20
Watson Burton LLP	20
Hugh James	18
Towells Solicitors	15
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	13
Morisons Solicitors	11
Thompson and Co. Solicitors	11
Moss Solicitors	10
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	9
Beresfords Solicitors	8
Kingslegal	6
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	5
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	5
T S Edwards and Son Solicitors	4

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount to be paid by his Department to solicitors in costs under the coal health compensation scheme in the next 12 months. [252853]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The Department estimates that the sum to be paid to claimants' solicitors under the coal health compensation scheme for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is £1,047.2 million, of which £28 million is due to be paid in 2009.

The estimate for the vibration white finger scheme is £192.43 million, of which £6 million is due to be paid in 2009.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many unresolved surface worker coal health claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease there are relating to men who are *(a)* still alive and *(b)* dead. [252140]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* As at 26 January 2009, 5,842 of the 591,767 claims registered under the British Coal Respiratory Disease Litigation (BCRDL), have been identified by claimant representatives as being from those who worked on the surface in coal preparation plants. 2,334 of these claims are from living miners; the remaining 3,508 are from families of deceased miners. Resolution of the issue of liability for these cases is subject to the outcome of the trial of a sample of four cases, due to be heard in November 2009. From these cases, we aim to identify generic issues that allow the issue of British Coal's liability to compensate to be resolved one way or the other.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessors have paid Nabarro Nathanson in fees for cases relating to industrial disease claims in the mining industry since 1995. [252143]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* From April 1999 to October 2008, BERR and its predecessors spent £28.7 million plus VAT in relation to Nabarro's fees across all mining-related industrial disease claims. But note this excludes all counsel costs, expert fees, cost draftsman's fees and foreign lawyer's fees.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on behalf of how many individual miners Beresfords Solicitors have submitted claims under the coal health compensation scheme. [252883]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Government records show the total number of miners represented by Beresfords Solicitors under the coal health compensation schemes is 85,382 claims.

Industrial Injuries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of miners who developed beat knee while working in the mining industry. [252141]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* It is not possible for the Department to estimate the number of miners who developed beat knee. However, the Department received nearly 15,000 claims for beat knee as a result of litigation which was not pursued beyond 2005. The Department currently faces litigation for osteoarthritis of the knee and meniscal damage but not for beat knee which is a separate condition.

International Renewable Energy Agency

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the Government has not supported the proposal for an International Renewable Energy Agency; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work of the International Energy Agency in the area of renewable energy; and if he will make a statement. [252132]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have fully supported the proposal for an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). During 2008, we participated in the process for establishing the IRENA and we have also participated at the Founding conference on 26 January and the first session of the Preparatory Commission of IRENA on 27 January 2009.

To achieve our climate change and energy goals, we need to accelerate rapidly the deployment of renewable sources of energy and have greater co-ordination. IRENA has the potential to make a significant contribution to this work.

We have been very keen on joining and have been in close contact with the German Government on the details of the new organisation. For example, we have been talking to Germany about how IRENA can contribute to the roll-out and deployment of renewables and how we can help to get other countries such as Canada, China, Japan, India and the US to join. We are also talking about how we can make sure that IRENA works closely with, and avoids overlap and duplication with, other international bodies and organisations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the renewable energy and energy efficiency partnership (REEEP), of which the UK is already a member.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 3 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. D.J. Fraser. [246529]

Joan Ruddock: I apologise for the delay in responding. This was due to departmental reorganisation. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change replied on 20 January.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs. Doreen Henley, transferred to him by the Prime Minister. [247852]

Joan Ruddock: I apologise for the delay in responding. This was due to departmental reorganisation. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband), replied on 28 January.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 3 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr D J Fraser. [250870]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 17 January. My officials have been in contact with my right hon. Friend's office which has confirmed the response has been received.

Warm Homes Act 2000

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of paragraphs 34 and 35 of the adjudication of the High Court on 17 October 2008 in respect of a case brought by Help the Aged and Friends of the Earth on enforcements of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, in terms of the duty placed upon the responsible Secretary of State under section 3 of the Act. [245457]

Joan Ruddock: Paragraphs 34 and 35 of the judgment refer to section 3 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. Provisions like that section are commonly included in Bills, and therefore in Acts of Parliament, without any intention that they should have a substantive legal effect. The explanation for their inclusion relates to the procedure of the House of Commons where a provision of a Bill introduced in that House may give rise to public expenditure. This is not a matter that is specific to the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, but raises wider issues relating to parliamentary procedure and Bill drafting practice generally. The Government are considering those issues in the light of the judgment.

TREASURY

Banks

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* special advisers and *(d)* officials in his Department have had with each UK bank since September 2008; what was discussed; who was present at each meeting; what agreements have been reached between his Department and each bank at each such meeting; and if he will make a statement. [252995]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Services Authority was first informed of risks associated with investing in Icelandic banks. [252483]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1083W.

Debts

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much household debt there was in the UK in December 2008. [253087]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how much household debt there was in the UK in December 2008. (253087)

The most recent data available are for the end of September 2008, when total financial liabilities were £1,568 billion. (Strictly, these figures include non-profit institutions serving households, for example, charities, trade unions and churches, as well as households proper. But their liabilities are small in relation to the total.)

Data for the end of December 2008 will be included in the next Quarterly National Accounts release, due on 27th March 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters he has received on the subject of his Department's package of assistance for banks. [253155]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held and could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Equitable Life

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has agreed with Sir John Chadwick for presentation of *(a)* an interim report and *(b)* a final report of his investigation into the scope of compensation for Equitable Life policy holders; when he expects the first payments to policy holders to be made; and if he will make a statement. [253446]

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 377-80, on Equitable Life, what timetable he has set for Sir John Chadwick to provide his advice to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [253460]

Ian Pearson: The Government have asked Sir John Chadwick to advise as quickly as he is able, including providing interim updates.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many localities there are in each billing authority area in England. [252422]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

I have placed in the Library of the House a table detailing the number of localities delineated by the Valuation Office Agency, by billing authority area in England.

Northern Rock: Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority holds on the number of people who have a mortgage with Northern Rock at its standard variable rate. [252413]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is operationally independent from the Government and such questions should be addressed directly to the FSA. In respect of information held by the Treasury, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a public authority advertising a contract in the Official Journal of the European Union may specify that preference will be given to a bidder who can demonstrate delivery of a local multiplier effect in the local economy; and if he will make a statement. [254181]

Angela Eagle: Advertisements placed in the *Official Journal* of the European Union must be compliant with our EU and other international obligations. These are in place to open up markets and to prevent discrimination across the Community. Any contract notice which states a local preference would not be consistent with those legal obligations.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings Ministers in his Department held with *(a)* staff and *(b)* directors of the Royal Bank of Scotland in (i) each month in 2008 and (ii) January 2009. [253091]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to reduce HM Revenue and Customs' 6.5 per cent. interest charge for late returned self-assessment tax returns. [254001]

Mr. Timms: Interest is not charged on late returned self-assessment returns, but rather on any tax shown as due on a return and unpaid at the due date.

HM Revenue and Customs recalculates its interest rates following any change in the Bank of England base rate in line with procedures laid down in legislation. The legislation sets out how the rates for various taxes and duties should be calculated and when they apply from. In accordance with the legislation the rate of interest charged on underpaid income tax is currently 3.5 per cent. This rate has applied since 27 January 2009.

Thoresen Review

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to the findings of the Thoresen Review of Generic Financial Advice. [253298]

Ian Pearson: The Government accepted the Thoresen Review's central recommendation to pilot the Money Guidance service through a large-scale regional pathfinder on 3 March 2008, alongside publication of the Thoresen Review's final report. As announced at PBR 2008, the £12 million pathfinder, jointly funded by HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority, is on track to launch this spring in the North East and North West of England. The pathfinder will inform Government decisions on roll-out of a national Money Guidance service.

Valuation Office: Electronic Equipment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Weybridge of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1889W, on departmental electronic equipment, to what use the Valuation Office Agency has put the *(a)* flat screen televisions and *(b)* stereo equipment it purchased in the years concerned. [252403]

Mr. Timms: The information is as follows:

(a) 14 flat-screen televisions are used for video-conferencing, one to relay information messages to staff, one to show 24-hour news programmes to visitors, one for PowerPoint and other computer-based presentations in the boardroom and one for development of staff training material.

(b) The stereo equipment is used for audio presentations in VOA offices.

Valuation Office: South East

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, on housing: valuation, if he will rank each individual locality reference in each valuation area in the South East according to value significance. [252213]

Mr. Timms: A list of locality reference numbers, ranked in order of value significance by valuation area within the Valuation Office Agency's South East Group, has been placed in the Library. The list is based on data extracted between 9 and 10 September 2008.

Information that identifies the extent and location of each locality, relative to the list of numbers that ranks each individual locality, is commercially confidential.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government have taken to increase the uptake of tax credits by those entitled to them. [253248]

Mr. Timms: Paragraph 5.40, Chapter 5 in the pre-Budget report 2008 set out the steps the Government are taking to increase the uptake of tax credits, which includes HMRC working in partnership with other organisations to promote working tax credit in innovative ways. Since then coverage through partnership marketing has increased from 500,000 employees at 40 organisations to 660,000 employees at 44 organisations.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many bankruptcy orders have been issued in respect to the recovery of tax credit overpayments *(a)* in each year since 2003-04 and *(b)* in each month in 2008-09 for which information is available; and what the average level of overpayment was. [249235]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. HMRC's policy is to attempt to make personal contact in all cases before legal proceedings are commenced including at least one visit to the last known address of the claimant.

HM Revenue and Customs will only initiate insolvency action through the courts as a last resort and it would be unusual to commence insolvency proceedings solely in respect of tax credit debts.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff posts (i) have been and (ii) are planned to be ended in each division as part of the restructuring in his Department referred to in his Department's Annual Report 2008, chapter 10, point 10.16; and what reduction in expenditure is expected to arise from this restructuring. [246921]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details of headcount reductions at the Department for International Development (DFID) since 2004 are available in the 2008 Annual Report, Chapter 10, point 10.23. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

For the 2008-09 to 2010-11 period there are no headcount targets.

Workforce planning and staff needs by division are continually under review.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of his Department's underspend for the financial year 2008-09. [253976]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) estimates that it will spend its budget in full for the financial year 2008-09.

Developing Countries: Private Sector

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with CDC on its role in private sector investment in developing countries during the global economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [252400]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Officials at the Department for International Development (DFID) have had discussions on the financial crisis with CDC in the context of the company's new investment policy announced in November 2008. This policy will focus CDC further on poorer countries that still have substantial need for investment capital during the crisis. A copy of the policy has been placed in the Library of the House.

With access to private credit in developing countries reducing as a result of the economic downturn, capital flows from development finance institutions such as CDC must be maintained or increased. Access to these funds will encourage private sector investment and the jobs that that helps to protect and create.

CDC therefore has an important counter-cyclical role to play in continuing to make commitments to funds which focus on its target geographies in low income countries and sub-Saharan Africa in particular.

However, CDC on its own can have only a small impact. A coordinated response is necessary and we are also encouraging CDC to coordinate closely with other Development Finance Institutions such as the IFC which is preparing a package of facilities and initiatives in response to the global financial crisis.

International Conferences

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department will attend the forthcoming Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Global Conference on establishing resource transparency; what his Department's objectives for the conference are; and if he will make a statement.[1] [252866]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have been a leading supporter of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). DFID has committed £10.043 million to EITI and has so far provided £5.077 million of this since November 2002. Increasing transparency and knowledge of revenues from the extractive sectors empowers citizens to hold governments to account, so that mismanagement of funds away from sustainable development purposes becomes more difficult. In line with the EITI Global Conference's objectives, we will work with other stakeholders to take stock of EITI's progress; to address the challenges which EITI faces; and to consider the next steps for taking forward the initiative.

The composition of the UK's delegation to the EITI Global Conference is yet to be finalised.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Gaza; what continued financial contribution the UK plans to make; and if he will urge the international community to make a substantial contribution to deal with the humanitarian situation in the region. [253933]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is extremely concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The United Nations estimates that over 90 per cent. of Gaza's population is at least partly dependent on food aid and one fifth of people have no access to running water. Access through crossings between Gaza and Israel remains severely restricted although some deliveries of emergency food aid, medicines and medical supplies have been allowed in but is not adequate to fully meet the needs of the population. The UK continues to urge Israel to immediately allow full and unhindered access for humanitarian agencies so supplies can get in.

The UK Government have made an additional pledge of up to £26.8 million to help meet immediate humanitarian needs in Gaza. Of this over £12 million has already been allocated. For the remaining funds, we are prioritising support to those agencies well placed to respond to immediate humanitarian assistance and protection needs. The UK will continue to meet needs through our five year £100 million commitment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. We also provide funding through the European Community's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) which has allocated €3 million for urgent humanitarian relief work in Gaza, of which the UK contributes about 16 per cent. (€482,000).

We are in contact with other Governments on ensuring that the contributions made by the international community are adequate to meet humanitarian needs in Gaza. The continued restrictions on access into Gaza for humanitarian supplies are a serious problem that must be dealt with so that humanitarian assistance can reach those who need it.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he has made available to the population of Gaza in the last two years. [248169]

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 17MC.]*

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development provided £63.6 million to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). This included £15.6 million to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in the region; £3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for humanitarian assistance in Gaza, and £35.5 million to the PA which helped it provide essential public services in both Gaza and the West Bank.

In 2008-09 the UK has already provided £19 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to help Palestinian refugees in the region, including the 70 per cent. of Gazans who are refugees. We have also given £23.5 million to the Palestinian Authority for delivery of public services in Gaza and the west bank.

As announced on 18 January 2009, the UK has pledged an additional £20 million to help meet needs in Gaza, bringing the total UK response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza to nearly £27 million since the conflict started.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided to the hon. Member for East Antrim (Sammy Wilson) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 613-14W.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to provide assistance to the people of Zimbabwe in the next 12 months. [253099]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) programme in Zimbabwe is focused on providing immediate humanitarian support and broader livelihoods assistance to meet the essential needs of the people of Zimbabwe. This year we have provided: £9 million to the World Food programme for food aid; £10 million to support the growing season; and £9 million to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. We also recently made £10 million available to tackle the cholera outbreak and support life-saving essential health systems. The UK is one of the largest donors giving £45 million last year in aid. We anticipate a total spend of £47 million this financial year across these areas of life-saving need. Our aid is channelled through the UN and NGOs and not the Government of Zimbabwe.

We anticipate the need for sustained large-scale humanitarian support from the international community for the foreseeable future and we are monitoring the situation very closely. However, a sustainable and credible political solution is required to really address Zimbabwe's problems. In principle, we are ready to support economic and social recovery in Zimbabwe but the nature of our support will be contingent on a new administration's commitment to change, including: commitment to macroeconomic stabilisation; restoration of the rule of law; commitment to democracy and respect for human rights and full humanitarian access.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Redundancy

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of his Department's local offices to assist people made redundant. [253034]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus is well prepared: it is increasing its staffing levels and ensuring it has the office and infrastructure capacity it needs to respond to the current economic situation.

For those under threat of redundancy, we are doubling the resources available to the Jobcentre Plus rapid response teams who offer immediate advice to affected employers and individuals to help them with their next steps.

Bereavement Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the target processing period is for applications for bereavement benefit. [249683]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* There is no national target for the processing of applications for bereavement benefits although we aim to deliver bereavement allowance within 15 days and bereavement payment within 10 days.

Payment of bereavement benefits has now been centralised nationally into two benefit delivery centres at Arbroath and Dover in order to improve the service to our customers. Between April and December 2008 new bereavement allowance claims were processed in just over 15 days on average and new bereavement payment claims in just over nine days on average.

Children: Maintenance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many parents with care were owed Child Support Agency maintenance arrears in each month since May 1997; [242094]

(2) what the average amount of Child Support Agency maintenance arrears owed to parents with care was per case in each month since May 1997; [242095]

(3) what the average amount of child maintenance arrears outstanding was on all Child Support Agency cases with maintenance outstanding in each month since May 1997. [242192]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents with care were owed Child Support Agency maintenance arrears in each month since May 1997 [242094];

What the average amount of Child Support Agency maintenance arrears owed to parents with care was per case in each month since May 1997 [242095]; and

What the average amount of child maintenance arrears outstanding was on all Child Support Agency cases with maintenance outstanding in each month since May 1997. [242192]

The analysis required to respond to your questions is only available on information held from March 2007. Such information as is currently available is provided in the attached table.

It should be noted that the majority of child maintenance cases will have some debt. In particular all new cases will accrue debt unless the non-resident parent provides support while the liability is being assessed. In addition around a third of non-resident parents fail to regularly pay the maintenance they should and this debt will continue to accrue. Therefore where there are maintenance arrears the average amount owed to parents with care is around £2,600, although in fact around a quarter of all cases with arrears owe less than £170 or less than two monthly maintenance payments.

In the twelve months to September 2008 the Agency collected £1,088 million in child maintenance, of which £149 million was arrears. In the month of September 2008 alone, the Agency collected or arranged £98.7 million in maintenance of which £14.6 million was arrears. This is the highest level of maintenance and arrears collected or arranged by the Agency in one month ever.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act strengthens the range of enforcement and debt management powers available to the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. These will be used to enable the Commission to more effectively recover outstanding debt.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Open cases with outstanding maintenance arrears from March 2007 to September 2008. This includes those cases without outstanding arrears at September 2008.

Month	*Cases without outstanding arrears*[1]	*Cases with arrears due to parent with care*[2]	*Average arrears owed to parent with care*[2] *(£)*	*Average total arrears*[3] *(£)*
March 2007	—	636,500	2,700	3,700
June 2007	—	656,600	2,700	3,700
September 2007	—	670,600	2,700	3,600
December 2007	—	686,800	2,600	3,600
March 2008	—	697,100	2,600	3,500
June 2008	—	711,800	2,600	3,500
September 2008	563,000	718,800	2,600	3,500

[1] Refers to open cases including those without a current liability.

[2] Information provided only includes open cases including those without a current liability where debt is owed to the parent with care. This excludes debt owed to the Secretary of State as well as some cases where the parent with care owes money.

[3] Includes total debt on open cases including those without a current liability which is owed by non resident parents to the parent with care and/or Secretary of State. This excludes debt where money is owed to the non-resident parent.

Notes:

1. Data only available from March 2007 onwards.
2. All figures rounded to nearest 100.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the largest amount of maintenance arrears outstanding on a single case with the Child Support Agency was in each month in each year since May 1997; [242195]

(2) what the largest amount of maintenance arrears which the Child Support Agency has requested be settled in full was in each of the last 24 months. [242196]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what is the largest amount of maintenance arrears outstanding on a single case with the Child Support Agency in each

month in each year since May 1997 [242195] and

What is the largest amount of maintenance arrears which the Child Support Agency has requested be settled in full in each of the last 24 months. [242196]

The Agency cannot comment on individual cases and this extends to an individual not being able to identify themselves in public statistics. As data disclosure exemptions prevent the supply of information on an individual case being published in the public domain, information is provided in the attached table on the average debt owed by non-resident parents, taken from the top five per cent of cases in each month from March 2007. This includes a small enough percentage of cases to accurately represent the highest debt cases but a high enough number of cases not to disclose an individuals details.

Information is not available on the largest amount of arrears requested to be settled in full as this is not routinely recorded by the Agency.

The average debt owed by non-resident parents, taken from the top 5 per cent. of cases in each month from March 2007.

	Number of cases	*Average debt (£)*
March 2007	49,500	32,400
April 2007	50,000	32,300
May 2007	50,600	32,200
Jun 2007	51,000	32,000
July 2007	51,300	32,000
August 2007	51,800	31,800
September 2007	52,100	31,800
October 2007	52,500	31,700
November 2007	52,800	31,600
December 2007	53,200	31,500
January 2008	53,300	31,500
February 2008	53,000	31,500
March 2008	53,900	31,400
April 2008	54,200	31,300
May 2008	54,500	31,300
June 2008	54,800	31,300
July 2008	55,100	31,200
August 2008	55,000	31,300
September 2008	54,600	31,400

Notes:

1. Only includes cases with a positive debt owed by the non-resident parent. Some cases have a 'negative' debt where money is owed to the non resident parent.
2. Figures are extracted from the Agency's debt book. This is only available from March 2007.

Crisis Loans

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were subject to *(a)* a county court claim by his Department and *(b)* a county court judgement as a result of such a claim for defaulting on repayments of a (i) crisis loan and (ii) budget loan in each year since 1997; [249339]

(2) how many people have had items repossessed following default on repayments of *(a)* a crisis loan and *(b)* a budgeting loan in each year since 1997; [249341]

(3) in how many instances bailiffs have been used to recover repayments of *(a)* a crisis loan and *(b)* a budgeting loan in each year since 1997; [249343]

(4) how many bankruptcy orders have been issued following default on repayments of a *(a)* crisis loan and *(b)* budgeting loan in each year since 1997. [249345]

Kitty Ussher: Where a person is in receipt of benefit, recovery is by means of deductions from benefit only.

Court action is only taken against those no longer receiving benefits. Such action is taken only should a voluntary arrangement not be possible, or if there is a default on that arrangement. The Department does not seek repossession of items in default cases, neither does the Department take bankruptcy action.

The information relating to the number of occasions bailiffs have been used is not available.

The number of people subject to a county court claim by the Department for Work and Pensions for defaulting on Social Fund repayments is set out as follows. The information cannot be separated between Budgeting Loans and Crisis Loans. No action has been taken to enforce recovery of outstanding loans through the courts since 2005-06.

Number of court claims in social fund cases

	Number
1997-98	14,417
1998-99	12,005
1999-2000	15,619
2000-01	10,688
2001-02	7,861
2002-03	5,878
2003-04	6,009
2004-05	3,792
2005-06	1,076

Note:
Data prior to 2003-04 has been supplied by the courts.

As part of the Department's programme to bring increased focus to the management and recovery of debt generally, the decision was made to transfer the management and recovery of social fund off-benefit cases to the Department's specialist Debt Management unit. This commenced in 2005. Referring the outstanding social fund loans to Debt Management has enabled the use of their specialist skills in pursuing recovery from customers who are no longer in receipt of benefit.

This transfer of cases to Debt Management has already resulted in significant recoveries on loans from those no longer in receipt of benefit, without a need to refer for court enforcement.

Housing Benefit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a housing benefit claim was in each year since 1997. [253119]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the table:

Average days to process housing benefit claims—2001-02 to 2007-08

	Average days
2001-02	59
2002-03	53
2003-04	50
2004-05	45
2005-06	37
2006-07	33
2007-08	27

Notes:
1. Housing benefit claim processing times are measured in calendar days from the day a claim is received to the date a decision is made.
2. Claim processing performance data is supplied to DWP by local authorities and is un-audited.
3. Not all local authorities provide all four quarters worth of data. Where a local authority has not provided data in a particular quarter, the data they have provided is multiplied to cover the appropriate period; this is then used to calculate the national average.
Source:
Local authority management information returns to DWP

Pension Credit: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pensioners in *(a)* Castle Point constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England claim pension credit. [249688]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The answer is in the following table.

	Castle Point constituency	Essex	England
Households in receipt of pension credit	4,150	55,410	2,275,670
Individual beneficiaries	5,330	68,310	2,780,470
Total pensioner population	23,172	324,950	11,063,010
Proportion of pensioners claiming (percentage)	18	17	21

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
4. Pensioners have been defined as anyone aged 60 or over.
5. Percentages of pensioner population have been calculated using the ONS mid year population estimates (2007) for the age group 60 and over.
6. Percentages of pensioner population at constituency level have been calculated based on the ONS mid year population estimates (2006) at constituency level which are experimental data and therefore not part of the National Statistics. These experimental statistics are still under evaluation by ONS and should be interpreted with caution. The population estimates are published at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15095
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data, Office for National Statistics

Pension Disability and Carers Service: Standards

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions he has met with representatives of the Pension Service to discuss its performance; and if he will make a statement. [252767]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Ministers at the Department for Work and Pensions meet regularly with colleagues from the Pension, Disability and Carers Service to discuss a range of matters.

Pensioners: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each constituency in the North East claimed pension credit in each year since its introduction. [250060]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table.

Household recipients of pension credit in each constituency in the north-east, November 2003 to May 2008

Parliamentary constituency	*November 2003*	*May 2004*	*May 2005*	*May 2006*	*May 2007*	*May 2008*
Berwick-upon-Tweed	3,110	3,850	4,120	4,160	4,210	4,250
Bishop Auckland	4,770	5,520	5,830	5,830	5,890	5,760
Blaydon	3,680	4,710	4,970	5,010	4,980	4,940
Blyth Valley	3,200	4,090	4,390	4,380	4,380	4,270
City of Durham	3,250	3,820	4,040	4,080	4,060	4,020
Darlington	4,010	4,610	4,970	5,020	5,070	5,070
Easington	4,010	4,800	5,070	5,150	5,160	5,140
Gateshead East and Washington West	4,120	5,010	5,330	5,260	5,360	5,330
Hartlepool	5,070	5,940	6,300	6,270	6,250	6,180
Hexham	2,200	2,780	2,950	2,940	2,940	2,960
Houghton and Washington East	4,070	5,030	5,360	5,420	5,430	5,420
Jarrow	4,640	5,460	5,800	5,870	5,900	5,880
Middlesbrough	4,970	5,760	6,010	5,960	5,940	5,990
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	3,960	4,710	5,030	5,130	5,120	5,190
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	3,820	4,320	4,510	4,530	4,510	4,480
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	4,820	5,560	5,850	5,770	5,740	5,590
Newcastle upon Tyne North	4,200	4,890	5,190	5,250	5,180	5,210
North Durham	4,310	5,090	5,450	5,470	5,510	5,520
North Tyneside	4,690	5,570	6,040	6,070	6,100	5,930
North West Durham	4,950	5,790	6,010	6,010	5,980	5,880
Redcar	4,200	5,000	5,290	5,300	5,350	5,340
Sedgefield	4,020	4,720	5,030	5,040	4,980	4,980
South Shields	4,960	5,780	6,200	6,190	6,140	6,050
Stockton North	4,040	4,790	5,100	5,180	5,180	5,200
Stockton South	3,150	3,760	3,990	4,080	4,110	4,050
Sunderland North	5,100	5,930	6,300	6,360	6,350	6,300
Sunderland South	5,180	6,080	6,400	6,430	6,430	6,370
Tyne Bridge	5,110	5,860	6,060	6,030	5,980	5,900
Tynemouth	3,760	4,460	4,770	4,830	4,820	4,800
Wansbeck	2,920	3,910	4,330	4,380	4,400	4,360
Total	124,280	147,570	156,680	157,430	157,440	156,350

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Post Office Card Account: Contracts

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what compensation he has agreed to pay to the unsuccessful bidders for the Post Office Card Account tendering process. [244564]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr. Djanogly) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 105W.

Recovery from Estates Debt Management Unit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was recovered by his Department's Recovery from Estates Debt Management Unit in each year since 1997 for which information is available; and what the cost of running the Unit was in each such year. [249375]

Kitty Ussher: Recovery from Estates (RFE) is responsible for the recovery of overpaid benefit from the estates of deceased customers in England and Wales. This involves:

checking records of deceased customers against probate records and taking action to recover money incorrectly paid; and

recovering any overpayments that were outstanding on the death of a customer.

RFE do not recover:

Overpayments made after death;

Official error overpayments

RFE recovery data is only available from 2003, costing data from 2005.

Recovery

	RFE (£)
2003-04	20,832,955
2004-05	20,846,483
2005-06	18,267,983

Recovery

	RFE (£)
2006-07	13,698,328
2007-08	23,283,557

Costs

	RFE (£ million)
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	1.3
2007-08	1.4

Social Security Benefits: Disabled People

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support is available through the benefits system to parents with disabled children between the ages of 16 and 18 to help them with childcare costs. [249346]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Jobcentre Plus pays childcare costs within the limits set under the child care element of the working tax credit, on behalf of parents who are claiming out of work benefits who have a disabled child.

For children in receipt of disability living allowance or who are registered blind, child care costs can be paid up to, but not including, the first Tuesday in the September following the child's 16th birthday.

Parents are eligible to claim the cost of registered child care when they are undertaking certain activities in connection with their search for work or when they are attending work focused training. To qualify for child care payments, all activities must be approved by a Jobcentre Plus adviser.

Parents can claim tax credit for a child who lives with them, up to 31 August after the 16th birthday. Child care costs can be claimed through the child care element for a disabled child until the last day in which 1 September falls, following the child's 16th birthday. The age limit is otherwise the child's 15th birthday.

The Aiming High for Disabled Children review found that more needed to be done to co-ordinate services for disabled young people in transition to adult life, and to ensure young people and families can access high quality information at key points. To address this the Government announced £19 million over the period 2008 to 2011 to develop a 'Transition Support Programme' for young disabled people, which will seek to raise the standards of transition support and provision and achieve greater consistency in all local areas.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were subject to *(a)* a county court claim by his Department and *(b)* a county court judgement as a result of such a claim for repayments of overpayments of (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) income support, (iii) incapacity benefit, (iv) carers allowance, (v) attendance allowance, (vi) pension credit and (vii) the state pension in each year since 1997; [249340]

(2) how many people have had items repossessed following default on repayments of overpayments of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit, *(d)* carers allowance, *(e)* attendance allowance, *(f)* pension credit and *(g)* the state pension in each year since 1997; [249342]

(3) how many instances bailiffs have been used to recover repayments of overpayments of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit, *(d)* carers allowance, *(e)* attendance allowance, *(f)* pension credit and *(g)* the state pension in each year since 1997; [249344]

(4) how many bankruptcy orders have been issued against individuals following their default on repayments of overpayments of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit, *(d)* carers allowance, *(e)* attendance allowance, *(f)* pension credit and *(g)* the state pension in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [249373]

(5) in how many cases his Department has pursued repayment of overpayments of benefit following the death of a claimant through a county court claim in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit type. [249365]

Kitty Ussher: In cases where there is an overpayment of benefit outstanding, court action is only taken against those no longer receiving benefits. Such action is taken only should a voluntary arrangement not be possible, or if there is a default on that arrangement. The Department does not seek repossession of items in default cases, neither does the Department take bankruptcy action.

The information relating to the number of occasions bailiffs have been used is not available.

There are two types of actions the Department takes in county courts, depending on whether or not recovery is sought from an estate of a deceased customer.

1. Where recovery is sought from the person overpaid:

> The action the Department takes in county courts to recover overpayments of benefit is to seek an Order for Recovery of Money Awarded by a Tribunal. This does not result in a county court judgment.
>
> Between 2005 and 2008, no civil action in county courts was initiated by the Department in cases of this type. During this period, resources were concentrated on establishing the newly created Debt Management unit, with new processes, a new structure and new IT. This succeeded in increasing the total amount recovered from £180 million in 2005 to 2006, to just under £272 million in 2007 to 2008.
>
> Some limited court action was taken by the Department's private sector partners during this period. They obtained charging orders in nine high value overpayment cases.
>
> The Department recommenced county court action in overpayment cases from January 2008, and during 2008 1,700 orders were sought from the court. Information relating to the breakdown between benefits is not available.
>
> Information for the period prior to 2005 is not available.

2. Where recovery is sought from an estate of a deceased customer:

> In cases where there is an overpayment outstanding at a customer's death, or where an overpayment is identified after death based on information that comes to light after death, such as undeclared occupational pensions or under declared savings, recovery is sought from the estate. In certain cases, where repayment is not made, the Department may take the executor to the county court on the basis of maladministration of the estate. Such actions can result in county court judgments.
>
> The Department does not take action through the court to pursue recovery of overpayments arising as a result of a payment made directly into a bank account after death.

Details of the number of cases where county court action has been taken are in the table. We are not able to say how many resulted in county court judgments, or say which benefits they related to.

Information prior to April 2005 is not available.

	Number
2005-06	47
2006-07	57
2007-08	56

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the monetary value was of repayments of overpayments requested by his Department following the death of a claimant in circumstances where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation and where the family members of the deceased claimants challenged the requests and did not subsequently make the repayments in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit type; [249353]

(2) what the monetary value was of repayments of overpayments of benefits requested by his Department following the death of a claimant, where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit type; [249354]

(3) in how many cases overpayments of benefit have been reclaimed following the death of a claimant where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit type; [249376]

(4) in how many cases his Department has not pursued requests for repayment of overpayments following the death of a claimant in circumstances where the repayment was challenged by family members and where the repayment was not mandatory under social security legislation in each of the last five years; [249377]

(5) in how many cases where his Department requested repayment of overpayments following the death of a claimant where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation, such requests were not challenged by family members in each of the last five years. [249378]

Kitty Ussher: Unfortunately, through no fault of any individual, overpayments of benefit can arise following the death of a benefit recipient. Such overpayments normally arise as a result of the Department being notified of the death too late to stop an automated payment being made into the deceased's account.

We are doing all we can to improve the current process. We now receive electronic notifications of death from the Office for National Statistics on a daily basis. This will assist in enabling a prompt cessation of payments following death and reduce the number of these overpayments occurring.

The Department has a duty to seek recovery of all overpaid funds where it is reasonable and cost effective to do so. However, we seek to do this as sensitively as possible, taking account of the fact that this will be a stressful time, particularly if the person contacted is a close friend or family member. Overpayments are written off if the deceased has no estate or there are insufficient funds in the estate.

The Department does not have records to answer all the questions in the format asked. However, we do have data on the value and volume of cases of overpayments where recovery has been made, and data on those that have been written off. The details are in the following tables.

Direct payments after death—debts written off. These data are only available from 2006, and by benefit only from 2007.

	Volume of cases	*Value written off (£ million)*
2006-07	157,722	27.3
2007-08	198,516	27.4

Write off by benefit for fiscal year 2007-08 is in the following table:

Benefit type name	*Count of transactions*	*Transaction amount (£)*
Attendance allowance	42,027	-4,359,425.89
Bereavement allowance	28	-5,524.32
Carers allowance	476	-59,692.00
Christmas bonus (contributory)	1,251	-10,521.18
Christmas bonus (non-contributory)	335	-2,530.00
Constant attendance allowance	11	-1,591.40
Disability living allowance: care Compnt	10,563	-1,973,865.87
Disability living allowance—care/mob	9,928	-1,924,048.96
Disability living allowance: mobility com	3,383	-425,446.16
Disability working allowance	6	-1,044.40
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	2	-258.10
Incapacity benefit	4,556	-737,002.81
Income support	2,012	-525,965.59
Industrial death benefit	105	-15,796.19
Industrial injuries benefit	33	-8,488.15
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	2,313	-258,131.92
Jobseeker's allowance: contribution based	2	-98.48
Jobseeker's allowance: income based	7	-716.19
Maternity allowance	1	-225.50
Mobility allowance	6	-2,218.80
Non-contributory retirement pension	8	-931.11
Pension credit	37,207	-3,800,062.84
Reduced earnings allowance	20	-1,487.47
Retirement allowance	22	-572.07
Retirement pension: contributory	83,661	13,170,990.65
Severe disablement allowance	432	-55,430.96
Widowed mother's allowance	9	-1,972.19
Widowed parent's allowance	10	-1,626.99
Widows pension	101	-19,124.14
Winter fuel payments	1	-200.00
	198,516	-27,364,990.33

The following table details how much has been recovered by benefit. These data are only available from June 2005.

Value of recoveries of payments made after death

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Attendance allowance	2,978,730	4,707,183	7,421,303
Carers allowance	13,468	3,828	20,165
Constant attendance allowance	0	153	1,661
Disability living allowance—care/mob	1,734,359	1,557,216	2,307,649
Incapacity benefit	122,389	302,169	437,889
Income support	49,887	47,923	89,213
Invalid care allowance	84,926	609	0
Industrial injuries benefit	129,433	83,822	24,892
Industrial death benefit	52,661	28,033	34,913
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	819	148,451	315,590
Invalidity benefit	6,357	1,626	7,350
Jobseeker's allowance	406	235	146
Mobility allowance	5,209	2,447	506
Pension credit	1,519,458	3,677,487	4,614,515
Retirement pension/state pension	13,793,186	27,372,631	30,645,177
Severe disablement allowance	19,419	36,254	47,752
Widows benefit	11,467	12,020	12,604
Widows pension	0	3,671	11,563
Other	7,089	17,647	57,882
Sum	20,529,323	38,003,406	46,050,769

Note:
Data for 2005-06 are for the period June 2005 to March 2006 only.

The following table provides the number of cases where a recovery has been made.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007/08*
Attendance allowance	30,665	47,757	77,013
Carers allowance	252	39	213
Constant attendance allowance	0	2	19
DLA	13,015	10,987	16,561
Incapacity benefit	975	2,226	3,188
Income support	337	289	531
Invalid care allowance	3,123	5	0
Industrial injuries benefit	1,180	670	122
Industrial death benefit	372	198	209
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	6	1,388	2,839
Invalidity benefit	51	21	29
Jobseeker's allowance	4	3	2
Mobility allowance	176	49	36
Pension credit	16,884	40,799	54,834
Retirement pension/state pension	81,948	164,060	183,242
Severe disablement allowance	124	300	398
Widows benefit	57	47	18
Widows pension	0	23	54
Other	109	562	3,063
	149,278	269,421	342,371

State Retirement Pensions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account is taken in calculating pensions of working years additional to those required for a full state pension if they occurred prior to an individual reaching retirement age. [253734]

Ms Rosie Winterton: People attaining state pension age after 5 April 2010 will only need 30 qualifying years of national insurance contributions to gain a full basic state pension. People will continue to build up entitlement to the additional state pension on class 1 contributions paid beyond those years required for entitlement to a full basic pension.

In addition, as now, national insurance contributions will provide entitlement not just to state pension but to a range of contributory benefits. Contributions will continue to pay for benefits when people are sick or unemployed and bereavement benefits.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the UK in which more than one individual receives the winter fuel allowance. [248817]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the total number of individuals who received a winter fuel payment and those who received a shared payment. Figures are for winter 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available.

	Total number of payments	*Shared payments*
Eastbourne parliamentary constituency	28,280	13,360
East Sussex local authority	135,350	67,260
GB	11,702,900	5,485,450

Notes:
1. A shared payment is made if there is more than one person entitled in a household. If however, an entitled person is receiving pension credit, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income support then their payment is not shared. In these cases that person receives a full payment.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Parliamentary constituencies and counties are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

We expect that similar numbers of individuals will receive shared winter fuel payments in 2008-09.

Winter Fuel Payments: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in which more than one individual receives the winter fuel allowance. [249037]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the total number of individuals who received a winter fuel payment and those who received a shared payment. Figures are for winter 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available.

	Total number of payments	*Shared payments*
Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency	17,960	8,840
Hertfordshire local authority	203,490	103,300

Notes:
1. A shared payment is made if there is more than one person entitled in a household. If however, an entitled person is receiving pension credit, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income support then their payment is not shared. In these cases that person receives a full payment.
2. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

We expect that similar numbers of households will receive winter fuel payments in 2008-09.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* were prosecuted, *(b)* were cautioned and *(c)* received a penalty notice for disorder for (i) purchasing and (ii) selling alcohol under age in 2007. [248644]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, issued with a caution, or penalty notice for disorder for selected alcohol offences, in England and Wales for 2007 are given in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, and issued with a caution or a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) for purchasing, or attempting to purchase, alcohol by a person under 18[1], England and Wales, 2007[2]

	Number
Total proceeded against[3]	10
Total cautions issued[4]	31
Total PNDs issued	158

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor in Licensed premises—Licensing Act 1964 SS. 169C(1) and E) as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 Sch. Para. 4(2)
Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S.149 (1)&(7)(a)
Buy or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S.149(1)

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The 'Total proceeded against' statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals. Cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, and issued with a caution or a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) for sale, or allowing sale, of alcohol to a person under 18[1], England and Wales, 2007[2]

	Number
Total proceeded against[3]	661
Total cautions issued[4]	42
Total PNDs issued	3,583

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises—Licensing Act 1964 S. 169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S. 1, Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 S.3 [Sch. Para. 4 (1)]
Sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 146
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2003 S. 147
Sale of alcohol to person under 18—Licensing Act 2303 S. 146(1)

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The 'Total proceeded against' statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals. Cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* establishments have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age people in each year since 2003, broken down by police force area. [249974]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of males, females and other defendants proceeded against for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in Table 1 and Table 2 and shows the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued for "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18" by gender from 2004 to 2007 (latest available).

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	Male	1	—	7	2	—
	Female	—	—	7	3	1
	Other Defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	—	14	5	1
Bedfordshire	Male	1	5	10	23	2
	Female	1	2	—	1	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	7	10	24	2
Cambridgeshire	Male	—	3	6	16	8
	Female	—	1	3	11	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	4	9	27	10
Cheshire	Male	8	14	4	6	6
	Female	7	6	4	—	—
	Other Defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	16	20	8	6	6
Cleveland	Male	1	6	11	8	8
	Female	1	4	3	3	5
	Other Defendant	2	—	—	—	—
	Total	4	10	14	11	13
Cumbria	Male	1	1	2	1	1
	Female	—	—	6	—	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1	1	8	1	1
Derbyshire	Male	27	18	9	7	6
	Female	10	4	4	1	1
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	37	22	13	8	7
Devon and Cornwall	Male	—	7	5	4	3
	Female	—	5	3	2	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	12	8	6	5
Dorset	Male	7	6	30	6	2
	Female	2	4	5	1	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	9	10	35	7	2
Durham	Male	—	2	2	—	1
	Female	—	—	—	—	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	2	2	—	3

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007[3], broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Essex	Male	4	1	8	14	12
	Female	3	1	—	2	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	7	2	8	16	14
Gloucestershire	Male	—	1	4	9	3
	Female	—	—	1	1	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	1	5	10	3
Greater Manchester	Male	85	124	81	111	30
	Female	40	55	36	48	5
	Other Defendant	4	1	—	1	—
	Total	129	180	117	160	35
Hampshire	Male	—	6	7	2	4
	Female	—	3	4	—	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	9	11	2	4
Hertfordshire	Male	1	7	3	40	21
	Female	—	1	—	—	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	1
	Total	1	8	3	40	24
Humberside	Male	—	3	2	3	2
	Female	—	8	—	3	3
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	11	2	6	5
Kent	Male	9	10	13	2	2
	Female	3	3	1	—	—
	Other Defendant		2	—	—	—
	Total	12	15	14	2	2
Lancashire	Male	15	14	49	22	24
	Female	8	8	40	10	3
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	23	22	89	32	27
Leicestershire	Male	9	9	21	35	40
	Female	6	1	6	10	15
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	15	10	27	45	55
Lincolnshire	Male	9	3	7	5	2
	Female	8	1	4	5	1
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	17	4	11	10	3
Merseyside	Male	25	13	12	12	21
	Female	16	6	4	22	7
	Other Defendant	1				
	Total	42	19	16	34	28

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Metropolitan Police	Male	84	133	223	197	136
	Female	13	22	28	24	18
	Other Defendant	16	12	2	15	22
	Total	113	167	253	236	176
Norfolk	Male	1	6	—	—	1
	Female	—	3	3	—	1
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	1	9	3	—	2
North Yorkshire	Male	3	16	2	25	16
	Female	4	6	1	16	13
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	27	—
	Total	7	22	3	68	29
Northamptonshire	Male	—	—	7	11	7
	Female	—	—	4	2	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	—	11	13	7
Northumbria	Male	31	36	65	30	8
	Female	7	14	14	10	4
	Other Defendant	—	1	—	1	—
	Total	38	51	79	41	12
Nottinghamshire	Male	5	—	6	26	3
	Female	4	—	5	11	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	9	—	11	37	5
South Yorkshire	Male	—	4	11	8	4
	Female	—	1	7	2	3
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	2
	Total	—	5	18	10	9
Staffordshire	Male	3	5	14	13	16
	Female	5	—	6	10	10
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	8	5	20	23	26
Suffolk	Male	—	1	1	2	—
	Female	—	—	2	2	—
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	1	3	4	—
Surrey	Male	4	9	12	17	3
	Female	—	1	1	1	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	4	10	13	18	5
Sussex	Male	7	3	2	23	8
	Female	1	1	2	9	3
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	1	—
	Total	8	4	4	33	11

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Thames Valley	Male	2	19	6	28	14
	Female	4	8	9	8	6
	Other Defendant		1	—	—	—
	Total	6	28	15	36	20
Warwickshire	Male	19	17	5	2	1
	Female	7	9	2	—	
	Other Defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	27	26	7	2	1
West Mercia	Male	7	3	17	10	5
	Female	—	1	2	—	—
	Other Defendant	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	7	5	19	10	5
West Midlands	Male	20	34	53	55	40
	Female	—	11	22	18	16
	Other Defendant	—	—	1	1	1
	Total	20	45	76	74	57
West Yorkshire	Male	1	17	9	14	8
	Female	—	4	6	3	1
	Other Defendant	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	2	21	15	17	9
Wiltshire	Male	4	5	16	9	5
	Female	1	3	7	1	1
	Other Defendant	1	2	—	—	
	Total	6	10	23	10	6
Dyfed-Powys	Male	5	15	4	12	6
	Female	—	9	2	4	4
	Other Defendant	—	—	—	2	3
	Total	5	24	6	18	13
Gwent	Male	—	8	13	14	8
	Female	2	12	3	6	5
	Other Defendant			—	1	—
	Total	2	20	16	21	13
North Wales	Male	4	3	8	3	6
	Female	3	2	2	1	2
	Other Defendant	—	—	—		—
	Total	7	5	10	4	8
South Wales	Male	24	27	40	56	22
	Female	5	6	15	15	4
	Other Defendant		1		1	3
	Total	29	34	55	72	29
England and Wales	Male	427	614	807	883	515
	Female	161	225	274	266	146
	Other Defendant	28	22	3	50	32

Table 1: Number of males, females and other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18[2], in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3, 4]

Force	*Sex*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total	616	861	1,084	1,199	693

[1] Other defendants include companies and public bodies etc.

[2] Includes the following offences:

(a) Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.

(b) Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

(c) Sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(d) Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.

(e) Persistently selling alcohol to children

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence & Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	Male	—	29	25	33
	Female	—	27	29	27
	Total	—	56	54	60
Bedfordshire	Male	—	1	6	10
	Female	—	1	7	3
	Total	—	2	13	13
Cambridgeshire	Male	—	8 3	14 15	16 6
	Female	—			
	Total	—	11	29	22
Cheshire	Male	—	21	19	19
	Female	—	28	31	7
	Total	—	49	50	26
Cleveland	Male	—	10	10	27
	Female	—	23	13	38
	Total	—	33	23	65
Cumbria	Male	—	10	11	13
	Female	—	13	10	27
	Total	—	23	21	40
Derbyshire	Male	—	5	16	50
	Female	—	3	14	51
	Total	—	8	30	101
Devon and Cornwall	Male	—	32	54	31
	Female	—	50	61	38
	Total	—	82	115	69
Dorset	Male	13	3	9	20
	Female	9	19	20	15
	Total	22	22	29	35
Durham	Male	—	—	1	12
	Female	—	—	—	13
	Total	—	—	1	25

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Essex	Male	3	60	42	53
	Female	4	60	52	58
	Total	7	120	94	111
Gloucestershire	Male	—	17	28	44
	Female	—	25	26	42
	Total	—	42	54	86
Greater Manchester	Male	—	60	122	98
	Female	—	67	89	43
	Total	—	127	211	141
Hampshire	Male	1	31	57	114
	Female	1	36	52	91
	Total	2	67	109	205
Hertfordshire	Male	—	2	30	46
	Female	—	1	11	21
	Total	—	3	41	67
Humberside	Male	1	13	22	46
	Female	1	32	26	52
	Total	2	45	48	98
Kent	Male	—	8	3	16
	Female	—	2	2	7
	Total	—	10	5	23
Lancashire	Male	17	95	105	100
	Female	13	95	101	90
	Total	30	190	206	190
Leicestershire	Male	—	22	26	89
	Female	2	24	33	61
	Total	2	46	59	150
Lincolnshire	Male	—	10	21	15
	Female	—	16	36	39
	Total	—	26	57	54
Merseyside	Male	2	44	56	72
	Female	—	29	71	103
	Total	2	73	127	175
Metropolitan Police	Male	12	113	190	264
	Female	9	48	62	77
	Total	21	161	252	341
Norfolk	Male	—	—	5	17
	Female	—	—	5	19
	Total	—	—	10	36
Northamptonshire	Male	1	15	18	15
	Female	—	24	16	7
	Total	1	39	34	22

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Northumbria	Male	1	24	47	44
	Female	—	24	37	23
	Total	1	48	84	67
North Yorkshire	Male	—	—	4	8
	Female	—	—	7	17
	Total	—	—	11	25
Nottinghamshire	Male	3	54	125	81
	Female	6	63	140	87
	Total	9	117	265	168
South Yorkshire	Male	1	47	76	69
	Female	1	60	82	90
	Total	2	107	158	159
Staffordshire	Male	—	6	34	32
	Female	—	13	41	35
	Total	—	19	75	67
Suffolk	Male	—	11	14	7
	Female	—	8	7	13
	Total	—	19	21	20
Surrey	Male	—	—	22	57
	Female	—	—	12	15
	Total	—	—	34	72
Sussex	Male	—	29	116	63
	Female	—	34	100	56
	Total	—	63	216	119
Thames Valley	Male	—	8	59	80
	Female	—	4	36	51
	Total	—	12	95	131
Warwickshire	Male	—	3	1	24
	Female	—	—	4	13
	Total	—	3	5	37
West Mercia	Male	—	4	11	16
	Female	1	18	23	20
	Total	1	22	34	36
West Midlands	Male	2	69	83	90
	Female	4	45	60	45
	Total	6	114	143	135
West Yorkshire	Male	4	32	64	97
	Female	—	40	41	64
	Total	4	72	105	161
Wiltshire	Male	—	5	9	15
	Female	—	3	9	9
	Total	—	8	18	24

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2004[1] to 2007, broken down by police force area

Force	Sex	2004	2005	2006	2007
Dyfed-Powys	Male	—	6	5	9
	Female	—	12	4	11
	Total	—	18	9	20
Gwent	Male	—	9	27	37
	Female	—	11	23	34
	Total	—	20	50	71
North Wales	Male	1	20	41	29
	Female	—	38	42	34
	Total	1	58	83	63
South Wales	Male	—	70	67	28
	Female	—	53	50	25
	Total	—	123	117	53
England and Wales	Male	62	1006	1695	2006
	Female	51	1052	1500	1577
	Total	113	2,058	3,195	3,583

[1] This PND offence was added to the scheme on 1 November 2004.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) Southampton, (ii) Test Valley borough and (iii) the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last three years. [251098]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Centrally collected data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are currently available up to 31 December 2006 and are not compiled below CJS area level.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Hampshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area in 2004 was 100 and the number proven in court to have been breached for the first time during 2004 was 46. Equivalent data for 2005 and 2006 are: 112 issued, 56 breached and 66 issued, 67 breached respectively.

ASBOs became available from April 1999. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the anti-social behaviour units within police authorities. [251346]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Each local area is responsible for setting up and managing its own multi-agency team to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB). In doing so, it establishes its own priorities according to local needs. In some areas the lead agency is the police while in others it is the local authority. But all local agencies need to work together if anti-social-behaviour is to be tackled effectively and the police service has a key role to play.

The Government have provided practitioners with a toolkit of enforcement and support tools to tackle antisocial behaviour which they operate according to local priorities. And we know that they are using them. The latest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) survey of tools and powers shows that between October 2003 and September 2007, CDRPs have:

Issued more than 30,000 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Issued over 1,100 crack house closures.

Issued more than 2,000 parenting orders and 8,600 contracts

Made 12,675 antisocial behaviour orders (between October 2003 and December 2006; court data)

Three independent reports including the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006) confirmed that our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working.

Perceptions of levels of antisocial behaviour have fallen—16per cent. of people felt that levels of antisocial behaviour were high in 2006-07 compared to 21 per cent. in 2002-03.

Asylum

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Iraqi and *(b)* Syrian refugees were included in the resettlement quota agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; and how many candidates had been identified at the latest date for which figures are available. [252450]

Meg Hillier: Under the UK's agreement with UNHCR for the Gateway Protection programme, 500 Iraqi refugees will be resettled during the financial year 2008-09 and 500 during financial year 2009-10.

500 Iraqi refugees have been identified for resettlement under Gateway during 2008-09. No Iraqi refugees have been yet been identified for resettlement under Gateway during 2009-10.

The UK has no plans to resettle Syrian nationals under the resettlement quotas in either of the financial years 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of travellers through UK ports and airports she estimates will be covered by the e-Borders scheme by August 2012. [251685]

Mr. Woolas: e-Borders will capture 95 per cent. of passenger and crew movements in and out of the UK by December 2010, with further development of that capability throughout 2011-12 until full operating capability is reached in 2014.

Burglary: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of property crime was attributable to the misuse of class A drugs in Merseyside in each year since 1997. [251345]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No annual estimates are made of the levels of property crime attributable to the misuse of class A drugs in Merseyside.

Research evidence does indicate that a large proportion of acquisitive crime is related to drug use. Published research shows that arrestees who regularly use heroin or crack cocaine are far more likely to have committed acquisitive crimes in the last 12 months than those who do not.

Source:

Table 5.4 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07.

The estimated number of problem drug users (heroin and/or crack cocaine) for areas in Merseyside is in the range of:

	Number
Liverpool	5,675-7,541
Knowsley	1,351-1,858
Sefton	1,683-2,650
St. Helens	1,253-1,677
Wirral	3,179-4,439

The following tables provide the figures for the number of property crimes recorded by Merseyside police from 1997 to 2007-08.

Table 1: Property offences recorded by Merseyside police 1997

	Number
1997	112,732

Table 2: Property offences recorded by Merseyside police 1998-99 to 2001-02

	Number
1998-99	117,891
1999-2000	123,484
2000-01	117,396
2001-02	124,455

Table 3: Property offences recorded by Merseyside police 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Number
2002-03	128,655
2003-04	131,323
2004-05	125,763
2005-06	122,614
2006-07	114,124

Notes:

1. 'Property crime' comprises the following main offence groups: burglary; offences against vehicles; other theft offences; fraud and forgery; criminal damage.
2. Figures in table 2 are not directly comparable with that in table 1 as the offence coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99.
3. The data in table 3 takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Sources:

Estimates of the prevalence of heroin and/ or crack cocaine use—North West region:
http://www.nta.nhs.uk/areas/facts_and_figures/prevalence_data/docs/0607/North_West_Prevalence_data_0607doc.pdf
The Arrestee Survey 2003-06:
http://www. homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf

Civil Servants: Secondment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which external organisations her Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in her Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252233]

Mr. Woolas: The majority of training that fast stream civil service staff received is provided by the National School of Government. Detailed information on this, and the extent to which we have participated in provision of training for external organisations, is no[illegible]ld centrally and could be provided only at disproporti[illegible]st.

Crime Prevention

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to seek to achieve reductions in levels of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* vehicle crime and *(c)* violent crime since 2004. [251343]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's Crime Strategy "Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-11" published in 2007 outlines a refreshed approach to tackling crime which ensures that crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs)/community safety partnerships (CSPs), including the police, identify and tackle issues of local concern. This approach was further strengthened by the CDRP/CSP reform programme which requires these local partnerships to identify crime types and give sufficient weight to tackling them.

The Government have exceeded their PSA target 1 "To reduce crime by 15 per cent. and further in high crime areas by 2007-08" as measured by the British crime survey with a reduction of 18 per cent. from the 2002-03 baseline year.

With regards to the specific categories of crime:

(a) Burglary

We have taken forward work on priority concerns including work with prolific and other priority offenders; developing partnerships between the police and local authorities to improve the security of homes and businesses;

and raising awareness of security measures through campaigns such as the "Let's Keep Crime Down". The Home Secretary is also planning to chair a summit meeting of national organisations on 4 February 2009 to take forward new measures and support people in hard times.

(b) Vehicle crime

Along with domestic burglary, vehicle crime has been included within the definition of serious acquisitive crime, as part of our new set of PSAs and is included under national indicator 16 in the national indicator set for local area agreements and in PSA23 strand 2. ACPO's Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service has worked with police and other practitioners to address vehicle crime. Recorded crime statistics for offences against vehicles have fallen 39 per cent. since 2002-03 (which is the baseline year) compared with 2007-08.

(c) Violent crime

The Government's approach to tackling violent crime is outlined in the publication "An Action Plan for Tackling Violence" which details the Home Office's priorities with respect to serious violence including work on guns, gangs, knives, domestic and sexual violence. We have also taken forward the Tackling Violent Crime Programme, the Tackling Gangs Action Programme and the Tackling Knives Action Programme. New measures to tackle violent crime have also been enacted in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

Departmental Data Protection

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many electronic and computer files her Department and its agencies lost in transit in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [243125]

Mr. Woolas: Incidents of personal data losses are recorded centrally but the numbers of electronic and computer files contained within lost data is not recorded. To answer this question would fall into the disproportionate cost threshold.

The Home Office has publicised details of personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its Resource Accounts published in August 2008. In the first half of 2008-09 a notification was made to the Information Commissioner regarding the PA Consulting data loss incident.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which ICT projects her Department initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if she will make a statement. [251395]

Mr. Woolas: No ICT projects initiated in this Department have been abandoned by this Department before completion since 1997.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy of her Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if she will make a statement. [252023]

Mr. Woolas: Flexible working hours (FWH) or flexitime schemes operate widely in the Home Office where the nature of the work allows for it. The schemes give members of staff flexibility over the pattern of their working day. Most Home Office staff take advantage of these schemes which enable them to vary their lunch break.

The requirements of the Working Time Regulations in relation to excess hours worked should ensure that staff take at least the minimum lunch break each day and do not regularly work long hours.

Where members of staff who do not use flexible working schemes work outside of their normal contractual hours they may also take any excess hours worked as time off in lieu, or, where it is applicable and appropriate, and dependent on their grade, authorised overtime may be payable or a discretionary payment made.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252024]

Mr. Woolas: Responsibility for granting days off in lieu is delegated to local line management and information on the total number of days in lieu taken by staff in the Home Office and its agencies and NDPBs is therefore not held centrally. For this reason this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Under Influence

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breath tests were taken in each year since 1997; and how many accidents were caused by drunk drivers in each police authority in each of those years. [251340]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on breath tests conducted, broken down by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006 (latest available) are provided in the following table.

Data for 2007 are due to be published in spring 2009.

The Department for Transport publishes estimates on the number of drink-drive accidents where one or more of the motor vehicle drivers or riders involved were over the legal limit. These estimates are calculated on a national basis. Police force area estimates are not available.

The estimates are published as an article 3, entitled "Drinking and driving" in "Road Casualties Great Britain - Annual report 2007". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Library of the House and is also available at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071

Screening breath tests by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	16,000	19,700	19,200	15,800	15,400	15,100	24,500	27,300	21,900	15,800
Bedfordshire	6,000	5,300	2,900	3,300	4,200	6,200	6,600	7,800	6,700	3,100
Cambridgeshire	19,100	17,800	13,600	12,800	12,700	13,000	12,300	12,300	12,500	12,500
Cheshire	25,500	23,300	20,500	15,800	13,600	12,200	11,900	20,200	22,000	35,700
Cleveland	31,600	34,200	28,600	18,800	14,100	11,000	8,700	8,100	10,800	11,300
Cumbria	11,200	9,400	7,100	6,100	5,100	4,700	5,500	8,400	13,600	13,800
Derbyshire	34,500	35,700	49,200	52,000	42,100	37,900	32,600	31,000	17,700	16,000
Devon and Cornwall	15,200	15,700	14,700	13,000	13,500	12,600	10,900	10,700	10,400	13,600
Dorset	9,100	10,100	9,200	12,300	10,400	10,400	8,500	6,900	7,900	8,700
Durham	4,300	7,400	12,700	15,300	16,300	9,500	7,600	6,100	7,700	6,900
Essex	28,700	28,400	24,100	27,200	18,900	16,100	15,500	25,300	34,200	28,400
Gloucestershire	9,400	9,300	8,300	8,200	9,600	9,300	8,600	7,100	9,100	10,100
Greater Manchester	35,500	31,200	21,500	27,300	23,900	23,200	20,900	19,900	18,900	18,100
Hampshire	25,000	27,300	31,600	35,200	35,200	35,200	37,500	38,400	38,300	34,800
Hertfordshire	7,400	8,100	7,000	6,000	5,500	4,300	4,000	7,300	11,900	12,700
Humberside	6,500	8,300	8,100	9,400	7,500	8,700	6,500	5,600	5,700	10,000
Kent	9,100	27,500	32,700	32,200	32,200	34,200	24,600	32,000	31,200	31,700
Lancashire	21,300	20,300	19,100	15,500	10,000	10,600	8,000	10,200	13,000	16,400
Leicestershire	10,200	20,200	21,100	18,800	14,900	14,500	12,000	15,800	14,400	10,000
Lincolnshire	20,200	25,900	21,000	12,100	13,600	9,000	12,100	11,300	11,400	10,600
London, City of	3,600	3,300	1,700	1,100	1,100	1,400	1,200	700	1,100	1,600
Merseyside	14,800	18,700	18,600	12,800	7,200	7,000	7,700	5,000	8,000	10,600
Metropolitan Police	137,900	111,400	99,800	93,800	65,100	57,200	56,000	61,500	67,500	65,000
Norfolk	9,200	12,400	11,600	9,100	9,100	5,300	4,000	4,800	10,400	7,800
North Yorkshire	10,500	9,900	8,100	6,700	7,400	7,300	8,300	8,600	9,300	10,100
Northamptonshire	7,100	4,700	5,300	5,800	4,500	3,300	3,100	3,200	5,200	4,300
Northumbria	11,900	12,200	12,500	12,700	12,400	11,800	11,100	9,800	9,300	7,900
Nottinghamshire	11,500	8,900	8,400	8,400	7,700	5,800	7,100	8,200	7,900	7,200
South Yorkshire	14,200	12,600	16,100	19,200	18,000	14,400	12,100	6,500	13,700	10,300
Staffordshire	13,800	15,400	10,100	7,700	4,700	5,300	5,100	13,700	14,300	12,700
Suffolk	12,300	15,600	15,100	9,200	8,600	8,900	11,600	10,600	8,900	9,100
Surrey	11,200	11,400	11,700	12,400	13,300	7,500	8,900	9,500	9,600	8,300
Sussex	26,100	17,400	17,900	20,800	21,800	17,300	17,200	15,200	18,000	18,700
Thames Valley	33,100	34,200	30,300	30,800	26,200	25,300	16,000	15,400	14,600	13,500
Warwickshire	8,700	8,700	8,600	7,100	5,800	5,100	5,800	5,500	4,800	4,500
West Mercia	18,300	19,100	12,300	8,900	9,100	8,200	6,300	8,000	8,800	11,300
West Midlands	22,600	24,100	21,300	16,200	12,200	10,500	11,000	6,600	6,900	6,200
West Yorkshire	23,300	22,900	18,800	18,300	17,200	16,700	14,200	16,900	15,400	18,000
Wiltshire	7,400	7,100	6,800	6,500	5,900	5,900	5,900	7,400	7,200	8,700
Dyfed-Powys	8,500	9,200	9,900	7,400	7,000	7,300	6,000	6,700	6,900	7,300
Gwent	12,200	11,200	10,600	10,100	6,400	3,800	2,800	1,600	2,000	1,700
North Wales	13,300	15,200	15,900	15,000	15,100	19,600	17,300	24,200	21,800	19,600
South Wales	23,100	24,900	20,700	17,800	19,300	17,500	16,900	16,700	16,300	17,100
England and Wales[2]	800,300	815,500	764,500	714,800	623,900	570,200	534,300	578,000	607,400	601,600

[1] Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2006 and the number of court proceedings for drink-driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 and 2005.

[2] Figures may not add up to total for England and Wales due to rounding.

Entry Clearances: Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of processing visa applications has been in each of the last five years. [252308]

Mr. Woolas: The total costs attributed to the UK's visa processing operation in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£
2003-04	120,876,425
2004-05	140,121,081
2005-06	187,549,885
2006-07	201,743,883
2007-08	310,116,581

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have received in fees for visa applications in each of the last five years. [252318]

Mr. Woolas: The total amount received in fees for visa applications in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£
2003-04	111,922,616
2004-05	127,382,801
2005-06	163,361,565
2006-07	190,499,306
2007-08	273,577,329

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have received in fees for unsuccessful visa applications in each of the last five years. [252319]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency International Group does not hold accurate information to answer this question. In order to provide an answer, the amounts would have to be estimated and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The visa refusal rate is approximately 20 per cent. globally, though this is spread across the various categories of visa, with different fees attaching to each.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much on average it has cost her Department to manage a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since 2006. [251760]

Mr. Woolas: The average cost of managing Freedom of Information requests is not routinely calculated by the Home Office and the information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

An assessment of the cost of Freedom of Information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics 2006 report "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act". A copy of this report is available in the House of Commons Library.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 136-8W, on genetics: databases, how many and what proportion of DNA samples have been removed from the national DNA database and destroyed following a request to do so from the person from whom the DNA was taken in each month since January 2008, broken down by police authority area; and if she will make a statement. [251168]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008, 272 subject profile records were deleted from the NDNAD under the Exceptional Case Procedure (i.e. following a request to the chief officer of the responsible force from the person concerned). This covers records loaded by England and Wales forces only.

The following tables show the number of records deleted from the NDNAD under the exceptional case procedure for each month from January 2008 to December 2008, broken down by police force area. The total number of profiles held on the NDNAD for England and Wales forces at the end of 2007 and 2008 is also shown.

As an estimated 13.3 per cent. of profiles are replicates, the number of individuals on the NDNAD is approximately 13.3 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

	2008					
Force	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Avon and Somerset	0	5	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
British Transport	0	0	0	0	2	0
Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	0	1	1	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	0	3
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	2
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	4
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dorset	0	1	0	0	0	2
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	1	0	1
Essex	2	0	1	0	3	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hertfordshire	0	7	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	4	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2008					
Force	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan	0	5	2	2	2	2
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	2
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	1	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	1	1	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	1
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	5	0	2	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suffolk	1	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	2	0	0	1
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	2	0	0
West Mercia	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	2	0	4	1	2
West Yorkshire	1	2	0	0	1	1
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of profiles removed under the exceptional case procedure January to December 2008	6	31	6	16	16	26

Force	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	0	4	5	1	1	0	16
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
British Transport	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
Cumbria	0	0	2	1	1	0	6
Derbyshire	1	0	1	1	1	1	9
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Durham	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Essex	0	2	3	0	0	0	11
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	2	0	0	3	1	6
Gwent	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Hampshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Hertfordshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	2	5	4	1	12
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan	2	9	3	0	2	9	38
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
North Wales	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
North Yorkshire	0	2	2	1	0	1	7
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
Northumbria	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
South Wales	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
South Yorkshire	2	4	1	22	9	4	49
Staffordshire	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Surrey	0	0	1	2	1	0	7
Sussex	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Thames Valley	0	1	0	1	1	0	4

Force	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*Total*
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
West Midlands	5	1	5	1	2	1	24
West Yorkshire	0	1	1	0	2	0	9
Wiltshire	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Total number of profiles removed under the exceptional case procedure January to December 2008	14	31	29	41	33	23	272
Total number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD as at 31 December 2007							4,617,737
Total number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD as at 31 December 2008							5,129,978

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Regulation

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the Security Industry Authority on its feasibility study of options for the regulation of vehicle immobilisation companies operating on private property. [252982]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1489W, to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech).

Internet: Standards

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are to introduce a content filtering scheme for the internet. [241568]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 December 2008]*: The Home Office and OFCOM have developed a Kitemark in partnership with BSI, which will set a standard for filtering software which is aimed at protecting children online.

The Home Office is currently working with industry with regards to the implementation of the Kitemark. The Home Office looks forward to industry putting forward their products for testing the Kitemark.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answers of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2253W, to questions 226398 and 226400 on entry clearances: biometrics, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [241491]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary wrote to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield on 19 January 2009.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken in co-operation with its international counterparts to encourage the closure of overseas-hosted websites which contain images of child abuse. [251831]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The UK is firmly behind efforts to spread the use of blocking internationally, but that it is only one in a whole range of tactics that need to be deployed to tackle the issue of child sexual abuse where technology is a factor. There is a range of activity that either the UK leads, or is part of, across a spectrum of international political and law enforcement arenas which all work towards: the identification and safeguarding of victims of sexual abuse; locating and apprehending the perpetrators behind their abuse; and tackling those who profit from the sale or distribution of the images from that abuse.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to ensure that 100 per cent. of internet service providers demonstrate their use of filters against child pornography; what timetable she has set for achieving this objective; and if she will make a statement. [250875]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2006 the Government stated that they wished to see 100 per cent. of consumer broadband connections covered by blocking, which include child pornography, by the end of 2007. Currently in the UK 95 per cent. of consumer broadband connections are covered by blocking. The Government are currently looking at ways to progress the final 5 per cent.

Sex Offender Register

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals there were on the Sex Offender Register in each of the last five years. [252350]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of registered sex offenders in each of the last five years is represented in the following table, as reported in the annual MAPPA reports.

	Number of registered sex offenders
2003-04	24,572
2004-05	28,994
2005-06	29,983
2006-07	30,416
2007-08	31,392

Note:

Figures as recorded in the National Statistics for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements annual reports 2007-08

Speed Limits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what devices are used by police forces to measure the speed of motor vehicles. [253003]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The enforcement of the law on speeding and the use of devices to assist such enforcement is an operational matter for the police. The Home Secretary type approves certain speed measurement devices that have satisfied rigorous scientific and operational tests to prove their accuracy and reliability.

Evidence from such devices is then admissible in court without the need for corroboration. Information on devices that are currently type approved is given on the HO police website:

> http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and which police forces use hidden speed enforcement cameras; and how many are planning to use such cameras in the next two years. [253006]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Enforcement of the law on speeding and how speed cameras are used to assist with this is an operational matter for the police. They will decide what methods are most appropriate and effective in different circumstances to deter this dangerous and criminal behaviour and detect those who engage in it.

UK Border Agency

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the efficiency of caseworkers in the UK Border Agency in terms of numbers of cases dealt with is monitored. [252120]

Mr. Woolas: As part of developing the annual business plans, performance targets and budgets are set as a joint process taking account of staff productivity. Performance and staffing are then monitored throughout the year as part of normal management reviews from team to board level.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent caseworkers there are in the UK Border Agency. [252121]

Mr. Woolas: The number of full-time equivalent caseworkers in the UK Border Agency is as follows:

> 7770 full-time equivalents engaged in core casework processes. These are defined as operational staff involved in making decisions on migration, visa, asylum or criminal case applications.
>
> 4600 full-time equivalents engaged in processes that support the decision making. These are staff undertaking tasks allied to the core casework process, for example: call centres, processing payments, registering applications, customer services, MP's correspondence, Freedom of Information Requests, enforcing decisions. These are teams that operate around registering and concluding aspects of dealing with applications.

These figures include posts abroad in International Group, previously known as UK Visa and then part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual cases are with caseworkers at the UK Border Agency. [252122]

Mr. Woolas: We do not routinely collect this information in this way for all cases across all workstreams, we have therefore been unable to produce the answer at present. I will write to my hon. Friend and place a copy in the Library of the House.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a reply to be sent to the letter of 23 October 2008 to the UK Border Agency on behalf of Rizwan Aslam (Home Office Reference Number A1264393). [249920]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency responded to the letter from my right hon. Friend on 27 January 2009.

Vetting

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the Criminal Records Bureau to process an application for clearance is; and if she will make a statement. [252689]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 317-18W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Baby P

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the members were of the panel for the serious case review for the child known as Baby P. [248755]

Beverley Hughes: The membership of this serious case review panel is available on Haringey council's website.

Care Proceedings

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for care proceedings have been made since 1 November 2008; and how many were made in the equivalent period 12 months earlier. [252643]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 in November and December 2008 and November and December 2007 are given in the table. Public law cases are those brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC). Figures relate to the number of children that are subject to each application, are for England and Wales, and have been rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that 2008 figures are provisional.

Comparisons between short time periods (one or two months) as presented in the following table should be made with caution as these figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods.

Number of Public Law Care and Supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989—England and Wales, County Courts and Family Proceedings Courts

	Family proceedings courts[1]	*County courts[2]*	*Total*
November and December 2007	1,790	380	2,170
November and December 2008	2,360	390	2,750

[1] There have been data quality issues with figures for Family Proceedings Courts. A new method of collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data.

[2] Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the Family Proceedings Court to the County Court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the County Court thus inflating the reported number of new applications through double counting (see Masson et al 2008).

Source:

HMCS FamilyMan and manual returns, as at January 2009

Children in Care: Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care in each local authority area have had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20 and *(e)* 30 foster placements.[1] [251849]

Beverley Hughes: Information showing the number of children in care in each local authority that have had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20 and *(e)* 30 foster placements in England during the year ending 31 March 2008 is shown in the following table.

Number of looked after children by number of foster placements[1], years ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

	Number of placements				
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*
England	4000	1400	170	30	0
North East	50	40	10	0	0
Darlington	15	0	0	0	0
Durham	10	10	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	10	10	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	5	5	0	0	0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	0	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	10	10	10	0	0
North West	610	140	10	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen	15	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	20	5	0	0	0
Bolton	40	15	0	0	0
Bury	30	5	0	0	0
Cheshire	50	20	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Halton	0	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	25	15	10	0	0
Lancashire	130	10	0	0	0
Liverpool	60	5	0	0	0
Manchester	80	15	0	0	0
Oldham	—	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	20	0	0	0	0
Salford	—	0	0	0	0
Sefton	10	10	0	0	0
St. Helens	10	0	0	0	0
Stockport	10	5	0	0	0
Tameside	20	10	0	0	0
Trafford	20	0	0	0	0
Warrington	35	5	0	0	0
Wigan	10	0	0	0	0
Wirral	35	15	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	570	220	30	0	0
Barnsley	45	0	0	0	0
Bradford	45	5	0	0	0
Calderdale	5	5	0	0	0
Doncaster	65	35	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	35	10	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	65	20	0	0	0
Kirklees	30	0	0	0	0
Leeds	130	80	30	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	35	35	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	—	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	40	5	0	0	0
Rotherham	10	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	15	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	20	5	0	0	0
York	25	15	0	0	0
East Midlands	310	90	0	0	0
Derby	25	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	55	30	0	0	0
Leicester	10	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	25	5	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	60	30	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	75	10	0	0	0
Nottingham	20	5	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	45	5	0	0	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	740	160	30	0	0
Birmingham	180	10	0	0	0
Coventry	30	0	0	0	0
Dudley	35	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	5	5	0	0	0
Sandwell	20	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	15	10	0	0	0
Solihull	20	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	125	60	30	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	35	10	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	—	0	0	0	0
Walsall	40	5	0	0	0
Warwickshire	140	50	0	0	0

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1. *[Official Report, 12 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 18MC.]*

Number of looked after children by number of foster placements[1], years ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

	Number of placements				
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*
Wolverhampton	35	5	0	0	0
Worcestershire	55	5	0	0	0
East of England	460	70	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	15	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	20	5	0	0	0
Essex	120	15	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	45	0	0	0	0
Luton	40	5	0	0	0
Norfolk	55	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	45	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	45	25	0	0	0
Suffolk	45	5	0	0	0
Thurrock	25	5	0	0	0
London	800	270	30	0	0
Inner London	350	85	20	0	0
Camden	30	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	20	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	0	0	0	0
Haringey	25	5	0	0	0
Islington	50	20	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	35	30	20	0	0
Lambeth	35	10	0	0	0
Lewisham	15	0	0	0	0
Newham	70	15	0	0	0
Southwark	20	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	25	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	15	0	0	0	0
Westminster	—	0	0	0	0
Outer London	450	190	10	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	65	40	0	0	0
Barnet	10	0	0	0	0
Bexley	30	10	0	0	0
Brent	60	15	0	0	0
Bromley	10	0	0	0	0
Croydon	30	20	0	0	0
Ealing	10	0	0	0	0
Enfield	20	5	0	0	0
Greenwich	20	5	0	0	0
Harrow	—	0	0	0	0
Havering	45	25	0	0	0
Hillingdon	40	25	0	0	0
Hounslow	20	5	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	15	15	0	0	0
Merton	—	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	10	5	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	10	5	0	0	0
Sutton	30	15	15	0	0
Waltham Forest	20	0	0	0	0
South East	790	270	30	0	0
Bracknell Forest	—	0	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	55	20	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	45	10	0	0	0
Hampshire	205	90	15	0	0
Isle of Wight	25	5	0	0	0
Kent	185	70	15	0	0
Medway Towns	30	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	50	30	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	15	10	0	0	0
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	25	0	0	0	0
Slough	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	45	30	0	0	0
Surrey	30	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	—	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	45	5	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	15	0	0	0	0
South West	510	170	30	30	0
Bath and North East Somerset	15	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	—	0	0	0	0
Bristol, City of	85	35	0	0	0
Cornwall	60	30	25	25	0
Devon	25	5	0	0	0
Dorset	25	5	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	50	5	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	35	15	0	0	0
Plymouth	60	20	0	0	0
Poole	10	5	0	0	0
Somerset	30	10	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	20	0	0	0	0
Swindon	15	0	0	0	0
Torbay	50	30	0	0	0
Wiltshire	25	0	0	0	0

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short—term placements.

Source:
SSDA903

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare settings have closed in each quarter of the last five years. [249773]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number and percentage of child care providers that have opened and closed[1]: position as at each quarter—England

	2003/04						2004/05					
	Childminders		Full day care		Out of school day care[2]		Childminders		Full day care		Out of school day care[2]	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
April to June												
Opened	4,300	6.3	500	5.2	500	6.0	3,300	4.5	800	7.5	600	6.2
Closed	2,500	3.6	200	2.0	200	2.7	3,000	4.1	300	2.9	400	4.3
July to September												
Opened	4,000	5.7	700	7.1	800	9.7	3,600	5.0	900	7.5	900	10.1
Closed	3,800	5.5	300	2.7	400	4.5	4,400	6.1	500	4.7	600	6.6
October to December												
Opened	4,000	5.7	500	4.9	500	6.0	3,000	4.1	600	4.7	500	5.6
Closed	2,200	3.1	200	2.1	200	2.0	3,800	5.3	500	3.9	600	6.0
January to March												
Opened	4,000	5.5	800	7.4	600	6.4	3,200	4.6	600	4.8	600	6.0
Closed	3,600	5.0	400	3.7	400	4.8	4,000	5.7	400	3.6	600	6.1
Total												
Opened	16.300	22.5	2,500	22.6	2,400	25.9	13,100	18.6	2,800	23.3	2,600	27.3
Closed	12,100	16.7	1,100	9.7	1,200	13.0	15,300	21.8	1,800	14.5	2,200	22.6

	2005/06						2006/07					
	Childminders		Full day care		Out of school day care[2]		Childminders		Full day care		Out of school day care[2]	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
April to June												
Opened	3,200	4.7	500	4.4	500	5.3	2,700	3.8	500	3.9	500	4.5
Closed	2,500	3.6	300	1.7	300	2.5	2,700	3.8	300	2.4	400	4.0
July to September												
Opened	3,100	4.4	700	5.3	800	7.8	3,100	4.3	700	5.1	700	6.5
Closed	3,000	3.8	400	3.6	500	5.2	3,400	4.8	400	3.0	600	5.3
October to December												
Opened	2,700	3.8	500	4.1	500	4.5	3,000	4.2	500	4.0	500	4.6
Closed	2,300	3.2	300	2.3	300	3.3	2,700	3.8	400	2.7	400	4.1
January to March												
Opened	2,900	4.0	600	4.6	500	5.2	2,500	3.5	500	3.3	400	4.0
Closed	2,800	3.8	300	2.6	400	3.7	4,100	5.7	400	3.0	600	5.2
Total												
Opened	11,900	16.6	2,300	17.3	2,300	21.6	11,200	16.1	2,200	15.9	2,100	19.7
Closed	10,500	14.7	1,300	10.1	1,500	14.6	12,900	18.5	1,500	10.8	2,000	18.7

	2007/08					
	Childminders		Full day care		Out of school day care[2]	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
April to June						
Opened	2,400	3.4	400	3.3	500	4.6
Closed	4,000	5.7	400	2.7	400	4.2
July to September						
Opened	2,700	4.0	600	4.5	700	6.1
Closed	3,600	5.3	500	3.3	500	4.7

	2007-08					
	Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care*[2]	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
October to December						
Opened	2,100	3.1	500	3.7	400	4.1
Closed	3,700	5.6	400	3.2	500	4.7
January to March						
Opened	2,200	3.3	600	3.9	400	4.2
Closed	3,300	5.0	400	2.9	500	4.5
Total						
Opened	9,300	14.5	2,100	15.0	2,000	19.0
Closed	14,600	22.6	1,700	11.8	1,900	18.1

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Out of school day care figures may not include services in extended schools as Ofsted data only include providers that have to register separately.

Source:
Ofsted

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the oral answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report, columns* 10-11, on child abuse, what steps his Department is taking to encourage parents and others who provide childcare to use non-physical means of modifying a child's behaviour. [253615]

Beverley Hughes: Our approach is to provide parents with positive support and guidance to help them manage their children's behaviour more effectively. This includes making parenting classes more widely available to help give parents the confidence to use other, better means of disciplining their children than physical punishment. This approach works with parents and not against them. We are pleased that parents' attitudes towards smacking have been changing over time; this was the finding of the parental survey conducted in 2007 as part of the review of section 58 of the Children Act 2004.

Physical punishment is banned in schools and in registered childcare settings, including daycare and childminding. It is also banned in children's homes and local authority foster care.

Children: Internet

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department has taken to encourage internet service providers to practise greater self-regulation in the area of pro-anorexia or pro-bulimia websites; [246090]

(2) what recent steps his Department has taken to promote awareness among parents of the dangers of pro-anorexia and pro-bulimia websites; [246091]

(3) what recent meetings his Department has had with internet service providers regarding websites which are pro-anorexia or pro-bulimia. [246092]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry [holding answer 12 January 2009]: We take the issue of safety on the internet very seriously. That is why we asked Dr. Tanya Byron to lead an independent review on potential risks online and in video games—and we have fully accepted all her recommendations, including those on the needs for vulnerable groups. These include:

encouraging content hosts and search providers work with the relevant charities to make sure that advertisements with links to support services are displayed whenever users discuss or search for information about harmful behaviours;

encouraging content hosts to work with charities to improve moderation practices around discussions about harmful behaviours; and

targeted communications to raise awareness of internet content issues amongst those who work with vulnerable children and young people.

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety, a multi stakeholder forum, was launched in September 2008 to implement the Byron recommendations. Its work will lead to the publication of a Child Internet Safety Strategy later this year that will contain specific measures to make the internet a safer place.

We are also working with the Department of Health to implement the recommendations of the report of the independent review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, 'Children and Young People in Mind', published on 18 November. We have set up a National Advisory Council for children's mental health and psychological wellbeing to advise us on implementing the recommendations of the independent review of CAMHS final report and hold us to account on progress. Better access to specialist services for children, young people and families is a priority area for the implementation of the CAMHS review's recommendations.

In addition, the Department of Health announced in October 2008 a £170 million expansion of psychological therapies to provide better support for people with common mental health problems such as eating disorders.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the viability of children's centres in circumstances where local authorities comply with guidance issued by his Department that such centres become financially self-sustaining by 2011. [251043]

Beverley Hughes: There is no requirement that Sure Start Children's Centres become self-sustaining by 2011. Integrated early learning and day care, which is a key part of the offer in children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas and optional elsewhere, is the only service which is intended to become self-sustaining. The Department's Phase 3 Sure Start Children's Centres planning and delivery guidance states that this is to run on business lines once it is established. Local authorities are accountable, through their sufficiency duties, to ensure there is appropriate provision to meet local needs.

Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school per pupil funding is in each local authority area in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [249932]

Jim Knight: The per pupil revenue funding figures for each local authority for 2008-09 are shown in the following table. Since 2006-07, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil and is distributed from central government to local government, a primary/secondary split on a central to local government basis is not available. The following figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19 and are provided in cash terms:

2008-09 DSG plus grants per pupil

	£
England	4,690
Barking and Dagenham	5,270
Barnet	5,200
Barnsley	4,480
Bath and North East Somerset	4,430
Bedfordshire	4,410
Bexley	4,730
Birmingham	5,240
Blackburn with Darwen	5,040
Blackpool	4,620
Bolton	4,600
Bournemouth	4,300
Bracknell Forest	4,500
Bradford	4,870
Brent	5,700
Brighton and Hove	4,660
Bristol, City of	5,050
Bromley	4,590
Buckinghamshire	4,510
Bury	4,430
Calderdale	4,570
Cambridgeshire	4,280
Camden	6,910
Cheshire	4,430
Cornwall	4,340
Coventry	4,790
Croydon	4,910
Cumbria	4,430
Darlington	4,550
Derby	4,660
Derbyshire	4,450
Devon	4,280
Doncaster	4,630
Dorset	4,350
Dudley	4,510
Durham	4,730
Ealing	5,620
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,270
East Sussex	4,560
Enfield	5,100
Essex	4,450
Gateshead	4,740
Gloucestershire	4,370
Greenwich	6,260
Hackney	7,250
Halton	4,960
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,490
Hampshire	4,320
Haringey	5,940
Harrow	5,170
Hartlepool	4,830
Havering	4,670
Herefordshire	4,320
Hertfordshire	4,500
Hillingdon	4,990
Hounslow	5,380
Isle of Wight	4,660
Islington	6,660
Kensington and Chelsea	6,530
Kent	4,520
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	4,870
Kingston upon Thames	4,850
Kirklees	4,650
Knowsley	5,080
Lambeth	6,780
Lancashire	4,520
Leeds	4,620
Leicester	4,860
Leicestershire	4,150
Lewisham	6,330
Lincolnshire	4,410
Liverpool	5,140
Luton	4,960
Manchester	5,440
Medway	4,600
Merton	5,010
Middlesbrough	4,960
Milton Keynes	4,710
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,840
Newham	5,970
Norfolk	4,410
North East Lincolnshire	4,850
North Lincolnshire	4,420
North Somerset	4,310
North Tyneside	4,520
North Yorkshire	4,440
Northamptonshire	4,360
Northumberland	4,400
Nottingham	5,330
Nottinghamshire	4,390
Oldham	4,820
Oxfordshire	4,410
Peterborough	4,790
Plymouth	4,540
Poole	4,250
Portsmouth	4,650
Reading	4,870
Redbridge	4,820
Redcar and Cleveland	4,750
Richmond upon Thames	4,750
Rochdale	4,900
Rotherham	4,730

2008-09 DSG plus grants per pupil

	£
Rutland	4,400
Salford	5,050
Sandwell	4,890
Sefton	4,590
Sheffield	4,650
Shropshire	4,240
Slough	5,130
Solihull	4,270
Somerset	4,350
South Gloucestershire	4,150
South Tyneside	4,910
Southampton	4,750
Southend-on-Sea	4,620
Southwark	6,650
St. Helens	4,640
Staffordshire	4,290
Stockport	4,410
Stockton-on-Tees	4,620
Stoke-on-Trent	4,800
Suffolk	4,320
Sunderland	4,680
Surrey	4,450
Sutton	4,810
Swindon	4,310
Tameside	4,560
Telford and Wrekin	4,510
Thurrock	4,700
Torbay	4,460
Tower Hamlets	7,350
Trafford	4,400
Wakefield	4,550
Walsall	4,700
Waltham Forest	5,330
Wandsworth	5,980
Warrington	4,320
Warwickshire	4,320
West Berkshire	4,570
West Sussex	4,370
Westminster	6,260
Wigan	4,510
Wiltshire	4,250
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,630
Wirral	4,630
Wokingham	4,360
Wolverhampton	4,940
Worcestershire	4,300
York	4,360

Notes:

1. Price base: Cash

2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10

English Language: Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children. Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the standard of English spoken by staff in childcare settings. [251335]

Beverley Hughes: No recent assessment has been made. The framework for the early years foundation Stage (EYFS) introduced in September 2008 requires staff to have the right language skills to support children from birth to five to develop communication skills in English and to help ensure that their welfare needs are protected. The requirements for providers working with older children set proportions for the number of staff required to hold level 2 and 3 qualifications in an area of work relevant to child care (and the common core skills for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register). As part of the requirements candidates need to demonstrate competence in English. Ofsted inspects providers against these requirements. The requirements on settings are designed to help ensure effective standards of communication in settings and to enable parents to choose providers who also speak their home language.

GCE A-level: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of free school meals pupils were entered for A-levels in 2008. [251311]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information on pupils entered for GCE/VCE A/AS-level identified by eligibility for free school meals is contained within table 13 in the "Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08" SFR published in November 2008.

This shows that the number of pupils aged 16-18 in maintained schools who were entered for GCE/VCE A/AS-levels in 2008 was 147,394. Of these, 5,049 pupils were eligible for free school meals, a proportion of 3.4 per cent. A further 0.6 per cent. were unclassified.

These figures do not cover pupils in sixth form colleges.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many maintained, mainstream schools *(a)* 75 per cent. or more and *(b)* 90 per cent. or more of pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in the latest year for which figures are available. [243851]

Jim Knight: In 35 maintained mainstream schools 75 per cent. or more of the pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE and equivalents grades higher than a D in 2006/07.

In three schools 90 per cent. or more of the pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE and equivalents grades higher than a D in 2006/07.

Of the 76,568 pupils eligible for FSM attending maintained secondary schools who took any GCSE and equivalents in 2006/07, 30,881 (40.3 per cent.) achieved the equivalent of at least one pass at grade D.

These figures relate to GCSE and equivalent and based on pupils at the end of KS4 in all maintained schools.

Only schools with 10 or more pupils are included in the answer.

Information and Communications Technology

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards the targets for e-inclusion set by the Riga Ministerial Declaration in June 2006. [248740]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The Riga Declaration set the target that, to convincingly address e-Inclusion, the differences in

Internet usage between current average use by the EU population and use by older people, people with disabilities, women, lower education groups, unemployed and "less-developed" regions should be reduced to a half from 2005 to 2010.

The European Commission is monitoring progress against the targets for all EU member states, publishing the first baseline analysis based on 2006 data 'Measuring progress in e-Inclusion—Riga Dashboard' in 2007 which can be found on the internet at

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/docs/i2010_initiative/rigadashboard.doc

Member states are due to make their first progress report to the European Commissions High Level adhoc e-Inclusion Group by summer 2009.

The following table from recently published independent UK research as a proxy suggests progress in the UK on inclusion as follows:

Proxy data based in Oxford Internet Institute surveys

		Percentage
Some of the Riga Target Groups	*Regular internet use 2005*	*Regular internet use 2007*
Average use - Population	60	67
aged 55-64	53	58
aged 65-74	31	37
Women	57	65
Rural	60	66
Unemployed	46	48
Inactive (retired)	30	31

Languages: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers with a language specialism in Mandarin Chinese qualified in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [249231]

Jim Knight: Data relating to the language specialisms of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees are not collected centrally.

In 2006/07 there were three postgraduate ITT trainees who had an undergraduate degree in Chinese Studies.

There are currently no ITT courses which specialise in Mandarin only.

Nurseries: Vacancies

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time vacancies there were in local authority maintained nurseries in each year since 1997; and what the rate of such full-time vacancies was in each of those years. [253623]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers survey collects information on the number of childcare places in maintained nursery schools in England. The following data in table 1 are from the 2007 and 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers surveys. The information is not available for years preceding 2006. Table 1 shows the number and proportion of vacancies of childcare places in nursery schools in 2007 and 2006.

Table 1: Number and proportion of vacancies in nursery schools

	Nursery schools		
	Total number of places	*Number of vacancies*	*Proportion of vacancies (percentage)*
2007	28,400	1,400	5
2006	28,100	2,000	7

Offences Against Children: Databases

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications to List 99 there were in each of the last five years. [250607]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* The number of notifications to List 99 in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Notifications
2004	1,362
2005	2,092
2006	2,784
2007	4,265
2008	8,728

When employers in the education sector have ceased to use the services of a person because they consider that person is unsuitable to work with children, or they would have ceased to use the person's services where the person has left their employment, they are required to refer information to the Department. The police also refer to the Department cautions and convictions for those who have been working in educational establishments in accordance with Home Office Circular 6/2006 (The Notifiable Occupations Scheme).

In addition, regulations which came into force on 28 February 2007 extended the range of offences which result in automatic inclusion on List 99. These amended regulations include cautions as well as convictions for sexual offences against children and other very serious offences against adults, regardless of whether the individuals concerned have ever been in employment in the education and children's work force. The Department is notified of relevant offences by the police. The vast majority of the increase in the total number of notifications is as a result of the implementation of these regulations.

Pupil Exclusions: Primary Education

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children between the ages of four and 11 years were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* suspended more than once from school in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [249980]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time in the school year 2003/04. However these data are not sufficiently reliable to provide the requested information.

In 2005-06 the method of data collection changed and information was collected from secondary schools only. We have consequently provided information for the school years 2004/05 and 2006/07, the only years for which comparable figures are available.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] [3] pupils aged four to 11 receiving fixed period exclusions[4] 2006/07

	Number of pupils with one episode of fixed period exclusion	*As a percentage of the school population[5]*	*Number of pupils with two or more episodes of fixed period exclusion*	*As a percentage of the school population[6]*
West Chelmsford	50	0.57	50	0.48
Essex	820	0.68	560	0.47
England	29,410	0.66	18,690	0.42

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils aged as at 31 August 2006.
[5] The number of pupils with a fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
[6] The number of pupils with two or more fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
Source:
School census

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] pupils aged four to 11 receiving fixed period exclusions[3] 2004/05

	Number of pupils with one episode of fixed period exclusion	*As a percentage of the school population[4]*	*Number of pupils with two or more episodes of fixed period exclusion*	*As a percentage of the school population[5]*
West Chelmsford	44	0.52	32	0.38
Essex	846	0.77	502	0.46
England	29,815	0.74	17,875	0.44

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained primary, secondary and special schools.
[3] Pupils aged as at 31 August 2004.
[4] The number of pupils with a fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2005, excluding dual registrations.
[5] The number of pupils with two or more fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2005, excluding dual registrations.
Source:
Termly Exclusions survey

Schools: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what national challenge schools are in or near the principal seaside towns of England. [244451]

Jim Knight: A list of such schools below 30 per cent. 5 A*-C including English and maths (and therefore within the National Challenge) is provided as follows. There are 39 such schools in or near the principal seaside towns of England. In addition, we are working with local authorities to provide support for some schools which are above the floor target in order to secure or consolidate their performance.

LA	*Town*	*School name*	*Percentage 5+A*-C including English and mathematics*
North Somerset	Weston-super-mare	Wyvern Community School	23
North Yorkshire	Scarborough	George Pindar Community Sports College	28
Dorset	Greater Bournemouth	The Grange School	26
Poole	Poole	Rossmore Community College	13
Poole	Poole	Ashdown Technology College	27
Bournemouth	Greater Bournemouth	Kings High School	24
Bournemouth	Greater Bournemouth	Oakmead College of Technology	28
East Sussex	Hastings	Hillcrest School	16
East Sussex	Hastings	The Grove	12
East Sussex	Eastbourne	Eastbourne Technology College	23
East Sussex	Hastings	William Parker Sports College	25
Brighton and Hove	Greater Brighton	Falmer High School	19
Brighton and Hove	Greater Brighton	Portslade Community College	29
Brighton and Hove	Greater Brighton	Patcham High School	28
Torbay	Torbay	Torquay Community College	21
Torbay	Torbay	Paignton Community and Sports College	29
Essex	Clacton-on-Sea	Colbayns High School	29
Essex	Clacton-on-Sea	Bishop's Park	8
Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea	Chase High School	18
Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea	Futures College	25
Kent	Whitstable/Herne Bay	The Community College Whitstable	17
Kent	Whitstable/Herne Bay	King Ethelbert School	14
Kent	Thanet	Ellington School for Girls	28
Kent	Thanet	The Hereson School	23
Kent	Thanet	Hartsdown Technology College	20
Kent	Thanet	St. George's Church of England Foundation School	21

LA	*Town*	*School name*	*Percentage 5+A*-C including English and mathematics*
Kent	Folkestone/Hythe	Pent Valley School	27
Kent	Folkestone/Hythe	Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	27
Kent	Thanet	The Marlowe Academy	13
Kent	Folkestone/Hythe	Folkestone Academy	14
Lancashire	Greater Blackpool	Fleetwood Sports College	23
Blackpool	Greater Blackpool	Bispham High School—an Arts College	29
Blackpool	Greater Blackpool	Beacon Hill High School Business and Enterprise College	18
Blackpool	Greater Blackpool	Palatine Community Sports College	24
Blackpool	Greater Blackpool	St. George's School A Church of England Business and Enterprise College	20
Lincolnshire	Skegness	St. Clements College	17
Norfolk	Great Yarmouth	Oriel Specialist Mathematics and Computing College	21
Suffolk	Lowestoft	Kirkley Community High School	26
West Sussex	Greater Worthing	Littlehampton Community School,The	29

Note:

The 37 'principal seaside towns' listed by Communities and Local Government are Greater Bournemouth, Greater Brighton, Greater Blackpool, Greater Worthing, Southend-on-sea, Isle of Wight, Torbay, Hastings/Bexhill, Thanet, Eastbourne, Southport, Weston-super-Mare, Whitstable/Herne Bay, Lowestoft, Folkestone/Hythe, Great Yarmouth, Clacton, Scarborough, Weymouth, Morecombe/Heysham, Bognor Regis, Bridlington, Whitley Bay, Exmouth, Dawlish/Teignmouth, Deal, Newquay, Penzance, Falmouth, Skegness, Burnham-on-Sea, Sidmouth, Whitby, Minehead, Ilfacombe, St. Ives and Swanage.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special schools there were in each local authority in each year since 1997. [250184]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs were given a fixed-period exclusion from a pupil referral unit in the last year for which figures are available. [251082]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on exclusions from pupil referral units is no longer collected.

Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the provision of information to parents about changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal system. [253981]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Officials at the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Tribunals Service at the Ministry of Justice have had discussions throughout the process of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) becoming part of the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal. On 8 December 2008 the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families held a meeting with the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) and a parents' group at which an official from the Tribunals Service/Ministry of Justice was present. The Department, through the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme, is funding the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice over 2009-10 and 2010-11 to expand the availability of its advice to parents, including advice on the new tribunal system.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to prevent 17 to 19-year-olds becoming unemployed during the current economic downturn. [252901]

Jim Knight: The current economic situation means that it is imperative to ensure young people gain the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in employment.

Local Connexions services have a key role in supporting all young people aged 13-19. They rigorously track young people's activities so that they can provide targeted support to those young people who are in danger of becoming unemployed and those not currently in education, employment or training. They also provide tailored information, advice and guidance, supporting these young people to reengage in learning or work as early as possible.

In 2008, we extended the September Guarantee to 17-year-olds for the first time. The guarantee aims to provide all 17-year-olds with a suitable offer of a place in learning by the end of September. Almost 80 per cent. of those young people who had been engaged on a short course, or who were NEET, received an offer under the guarantee last year. The guarantee will help to ensure that all young people aged 17 have a suitable learning place by the end of September and prevent them from becoming unemployed.

Funding for apprenticeships across all ages is planned to increase by almost a quarter between 2007-08 and 2010-11, to over £1.1 billion. In addition we have recently announced our intention to invest an extra £140 million to deliver an additional 35,000 apprentices in both the public and private sectors in order to strengthen the country's competitiveness and match young people's demand. We have also introduced a number of flexibilities to help apprentices who face redundancy. As part of this work apprentices who are made redundant within the final six months of their apprenticeship will now be able to finish their training and gain a qualification.

We have been working closely with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions to increase the level of support available to 18-year-olds who are unemployed. From April 2009, 18-year-old jobseekers who have spent a 26 week period NEET will receive mandatory early entry to intensive jobsearch support to enable them to enter sustainable employment faster. This system has been in place on a voluntary basis since April 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Waste Licences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the charging of fees for agricultural waste licences; and what the evidential basis for that policy is. [251281]

Jane Kennedy: In England and Wales, the recovery or disposal of agricultural waste does not generally require an environmental permit but benefits from one of a number of exemptions. Farmers have to register the exemptions with the Environment Agency. At present there is no charge for this.

DEFRA is currently undertaking a review of all permit exemptions, including those that apply to agricultural waste, and in the consultation document on that review it is proposed to introduce a charge for the registration of exemptions of £50 every three years. The Department is currently considering the responses to the consultation, on this point and others, and no decisions have yet been reached.

Where permits are required, they are subject to application fees and annual charges set out within a scheme that is consulted upon annually by the Environment Agency and approved by the Secretary of State. Fees and charges seek to recover the costs of regulation in accordance with the polluter pays principle and Treasury rules.

Animal Welfare

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to establish an arm's length body responsible for animal health; and if he will make a statement. [250840]

Jane Kennedy: The establishment of a new independent arm's length body responsible for animal health is being considered as part of the wider responsibility and cost sharing agenda for animal health. We plan to consult on specific proposals for implementing responsibility and cost sharing for animal health shortly.

Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the responses to the consultation on codes of practice for the welfare of *(a)* dogs and *(b)* cats; and when he expects to publish his conclusions on the consultation. [251075]

Jane Kennedy: The responses to the consultation on the codes of practice for the welfare of cats and dogs have enabled my Department to make a number of changes to the codes which I consider will make them more useful to owners and keepers.

All of the responses together with accompanying analyses will be made available to the public shortly.

Bees

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of circadian disruption on bee populations in England. [252772]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* DEFRA has not made any assessment of the effects of circadian disruption on bee populations in England.

Birds: Nature Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take during the 2009 breeding season to monitor the effects on wild birds of the recent changes to Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [252763]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies support a range of bird surveillance and monitoring schemes in the United Kingdom, usually in partnership with specialist non-government organisations. Surveillance schemes may include annual or periodic assessment of population size and distribution, and allow trends in both to be derived. Schemes are tailored to provide comprehensive coverage of common and rare species in both breeding and non-breeding seasons.

In addition to the monitoring of wild birds, Animal Health's Wildlife and Registration Service, which is the regulatory authority for bird registration, has a compliance monitoring plan in place to reduce the potential for criminality relating to the bird registration scheme. The Animal Health team work closely with the National Wildlife Unit and other UK Law Enforcement Agencies and have a jointly agreed set of national priorities which they work to. Any future change in priorities with regard to bird of prey issues, including taking from the wild and persecution, would be considered and work aligned to this. This will enable more consistency and coordination between Animal Health and enforcement agencies.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of vaccinations against bluetongue disease among *(a)* sheep and *(b)* cattle. [250723]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* Responsibility for licensing veterinary medicines in the UK, including Bluetongue vaccine, rests with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). In licensing a product, the VMD assesses data on safety, quality and efficacy on all species for which the vaccine is intended (in this case cattle and sheep), and establishes whether the advantages and efficacy of the product outweigh any risks in deciding whether to issue a Marketing Authorisation. Once a product has been marketed the VMD monitors its safety and efficacy through reports of suspected adverse reactions, and through on-going data requirements from the authorisation holder.

Sales data from the supply chain suggest enough vaccine was sold in 2008 in the South and East of England, where Bluetongue serotype 8 was circulating in 2007, to vaccinate over 90 per cent. of the susceptible animal population. Experts at the Institute for Animal Health advise that this level of vaccination in previously affected counties was effective in controlling BTV-8 and its possible spread to the rest, of the country. No circulating disease was detected in 2008.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effects of bovine tuberculosis on *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* tonnage of meat exports from England in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [251237]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have made no estimate of the effects of Bovine TB (bTB) on monetary value or meat exports from England.

The risk of contracting bTB from eating meat is very small. M. bovis, the bacterium that causes bTB, is killed by cooking meat properly. Additionally, the Meat Hygiene Service inspects carcasses and their associated offal at slaughter; those with signs of generalised infection are fully condemned and declared unfit for human consumption.

Carbon Emissions

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which international agreements to monitor and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from underground fires and forest fires the UK is party. [250368]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Anthropogenic emissions are covered under the current provisions of the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto protocol. Emissions from forest fires on managed land are estimated in accordance with intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) guidelines and the IPCC good practice guidelines. No agreed international methodologies exist for peat fires and underground coal seams and as a consequence, any emissions from these sources may not be reported by countries.

Civil Proceedings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1594W, on civil proceedings, how many of the proceedings naming his Department as a defending party which are currently *(a)* under appeal and *(b)* ongoing or unresolved relate to the review of a Ministerial decision; and what the (i) title of claim, (ii) grounds for claim and (iii) value of claim is in each such case. [242364]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of such cases under appeal and ongoing or unresolved that relate to the political review of a ministerial decision is 25. These are:

R (on the application of Partridge Farms Limited) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in which the judgment of the High Court on 14 July 2008 is being appealed by the Secretary of State to the Court of Appeal. The claimant's ground of challenge is that the Cattle Compensation (England) Order 2006 is in breach of the EC law principle of equality of treatment. The claim is for a judicial review and damages are not sought.

There are 21 cases involving a similar challenge that have been stayed pending the determination of the appeal in Partridge Farms Limited. The claims are for judicial review and damages are not sought. The titles of the claims are:

R (On the application of CMJ and PL Hurd T/A Heywood and Hurd) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Edward, John and James Seaton T/A Seatons Farms) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Peter Eardley) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Longden Manor Farms) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Shaniel Farms Ltd, Mr. D Williams and Mr. A Baird *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of JA and EG Yewdall and Son) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of MD McMillan) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of DC Dennis and Sons) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of RJ Down and Mrs. CA Down) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of J and P Prideaux) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Walter Maidment Limited) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of DC Dennis and Sons) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of RD and Mrs. JL Youngman T/A Coleford Farming Company) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Higher Burrow Organic Farming Partnership) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Mr. RK Siddorn T/A AJH and RK Siddorn) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of WGA Hunkin and Son) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Patrick George Saunders and Miles T/A PG Saunders) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of EJ and WJ Griggs and Sons) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Robert, Thomas, Elizabeth, Julie and Wendy Pocock T/A T E Pocock and Co.) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of Ivor, Doreen, Martyn, Linda and Mark Hussell T/A Messrs. Hussell) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

R (On the application of JWR and Hiscock T/A Springwood Farms Ltd) *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged *v.* Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in which the judgments of the High Court on 6 and 23 October 2008 are being appealed by the claimants to the Court of Appeal. The claimants' ground of challenge is that the Government are not complying with the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 in respect of fuel poverty. The claim is for judicial review and damages are not sought.

Georgina Downs *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in which the judgment of the High Court on 14 November 2008 is being appealed by the Secretary of State to the Court of Appeal. The claimant's ground of challenge is that the obligations of EC Directive (91/414/EEC) were not complied with in that the UK regime does not provide for the necessary protection for the health of those who live near crop spraying operations. The claim is for judicial review and damages are not sought.

Richard Currell *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and another, an application for permission for judicial review of a decision by the Secretary of State to uphold on appeal stop notices issued by Natural England under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) No. 2 Regulations 2006 in respect of the use of land. The claim is for judicial review and damages are not sought.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251369]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the core Department's expenditure on professional and consultancy services for the financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 is as follows.

	Management and Business Consultancy Expenditure (£ million)
2003-04	20
2004-05	79
2005-06	44
2006-08	29
2007-08	17

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what costs were incurred by his Department in *(a)* legal fees, *(b)* court costs and *(c)* expert witness fees in the defence of the claim by Ruttle Plant Hire Limited up to the judgment of 29 September 2004. [252103]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is *(a)* £1,131,179.55, *(b)* £175, *(c)* £11,241.89 respectively.

Departmental Legal Proceedings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value was of each settlement his Department made as a result of legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party where no legal proceedings are ongoing in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2008 to date; and what the title of each such case is. [240900]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The monetary value of each settlement made in 2008 as a result of legal proceedings naming the Department/Secretary of State as a defending party where no legal proceedings are ongoing, and the title of each such case, is as follows:

Brian John Lodey *v.* Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, £63,000.

Terence Bodden *v.* Dodsworths (York) Ltd. and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, £120,000.

Antler Homes South East Ltd. *v.* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (and two interested parties), £6,000 (costs only).

R V W Pugh Ltd. *v.* Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. By agreement between the parties, the terms of the settlement are confidential.

For each of the five years before 2008, the resources needed to obtain the information would be disproportionate and over the £750 threshold.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243897]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following figures show how much DEFRA has spent through COI on campaign advertising in the last 12 months.

ACT ON CO_2 advertising

From January 2008 - March 2008 the ACT ON CO_2 spend was approximately £685,000 (press and online advertising).

From April 2008 to December 2008 the ACT ON CO_2 spend was approximately £6,700,000 (TV, press, radio and digital advertising).

Other DEFRA advertising

Spend on non-ACT ON CO_2 advertising over the last 12 months comes to

£137,100:

Cattle disposal: £9,000

Ecolabelling: £8,100

Reach: £120,000.

Advertisements placed via the DEFRA Recruitment and Statutory Advertising Contract for the period January 2008 to December 2009:

Recruitment advertising: £381,019.29

Statutory advertising: £70,851.76.

All figures include fees and are exclusive of VAT.

As a number of DEFRA's recruitment adverts are placed through the Cabinet Office framework as part of a whole advertising campaign (campaigns can include the preparation of application packs, advertisements, sifting and assessments) it is not possible to split out the advertising element at a proportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of validation of invoices was by *(a)* (i) Mr. De Kock and (ii) Davis Langdon Everest before the Invoicing Panel was established and *(b)* the Invoicing Panel. [252102]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what costs were incurred by his Department in the validation of invoices submitted by Ruttle Plant Hire Limited relating to the foot and mouth outbreak before the formation of the Invoicing Panel in September 2001. [252104]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [248030]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Estimated total expenditure for financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 for public surveys (qualitative and quantitative research) commissioned by the Communications Directorate in DEFRA is as follows:

	£
2005-06	299,152.90
2006-07	592,310.00
2007-08	275,620.00
Total for the period	1,167,082.90

Note:
Costs exclude COI management fees and VAT

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252225]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department has used the following external organisations to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years:

7 City
Ashridge
City Lit
GovNet
Heriot-Watt University
Industry and Parliament Trust
Linguarama
London School of Economics
Management Development Partnership
Mayfair Tutors
MDG Languages
Middleton Burgess LTD
National School for Government
Priority Management
Queen Mary and Westfield College
University of London
University of Warwick
Victoria Language Club
Westminster Explained

The number of civil servants who have participated in provision of training for external organisations for that period could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of illegal tail-docking prosecuted since April 2007 have resulted in a conviction. [251078]

Jane Kennedy: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Animal Welfare Act for the offence "Removing or causing or permitting or failing to prevent removal of dog's tail other than for medical treatment" in England and Wales in 2007 are as follows:

	2007	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
Total	3	3

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made on the research commissioned by his Department into the use of electronic pet training aids for dogs; when he expects the research to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [251076]

Jane Kennedy: The research into electronic training aids funded by DEFRA is progressing well and in accordance with the agreed milestones. There are no results available for dissemination at this time as the research is still under way. The project is due to be completed in 2010.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of the effects of imposing restrictions on the advertising of electric shock training devices. [251077]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have no plans at present to restrict or ban the advertising, sale or use of electronic training aids for animals. We are waiting for the results of DEFRA-funded research before making any decision as to whether to restrict or ban the use of such devices.

Floods

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 29-30W, on floods, whether the Environment Agency's new flood vulnerability database is accessible to the public. [252492]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Receptors Vulnerable to Flooding database is not accessible to the public. The database contains information which is sensitive and as such is classified as 'Restricted' under the Government's protective marking scheme. Some of the information is also owned by third parties.

Food Supply

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times officials from his Department have met representatives from the National Farmers Union to discuss food security in the last 24 months. [251946]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: Officials meet representatives from the National Farmers' Union frequently, both individually and in the context of discussions with other stakeholders, and at national and local levels. These discussions sometimes focus specifically on food security, such as the workshops held in September and November 2008, based on the discussion paper "Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World", published in July last year. However, the issue of food security is also addressed in the context of broader discussions about the Department's strategic objectives, such as achieving a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply and a thriving farming and food sector. It is therefore not possible to provide a specific number of occasions when the topic has been discussed.

Forestry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund provides support for schemes which protect forests or peat lands from deforestation or destruction. [252632]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) will take delivery of carbon credits sourced from a variety of projects accredited under the UN supervised Clean Development Mechanism. However, none of the projects drawn upon by the current GCOF scheme relate to the conservation of forests or peat lands.

Forestry: Accidents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many accidents involving members of the public foraging for wood from forests under the regulation of the Forestry Commission have been recorded in the last 36 months. [252639]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission in England records and investigates all serious accidents on the public forest estate that are reported to them by members of the public. There have been a number of accidents as a result of slips and trips and these are given in the following table. None of these are recorded as having been in connection with the collection of firewood.

Slip/trip accidents

	Number
2005-06	16
2006-07	14
2007-08	7

Genetically Modified Organisms: Animal Feed

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 804W, on genetically-modified organisms, what information he has received concerning animal deaths in connection with the consumption of the foliage of genetically-modified Bt cotton plants *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* elsewhere; and if he will make a statement. [250197]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA officials have read a number of published articles about the claim that animal deaths in India have arisen from the consumption of GM cotton plants, as part of its general monitoring of GM crop-related issues.

Horses

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 886W, on horse passports, what his latest estimate is of the number of equidae in England; and what assessment he has made of the efficacy of horse passports against the objectives set for the scheme. [250187]

Jane Kennedy: There is no figure available for the number of equidae in England. However, estimates of the horse population in Great Britain range from 1.0 to 1.35 million. Horse passports are an EU requirement introduced to prevent contaminated meat from entering the human food chain. Passports are also intended to reduce fraud and aid disease control and surveillance. The Meat Hygiene Service play an important role in ensuring that the horse is correctly identified and its passport is in order before horses are accepted for slaughter for human consumption. Samples are taken from a small number of horses entering the food chain as part of the UK statutory surveillance programme checking the appropriate use of veterinary medicinal products. In cases of non-compliance the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, which operates this programme, requires an investigation to be carried out which involves checking the details on the passport of the animal.

Incinerators: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1052W, on incinerators: hazardous substances, which regional offices of the Environment Agency hold reports on the composition of the bottom ash of incinerators; and to which operating incinerators such reports relate. [250766]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* The following table shows the Environment Agency offices that hold public registers for the municipal solid waste incinerators, including the two main hazardous waste incinerators, operating in England and Wales.

Environment Agency office	*Incinerators covered*
Upper Severn Area Office, Hafren House, Welshpool Road, Shelton, Shrewsbury SY3 8BB	Kidderminster, Dudley, Wolverhampton
Upper Trent Area Office, Sentinel House, Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield WS13 8RR	Tyseley Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent
Lower Severn Area Office, Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury GL20 8JG	Coventry
Lower Trent Area Office, Trentside Offices, Scarrington Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5FA	Nottingham
Yorkshire and Humber, Office Phoenix House, Global Avenue, Millshaw Lane, Leeds LS11 8PG	, Sheffield, Huddersfield
Thames South East Area Office, Swift House, Frimley Business Park, Camberley GU16 5SQ	SELCHP, Basingstoke (Chineham)
Thames North East Area Office, Apollo Court, Bishops Square Business Park, St. Albans Road West, Hatfield AL10 9EX	Edmonton
Solent and South Downs Office, Colvedene Court, Colden Common SO21 1WP	Isle of Wight, Fawley (Hazardous), Marchwood, Portsmouth
North West Region, Southern Area Office, Appleton House, 430 Birchwood Boulevard, Warrington WA3 7WD	Ellesmere Port (Hazardous), Bolton
Dales Area Office, Coverdale House, Aviator Court, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moor YO30 4GZ	Billingham
Kent and East Sussex Area Office, Orchard House, Endeavour Park, London Road, Addington, West Malling ME19 5SH	Maidstone (Allington)
Anglian Northern Area Office, Lincoln Office, Waterside House, Waterside North, Lincoln LN2 5HA	Grimsby (Newlincs)

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times the permitted level of harmful substances in incinerator bottom ash has been exceeded in the last five years. [250767]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* Information in the form requested is not readily available and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost. Monitoring data relating to installations permitted under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2007 (formerly the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations) may be obtained via the public register section of the Environment Agency's website.

Livestock: Registration

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to require livestock keepers to enter into a compulsory registration scheme; and if he will make a statement. [250839]

Jane Kennedy: A compulsory annual fee based registration scheme of livestock keepers is being considered as part of the wider responsibility and cost sharing agenda for animal health. The purpose of the scheme would be to raise contributions from industry towards the control and eradications of exotic diseases. We plan to consult on specific proposals for implementing responsibility and cost sharing for animal health shortly.

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill; what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Department of the Environment in relation to the Bill; and if he will make a statement. [252443]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Northern Ireland Ministers have worked with other UK Ministers throughout the development of the proposals in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, most recently through the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) which held its plenary meeting in June 2008 when the draft Bill was discussed.

Northern Ireland is fully committed to the policy aims underpinning the draft UK Bill in order to introduce a new framework for the marine environment based on sustainable development principles, which will work towards delivering clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. Ministers have also taken part in discussions on the Legislative Consent Motion needed from the Northern Ireland Assembly on certain measures in the Bill.

The JMC announced on 27 November 2008 that the UK Government and devolved Administrations, including Northern Ireland, had reached agreement on a UK-wide approach to marine planning. This provides a coherent legislative framework with greater clarity and certainty for all those seeking to enjoy, or make a living from, the UK's waters.

In addition, the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive work together as part of the British-Irish Council Environment Group which discussed marine issues at its last meeting in February 2008. Officials from the UK Government and the devolved Administrations continue to work together on the UK Bill and the expected Northern Ireland Assembly Bill.

Marine Management Organisation: Location

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the reasons are for the time taken to announce the location of the Maritime Management Organisation Headquarters; and if he will make a statement; [253737]

(2) when he expects to make an announcement on the location of the Marine Management organisation headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [253738]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The location decision is an important one which will be announced when all of the information and evidence has been considered carefully, in order to ensure that it is the right decision and the best home for the MMO. A statement will be made to the House of Commons announcing the decision.

Milk: Prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times officials from his Department have met representatives from the UK dairy industry to discuss *(a)* milk pricing and *(b)* milk production in the last 24 months. [251947]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* DEFRA officials meet representatives from the UK dairy industry on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the sector. However, discussions do not cover milk pricing. The setting of milk prices is a commercial matter to be resolved by private negotiation which must take place within the parameters set by competition law.

Nitrates: EU Law

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist farmers to meet the requirements of the EU Nitrates Directive; and what recent representations he has received on the effects of implementation of the Directive on farming. [250904]

Jane Kennedy: We received over 600 responses to the consultation on proposals to revise the Nitrates Regulations. Since the consultation closed in December, representations have continued to be received from the farming sector. The proposals were also the subject of an inquiry by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

I recognise that some farmers in nitrate vulnerable zones will face costs when implementing the new rules established by the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008. By way of mitigation, we are applying to the European Commission for a derogation from one of the most costly new rules, the livestock manure N farm limit. If this application is successful, costs to eligible dairy farmers would be significantly reduced.

In addition, a package of advice and support, including a technical helpline, comprehensive guidance material, information events and practical workshops, is currently being rolled out nationally.

There are a number of existing potential sources of financial support available to farmers which could be used to help with implementation of the Action Programme measures. For example, funding through the Rural Development Programme for England—which is being administered by the Regional Development Agencies—could be used to support on-farm capital investments for modernising farm holdings, structures and equipment in a manner that will improve the management of manure and nutrients including, for example, the development of anaerobic digestion facilities.

Furthermore, slurry storage facilities are eligible for plant and machinery allowances such as the new annual investment allowance, capped at £50,000 per year. Slurry pits also qualify for allowances in their own right under the Capital Allowances Act 2001.

For farmers who have land in a priority catchment, the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative is operating a capital grant scheme under which part-funding may be available for items such as roofs for slurry stores and for improving yard drainage (clean and foul water separation).

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250147]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W.

Pets: Primates

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 808W, on primates, who he has appointed to *(a)* advise on and *(b)* draft the code of practice on the private keeping of primates; and which bodies he has consulted. [250837]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has assembled a working group to draft the code of practice on the private keeping of non-human primates. The working group is representative of and will consult with others who are either private keepers or have other relevant expertise.

The RSPCA, zoo veterinarians, veterinarian bodies, a leading primate rescue centre and a number of independent experts are involved in taking this work forward.

Recycling: Batteries

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote community battery recycling schemes. [251035]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) has worked in partnership with a range of local authorities and not-for-profit organisations to pilot portable waste battery collection trials in the UK. Trials include establishing 'drop off' points in shops and in public buildings such as libraries and sports centres, as well as other methods of collection such as at the kerbside.

WRAP'S report on the results from the trials is available at:

http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Batteries report_final.84146d7e.6153.pdf

We are currently consulting on regulations to implement the EU Batteries Directive.

The directive requires greatly increased collection, treatment and recycling of batteries over the next few years. The UK regulations will require all shops that sell a significant quantity of batteries to collect batteries returned by members of the public. In addition batteries producers will need to set up other collections to meet their targets under the directive. In doing so we expect that producers will draw on the information in the WRAP report on the effectiveness of community recycling schemes and other ways of collecting waste batteries.

Rivers: Dredging

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what dredging has taken place of the River Avon between Tewkesbury and Eckington in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [253561]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has not carried out dredging on the River Avon between Tewkesbury and Eckington in the last five years. The Environment Agency routinely considers dredging and vegetation management in watercourses to reduce flood risk. The Environment Agency prioritises this according to risk and carries out such work where it is technically sound, economically viable, environmentally acceptable and sustainable.

On a larger river like the River Avon, the erosion, transportation and deposition of material within the river channel is a natural process. Dredging the river has historically been carried out in localised areas by the Lower Avon Navigation Trust to allow boats to travel safely along the river.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what dredging of the River Severn between Gloucester and Tewkesbury has taken place over the last five years; what the Environment Agency's policy is on the dredging of rivers; and if he will make a statement. [253558]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has not carried out dredging on the River Severn between Gloucester and Tewkesbury in the last five years. The Environment Agency routinely considers dredging and vegetation management in watercourses to reduce flood risk. The Environment Agency prioritises this according to risk and carries out such work where it is technically sound, economically viable, environmentally acceptable and sustainable.

On a larger river like the River Severn, the erosion, transportation and deposition of material within the river channel is a natural process. Dredging the river has historically been carried out in localised areas by British Waterways to allow boats to travel safely along the river.

Rivers: Licensing

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been collected in licence fees from users of *(a)* the River Avon and *(b)* the River Severn in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [253560]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We do not have this information for the River Avon which is managed by an independent statutory navigation authority. British Waterways is the navigation authority for the River Severn from Gloucester to Stourport (there is no navigation authority upstream of Stourport and ownership is shared between local authorities and private landowners).

The licence fees for that part of the river Severn under British Waterways' jurisdiction are set out as follows:

	Value of licences sold (£)	*Number of licences*	*Number of boats*
2004-05	101,106	494	493
2005-06	103,583	523	506
2006-07	103,691	488	467
2007-08	112,961p	515	487

Rivers: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Government department and Minister has overall responsibility for ensuring that the *(a)* River Severn and *(b)* River Avon remain navigable; and if he will make a statement. [253559]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA sponsors British Waterways which is the navigation authority responsible for ensuring that the stretch of the River Severn between Gloucester and Stourport remains navigable. There is no navigation authority north of Stourport.

The Lower Avon Navigation Trust together with the Upper Avon Navigation Trust are responsible for the management of the River Avon. Both are independent statutory navigation authorities.

Rural Areas: Planning

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which measures outlined in Articles 20 to 65, Title IV of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 on support for rural developments by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development have been adopted as measures within the Rural Development Programme for England 2007 to 2013; for what reasons those measures not included in the Programme were omitted; and if he will make a statement. [253685]

Huw Irranca-Davies: All of the measures outlined in Articles 20 to 65, Title IV of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 on support for rural developments by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development which are applicable in the UK have been adopted as measures within the Rural Development Programme for England 2007 to 2013, with the exception of those listed in the following table. This table provides an explanation for why they have not been adopted. These omissions were agreed following full public consultation and discussion with affected parties.

Measure	*Explanation*
Article 20 (a) (ii) setting up young farmers actions	In 2004, ADAS reported to DEFRA on entry to and exit from farming. In 2000, 5.2 per cent. of 'agricultural' holders were under 35 years old compared to 7.4 per cent. in 1990. Between 1999 and 2004, the entry rate was 2 per cent. of farming population and the exit rate 18 per cent., mainly because of a decline in the total number of farmers and farm businesses. The report identified no evidence of major barriers to entry that justified policy intervention and no evidence of significant market failure in the processes of entry to and exit from farming. The research found that entry and exit decisions are rational and driven by strong market forces and personal motivations and that financial inducement to affect the rate of entry or exit would be expensive and ineffectual. Any use of financial incentives to facilitate entry to and exit from farming risks "deadweight" i.e. that many would enter farming in any case—the majority of those entering farming do so through the family farm. The most common reason given for the low rate of entry to farming was the expectation of relatively low incomes. This cannot be addressed through a start up grant as envisaged in the Rural Development Regulation but rather by developing a competitive, viable and sustainable farming sector. DEFRA is supporting the industry-led initiative 'Fresh Start' which encourages new entrants into farming whilst at the same time stimulating existing farmers to think how they will respond to CAP reform, such as expanding their business, diversifying or even retiring. Such choices create opportunities for new entrants.
Article 20 (a) (iii) early retirement of farmers and farm workers	As above.
Article 20 (b) (vi) restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention	In England, the principal risk to agricultural production potential from natural disasters is through flooding. Determining the exact nature of support required in the event of large-scale flooding is impracticable now. We would prefer to apply for an 'emergency' modification to the Programme to activate this measure if and when a catastrophe occurs and if it is considered that Programme funds are the best way of providing support to those affected. This will enable support offered to be closely matched to the needs arising from that particular disaster.
Article 20 (c) (i) helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on Community legislation	This measure would not add value in the England context, because farmers are expected to observe community standards as a condition of receiving direct payments under Pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy i.e. the Single Payment Scheme.
Article 20 (c) (ii) supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes	Farmers who participate in food quality schemes generally do so either with a view to obtaining a price premium (in which case their participation is rewarded through the market) or because they need to do so in order to sell to a specific market (which is often the case with baseline assurance schemes). This is demonstrated by the fact that in England and the UK there is already a high level of membership of assurance schemes. Given this there would be relatively little public benefit (additionality) in adopting this measure in England.
Article 20 (c) (iii) supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes	As above.
Article 36 (a) (i) natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas	There are no areas in England that qualify for this measure.
Article 36 (a) (iii) Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	It is not proposed to provide compensation to farmers for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from restrictions on the use of land under Natura 2000 or under Directive 2000/60/EC. Such compensation fails to deliver added value because such restrictions arise from a clearly defined legal obligation. Instead, the need to comply with these restrictions is built into the cross-compliance conditions that apply to all receiving Single Payment Scheme payments and/or Rural Development Programme funding. It is proposed to use the agri-environment measure, delivered through Environmental Stewardship, to help farmers in England meet the cost of any positive management needed to restore Natura 2000 sites to, or maintain them in, favourable condition. This course of action is justified for the following reasons: The requirement in the Habitats Directive to maintain the Natura 2000 network in favourable conservation status is delivered in England by including Natura 2000 sites in the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The domestic legislation governing SSSIs (the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as substituted by Schedule 9 of Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) requires their managers to abide by standards and procedures aimed at avoiding damage and ensuring prior notification of major changes in land management. However, the same legislation requires a voluntary approach to be taken to ensuring the positive management of these sites wherever possible. The voluntary approach has been taken because of the difficulty of imposing complex positive management, which arises because the co-operation of the land manager is extremely important to the success of such management. Reserve powers to require specific positive management are available, but are very seldom used. In the over whelming majority of cases, land managers agree to undertake the necessary positive management on a voluntary basis. Under the SSSI system, land managers are provided with information on the positive management needed to ensure that their sites are restored to or maintained in favourable condition. The nature and intensity of this management varies considerably between and even within individual sites. For this reason a flat rate payment per hectare is not appropriate.

Measure	*Explanation*
	Evidence that no compensation is offered to land managers for the designation of their land as part of the Natura 2000 network comes from the structure of Environmental Stewardship, the delivery mechanism for the agri-environment measure in England. While Natura 2000 sites may well be among the areas targeted by the scheme, it makes no distinction in terms of the options and payment rates between land that is designated as Natura 2000 and land that is not. It is also worth noting that under this UK legislation SSSIs that are part of the Natura 2000 network are treated in exactly the same way as those that are not. Land within a Natura 2000 site is not therefore subject to any additional land management restrictions compared to non-Natura 2000 land that is designated as SSSI. There are additional safeguards in relation to development proposals, but these are outside the scope of Article 38 of the Council Regulation. Therefore, through a combination of legislative requirements and payments for positive management using the agri-environment Measure, all the requirements for Natura 2000 sites are met without the need for compensation payments.
Article 36 (a) (v) animal welfare payments	Animal welfare in England is regularly monitored and often exceeds standards. For example, State Veterinary Service inspections carried out in 2005 demonstrated that for randomly inspected farms (programmed and elective visits) nearly 80 per cent. comply with both legislation and voluntary codes of practice. As the European Commission noted in 2002, "research has shown that both farm animal welfare and product quality improves when the people who care for, transport and handle the animals are well-trained, have a positive attitude towards their jobs and the animals, treat the animals with care, and are attentive to their needs. It is therefore important to educate and inform these professionals". It is felt that this strikes the right note and properly records the importance of extending good animal health and welfare beyond the farm gate. Ongoing payments for animal welfare (normally for between five and seven years under the Regulation) would not be the most effective way of delivering animal health and welfare outcomes in England, and in particular would represent a significant diversion of funds away from other priorities. However, it will be possible to obtain support for knowledge transfer based training and skills in relation to animal health and welfare under other parts of the programme.
Article 36 (b) (ii) First establishment of agro-forestry systems on agricultural land	The Government recognise the value of agro-forestry systems, especially in traditional parkland. Small scale planting and maintenance of trees within parkland will be included as eligible activities under agri-environment payments. At present we do not perceive a need to support the creation of new parkland on a large scale, but it is possible that during the course of the programming period we will wish to revisit our decision not to use this particular measure. However, given the limited funds likely to be available for Axis 2 forestry measures in England, for the moment we wish to concentrate such support on the targeted creation of new woodland and the improved maintenance of existing woodland.
Article 36 (b) (iv) Natura 2000 payments	It is not proposed to provide compensation to farmers or foresters for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from restrictions on the use of land under Natura 2000. Such compensation fails to deliver added value because such restrictions arise from a clearly defined legal obligation. It is proposed to use the Forest Environment Measure delivered through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS), to help forest holders in England meet the cost of any positive management needed to restore Natura 2000 sites to, or maintain them in, favourable condition. This course of action is justified for the following reasons: The requirements in the Habitats Directive to maintain the Natura 2000 network in favourable conservation status is delivered in England by including Natura 2000 sites in the network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The domestic legislation governing SSSIs (the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as substituted by Schedule 9 of Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) requires their managers to abide by standards and procedures aimed at avoiding damage and ensuring prior notification of major changes in land management. However, the same legislation requires a voluntary approach to be taken to ensuring the positive management of these sites wherever possible. The voluntary approach has been taken because of the difficulty of imposing complex positive management, which arises because the co-operation of the land manager is extremely important to the success of such management. Reserve powers to require specific positive management are available, but are very seldom used. In the overwhelming majority of cases, land managers agree to undertake the necessary positive management on a voluntary basis, so compensation is not appropriate. It is also worth noting that under this UK legislation SSSIs that are part of the Natura 2000 network are treated in exactly the same way as those that are not. Land within a Natura 2000 site is not therefore subject to any additional land management restrictions compared to non-Natura 2000 land that is designated as SSSI. There are additional safeguards in relation to development proposals, but these are outside the scope of Article 38 of the Council Regulation. Under the SSSI system, woodland managers are provided with information on the positive management needed to ensure that their sites are restored to or maintained in favourable condition. The nature and intensity of this management varies considerably between and even within individual sites. For this reason a flat rate payment per hectare is not appropriate. Evidence that no compensation is offered to land managers for the designation of their land as part of the Natura 2000 network comes from the structure of the England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS), the delivery mechanism for the forest-environment measure in England. While Natura 2000 sites may well be among the areas targeted by the scheme, it does not prevent payments for woodland that is not designated.
Article 36 (b) (vi) restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions	This measure is primarily intended to provide support for forests and wooded areas damaged by fire. Under the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), all areas of England are classed as low or very low fire risk, in all seasons. In addition, the largest woodlands in England that are at greatest risk are publicly owned. However, the measure does refer to other natural disasters and while we do not immediately feel a need to implement this measure we recognise that we may need to do so if a natural disaster occurs. The most likely examples are catastrophic storm damage, devastating drought or the threat of a disease or pest epidemic. Determining the exact nature of support required in such circumstances is impracticable now. It is preferable that an application for an 'emergency' modification to the Programme to activate this measure will be made if and when a catastrophe occurs. This will enable support offered to be closely matched to the needs arising from that particular disaster.

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Government funding was allocated to the Rural Enterprise Scheme in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [252710]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Rural Enterprise scheme (RES) formed part of the now closed England Rural Development programme 2000-06 (ERDP). RES closed for new applications on 30 June 2006. Funding spent on RES projects in financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	30.8
2006-07	29.5
2007-08	7.8

The ERDP was succeeded by the Rural Development programme for England 2007-13 (RDPE). A number of the RDPE socio-economic measures are similar to the activity funded under the Rural Enterprise scheme. These measures are delivered by the Regional Development Agencies and have been available since 1 January 2008. The budget allocated for these measures in 2008-09 is £89.5 million.

Set-aside Schemes

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the abolition of set-aside on farmland bird numbers. [252599]

Jane Kennedy [holding answer 29 January 2009]: An assessment of the likely effects of the abolition of set-aside on farmland bird numbers formed a key part of the work commissioned by Sir Don Curry's High Level Group on set-aside, the final report of which was published on 22 July 2008. A copy can be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/deliverygroup/index.htm.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245715]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA procures virtually all its design and print services via Communisis—a private sector print management company. It is their standard practice to avoid red/green, yellow/blue text/background combinations.

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of producing and distributing The Code of Good Agricultural Practice. [250278]

Jane Kennedy: A number of technical specialists from DEFRA and its agencies contributed to the content of the new Code of Good Agricultural Practice. The publication updates the previously published codes of practice for water, soil and air which have been periodically updated for the past 20 years. Therefore, the total cost of producing the new Code of Good Agricultural Practice is not readily available.

DEFRA has not yet incurred any costs for printing and distributing the Code of Good Agricultural Practice. The publication is available for download, free from DEFRA's website. Hard copies are currently being printed and are available to order free of charge from The Stationary Office.

Veterinary Services

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many marketing authorisations are extant for veterinary vaccines in the UK; and how many authorisations have been granted variations by the Veterinary Medicines Agency allowing holders of authorisations to waive the use of animals for target animal batch safety testing under European Medicines Agency guidance in the last five years. [252991]

Jane Kennedy: There are 317 extant marketing authorisations for veterinary vaccines in the UK. Details of these vaccines are available on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's (VMD) website:

www.vmd.gov.uk.

In the last five years the VMD has granted 15 variations allowing marketing authorisation holders to waive the use of animals for target animal batch safety testing.

Waste Disposal: EC Law

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what process of consultation he plans to undertake to inform the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive. [250768]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* EU member states are required to bring the revised Waste Framework Directive into force by 12 December 2010. DEFRA proposes to inform the directive's transposition in England by means of a two-stage consultation process. Stage 1 will consult on issues of policy and strategy and stage 2 on the transposing legislation. On the basis of our provisional timetable, stage 1 will be published in spring 2009 and stage 2 by the end of 2009. Both consultations will be for 12-week periods and will be carried out in line with the principles in the Government's "Code of Practice on Consultation" (July 2008).

As waste policy is a devolved matter, transposition and implementation of the directive in other parts of the United Kingdom and the associated consultation process is the responsibility of the relevant devolved Administration.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the application of Article 3 (1) (b) (i) of the 2006 Waste Directive. [251152]

Jane Kennedy: Our measures to provide for the recovery of waste in England are set out in the Waste Strategy for England 2007.

Since 2006 we have made significant progress. Recycling and composting of household waste was at 34 per cent. in 2007-08. The recycling of packaging has increased to around 59 per cent. Less waste is being landfilled, with a decrease from 65 million tonnes in 2006 to 62 million tonnes in 2007. Total municipal waste collected is also decreasing, down by 2.3 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

A revised EU Waste Framework Directive has recently been adopted (Directive 2008/98/EC) and member states are required to bring its provisions into effect by 12 December 2010.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent to date on *(a)* research, *(b)* preparation and *(c)* planning for the new charges for the collection of household waste. [251622]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* There are no new charges for the collection of household waste.

Powers provided by the Climate Change Act would allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentive schemes which help to reduce the levels of waste produced and to enhance the success of recycling programmes. These powers were requested by local authorities. However, no local authority has brought forward a proposal to use the powers.

In preparing for the clauses in the Climate Change Act, DEFRA's research costs were £41,614.83. DEFRA also purchased data, used to inform the impact assessment, on the distributional impacts of waste charging in Flanders, at a cost of £2,166.40.

Other costs are salary costs which are part of the Department's normal budget.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of apprenticeships which have been interrupted by redundancy in the current economic situation; and what steps he is taking to *(a)* reduce that number and *(b)* mitigate the effects of redundancy on individual apprentices. [247754]

Mr. Simon: We do not currently hold data centrally about the total number of apprentices made redundant. Working with ConstructionSkills and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we have established a matching service to help apprentices in the construction sector at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices, in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister last week for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public sector and private sector, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy. This package will further boost the number of people starting an apprenticeship which has increased from 65,000 in 1996/97 to 225,000 last year and further improve the completion rate which rose to an all-time high of 64 per cent. in 2007/08.

We do have some information on redundancies in the construction sector where 295 redundant apprentices have been subsequently re-employed. We are continuing to help 1,040 redundant apprentices in the construction sector. We also estimate that around 150 apprentices were employed by Woolworths. We are working to establish how many of these apprentices have been found alternative employment.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252375]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has spent a total of £2,110 on works and refurbishments for Ministers' offices in the last 12 months.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff has been since his Department was established. [242452]

Mr. Simon: Three civil servants support the Secretary of State's special advisers. They provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1406W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251329]

Mr. Simon: Ministers in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Foreign language lessons;

Cabinet Committees;

European Union;

Media Training.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252222]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The names of external organisations engaged to provide training for the staff in the fast stream are listed in the following table:

	Organisations
2007[1]	National School for Government
2008	National School for Government
	Stanton Marris Associates
	Westminster Explained
	Parity Training Ltd
	PTS Consortium

[1] From 28 June 2007

The number of civil servants who have participated in training for external organisations since the Department's creation is not collected centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2047W, on economic and monetary union, whether the review and update of his Department's euro changeover plan has been completed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version. [250037]

Mr. Simon: The Department has relied on the euro changeover plans of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children, Schools and Families until now. These arrangements will remain in place until 31 March 2010, when the Department will transfer to a new shared service operator.

As part of the Department's work to establish and agree the delivery of corporate systems with a new shared service operator this issue will be addressed. A copy of the completed document will be placed in the Library when this work is completed.

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory provided information to the former Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in October 2004 and this formed part of their euro preparations. A more detailed plan was performed in March 2000 which formed part of HM Treasury euro changeover plan.

The UK Intellectual Property Office last updated its euro conversion plan in September 2004 and it formed part of the former DTI overall plan. The plan has not been published, given the time that has lapsed, while the principles are still relevant the legislation, IT systems and costs referred to are significantly out of date and publication would be of little value.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made since December 2008 of incidents of intimidation of Jewish and Israeli students on university campuses; and if he will make a statement. [252967]

Mr. Lammy: This Government deplores acts of racial or religious intolerance and we are committed to tackling anti-Semitism and any form of racial intolerance. Higher education institutions have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and addressing any complaints received. The Department does not collect this type of data.

We are committed to encouraging higher education institutions to ensure that discrimination has no place in any of their policies or practices and to act swiftly when incidents or complaints are brought to their attention. The Department is setting up a dedicated sub-group to the Cross-Government Working Group against anti-Semitism to facilitate discussions between the Jewish community and higher education stakeholders.

Higher Education: Business

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students whose places were co-funded with employers have been admitted to English universities in each of the past three years. [252849]

Mr. Lammy: The development and delivery of higher education (HE) courses designed and co-funded with employers is achieving good sustained growth in employer-based student places, as well as introducing the principle of employer demand-led funding. To date, employer co-funded projects have delivered some 989 places in 2006/07 and 3,840 places in 2007/08. The latest period for which we have confirmed data tells us growth is continuing against our target of 5,000 new co-funded places for this academic year (2008/09), with around 10,700 places allocated.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost was of external legal services provided to his Department in each of the last five years. [251351]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. Information on legal costs before that date is available from the predecessor departments of DIUS—the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In 2007-08 the Department spent £344,000 on external legal services.

London Metropolitan University

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the financial performance of the London Metropolitan University; and if he will make a statement. [252617]

Mr. Lammy: Like other universities, London Metropolitan university receives grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) under a financial memorandum which sets out how it should properly account for its public funding. It is for the Funding Council to keep the financial health of the institutions it funds under review to protect the public interest, including ensuring that public funds are properly spent. Following the discovery that the university had received grant based on incorrect returns, discussions about the way forward are continuing between HEFCE and London Metropolitan university.

Students: Loans

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his most recent estimate of the amount of overpayments made in repayments of student loans is. [252591]

Mr. Lammy: As of 31 March 2008, 89,971 borrowers with income-contingent student loans had overpaid a total amount of £47,913,611 since the scheme began. This represents an average of £533 per borrower. These amounts were refunded with interest by the Student Loans Company (SLC) when borrowers' accounts were reconciled following the end of each financial year.

The SLC is putting a number of measures in place to help customers avoid overpayment. Later this year, all borrowers who are reaching the end of repayment will be given the option to make final repayments outside the tax system, via direct debit, to ensure they do not overpay. SLC have also introduced new guidance and tools, including an online calculator, to help customers work out their loan balance, and therefore when they are likely to pay their loan in full.

Vocational Training: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has undertaken research into the efficacy of Government funding to businesses to move staff on to part-time working and providing training part-time. [248848]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has not conducted research specifically on the issue of Government funding to businesses to move on to part-time working and provide training part-time.

The Government recognises the importance of part-time study in higher-education. We were the first to introduce statutory financial support for part-time students. For 2008/09 the maximum course grant is £255 and maximum fee grant is £1,180.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House whether hon. Members whose constituency offices are located within the Nottingham City Council workplace parking charging zone will be able to claim the costs of workplace parking charges from their allowances. [253770]

Chris Bryant: No such scheme as yet exists.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Olner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the average annual cost to small and medium-sized enterprises of applying for and proving competence in multiple health and safety pre-qualification questionnaires. [248900]

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the financial and administrative effects on small and medium-sized enterprises of applying for and proving competence in multiple health and safety pre-qualification questionnaires. [251052]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Glover report, 'Accelerating the SME Economic Engine', published on the HMT website in November 2008, made 12 recommendations to improve SME access to public procurement including:

> "Procurers should ensure that, where they rely on a particular accreditation scheme or standard as part of the process of prequalification or contract award, that they take a flexible approach. Businesses should be given the opportunity to provide evidence that they can meet the contract requirements by reference to other similar equivalent accreditations or standards they may already hold—especially where these have been recognised or required by other public sector procurers."

Government are currently implementing these recommendations.

Small Businesses

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses have ceased trading permanently in each quarter of the last five years. [250971]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses have ceased trading permanently in each quarter of the last five years (250971).

Quarterly statistics on businesses that have ceased trading are not available. Annual estimates on births, deaths and survivals of businesses are available from the ONS Business Demography publication. The table below contains the latest annual estimates.

	Business deaths (Thousand)
2003	232
2004	244
2005	228
2006[1]	209
2007[1]	228

[1] The figures for 2006 and 2007 are provisional.

The latest two years are considered provisional to allow for the possibility of closed businesses reactivating.

For 2007 separate statistics are available for businesses with 0-4, 5-9, 10-19 and 20 or more employment. For the full dataset see:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15186

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Department of Resources: Contracts

Graham Stringer: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many contracts of employment for staff working for hon. and right hon. Members lodged with the Department of Resources that Department has been unable to locate in the last 12 months. [253984]

Nick Harvey: There are some 2,700 staff employed by hon. Members using standard contracts. About 70 new staff are appointed each month. The Green Book requires Members to lodge contracts and job descriptions with the Department of Resources. Following a recommendation by the National Audit Office, the Department carried out an exercise in 2007 to establish how many contracts were not held as required by the Green Book. At that time 371 were not held. A similar exercise in 2008 found that 218 were not held. No information is available on how many of these had been lodged but mislaid. The Department has taken action to request that copies of the contracts be deposited in accordance with the decision made by the Members Estimate Committee on 20 October 2008.

Members: Allowances

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 542-43W, on Members: allowances, (1) what timetable was given to the contractor brought in to assist with the process of publishing the details of hon. Members' expenses; and whether there are penalties in the contract for any delays that occur; [254039]

(2) when the process of scanning and redacting receipts for hon. Members' expenses will be completed and passed to hon. Members for checking. [254040]

Nick Harvey: The process of scanning and redacting claims, receipts etc has been undertaken in two stages. The first stage included the scanning of all relevant documentation and the initial editing and was concluded in October 2008 within agreed deadlines. The second stage has involved further editing to take account of privacy and security concerns apparent on completion of stage 1. This work is currently in hand and will be completed in March within agreed time frames. There have been no delays in the fulfilment of the contract. On completion of the scanning and editing work, hon. Members will need to check the records relating to them, and further editing may then be required. A date for sending out this information has not yet been set, but Members will receive advance notification of what they will need to do and how to raise matters of concern.

Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will list the external public relations consultants or contractors who are employed or commissioned by the House of Commons Commission; and what payments have been made to Ms Sheree Dodd in relation to the provision of public relations in the last three years. [250527]

Nick Harvey: Sheree Dodd was contracted through the Central Office of Information in February 2008 to provide media advice to the House of Commons Commission. Payments for her services from 26 February 2008 to date, including a COI administration charge, have totalled £41,986.05. In addition, Colman Getty is being paid in connection with public relations for Big Ben's 150th anniversary.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans *(a)* to assess and *(b)* publish the performance of ambulance trusts at district-by-district level; and if he will make a statement. [253904]

Mr. Bradshaw: Emergency ambulance response time data are collected centrally by the Department of Health at ambulance trust level. The Department currently has no plans to change the level at which this data are collected. It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure there is appropriate provision of emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Asthma: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the rates of asthma in *(a)* children aged four years and under, *(b)* children aged five to 14 years and *(c)* adults in each London borough per 1,000 population; and if he will make a statement. [253212]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Data are not collected in the format requested. Data are collected on the number of people in each practice on the asthma disease register by primary care trust (PCT), and by prevalence. The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on practice registers; the number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices lists. 2007-08 data are contained in 'PCT level QOF tables'.

The following table shows the number of people recorded on asthma registers in 2007-08 from the QOF.

Numbers of QOF disease registers and unadjusted prevalence rates by primary care trust

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*Sum of asthma register counts*	*Asthma unadjusted prevalence (percentage)*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	7,664	4.2
Barnet Primary Care Trust	16,930	4.6
Bexley Care Trust	11,648	5.2
Brent PCT	15,431	4.4
Bromley PCT	16,503	5.1
Camden Primary Care Trust	9,392	4.3
City and Hackney Primary Care Team	11,321	4.2
Croydon Primary Care Trust	18,005	4.8
Ealing PCT	18,025	5.0
Enfield PCT	13,786	4.7
Greenwich PCT	12,261	4.6
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,202	4.3
Haringey PCT	12,516	4.6
Harrow PCT	12,734	5.5
Havering PCT	11,798	4.7
Hillingdon PCT	13,619	5.1
Hounslow PCT	11,396	4.4
Islington Primary Care Trust	11,086	5.4
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,168	3.4
Kingston	8,605	4.6
Lambeth PCT	15,822	4.4
Lewisham PCT	14,939	5.1
Newham Primary Care Team	14,939	4.5
Redbridge PCT	12,030	4.6
Richmond and Twickenham	8,249	4.2
Southwark PCT	11,925	4.0
Sutton and Merton PCT	19,777	4.9
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	10,846	4.5
Waltham Forest PCT	12,476	4.7
Wandsworth PCT	13,703	4.2
Westminster PCT	8,018	3.4

Notes:

1. QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services contract on 1 April 2004.
2. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services practices also taking part.
3. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.
4. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
5. The system calculates practice achievement against national targets. It gives general practices, PCTs and strategic health authorities (SHAs) objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients.
6. The QMAS captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.
7. Unadjusted prevalence = (number on disease register/list size) *100. These are raw data.
8. QOF data are collected annually.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care
Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for April 2007 to March 2008, England
QMAS database—2007-08 data as at end of June 2008

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines his Department has issued to local authorities on incentives to care homes to achieve three stars under the Commission for Social Care Inspection's rating scheme; [252701]

(2) how many local authorities provide special payments to care homes which achieve three stars under the Commission for Social Care Inspection's rating scheme. [252702]

Phil Hope: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) introduced its star rating system in May 2008 to enable commissioners and users of services and the public to see whether CSCI judges a care service to be excellent, good, adequate or poor. Star ratings are based on the results of CSCI inspections of services against the relevant regulations and national minimum standards.

The Department has not issued guidance to local authorities on incentives to care homes to achieve higher quality ratings. However, we expect local authorities to commission high quality services and would, therefore, anticipate that care homes which are rated as good or excellent will be more likely to attract local authorities' business.

Fees paid by local authorities for care are for local negotiation. Information on whether councils make special payments to care homes which are awarded three stars by CSCI is not collected centrally.

Diabetes: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to assist those with childhood diabetes in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [252555]

Ann Keen: Our document "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", published in April 2007, drew attention to differences in the management of diabetes in children and young people—which is complex and significantly different from adult care. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

It stated that all children and young people with diabetes should have access to a Children and Young Person Specialist Diabetes (CYPSD) team with appropriate training and competencies; routine care, continuing care and annual assessment; and access to routine and integrated psychological support.

A Children and Young People Diabetes Implementation Support Group has been set up to take forward work on the report's recommendations. The group is chaired by the National Clinical Director for Children, Dr. Sheila Shribman, and includes representation from Diabetes UK, Royal Colleges, young people with diabetes, parents and representatives from organisations with an interest in this area, including the Healthcare Commission.

One of the obligations of the group is to raise the profile of quality care for children and young people with diabetes across the country.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) and trusts to take forward implementation locally. One example of this is

Middlesbrough PCT which has in place a multi-disciplinary team currently providing a service for some 140 children with diabetes. The PCT is developing closer ties with partners in education to develop protocols for use in schools.

Diazepam

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to control the illegal re-sale of diazepam; and if he will make a statement. [245280]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

As a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 the illegal re-sale of diazepam is controlled; its illegal supply is a serious criminal matter.

Police must prioritise resources towards tackling crime, including drugs crime with a focus on those offences which cause the most harm. As such, operational activity may focus on Class A and B drugs, particularly the supply of drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

Where there is an identified need for a local response to a priority problem—such as the supply of diazepam in clubs, partner agencies, including the police, can be tasked through existing Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to work towards achieving a joined-up solution.

This may include enforcement, treatment, improved communication or a range of other options depending on what is needed within the community concerned.

Health Services: Foreigners

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the sale of donated organs to non-UK citizens who have transplant operations in NHS hospitals. [252554]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 32 of the Human Tissue Act 2004 makes it illegal to deal commercially in human material for transplantation.

Heart Diseases

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to replace the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease; and if he will make a statement. [252577]

Ann Keen: Although the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF), launched in March 2000, was a 10-year plan of action, heart services must continue to develop after March 2010. The Department is currently considering how it might best support the national health service to build on the considerable success of the CHD NSF.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of the targets set under the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease have not yet been met. [252586]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, does not contain any specific targets but it does recommend 12 Standards of care for CHD. The national health service (NHS) has made good progress in all areas but further improvements are needed in the management of heart failure and cardiac rehabilitation. NHS Improvement is taking forward national priority projects in these areas to support the NHS.

The publication of the NSF CHD led to this public service agreement target—to improve the health of the population by substantially reducing the mortality rates by 2010, (from the Our Healthier Nation baseline 1995-97) from heart disease and stroke related diseases by at least 40 per cent. in people under 75.

This target was met five years ahead of schedule. Death rates from cardiovascular disease for people under age 75 are down by 44 per cent. from 1995-97 baseline, saving nearly 33,000 lives in 2007, compared to 1996.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 402-3W, on heart diseases: medical treatments, at which hospitals the treatment is available. [253489]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The Department does not collect this information centrally.

We are aware of hospitals in England that have provided this treatment but we do not hold a definitive list. Hospitals include King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust, Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust, London Chest Hospital, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, Leeds General Infirmary (Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust), University Hospitals of Leicester, South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust and Queen Elizabeth Hospital (University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust).

Hospital Beds

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds are available for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) maximum security health services and (ii) medium secure mental health facilities; what proportion are occupied; and what the average occupancy in each category was in each of the last three years. [252573]

Phil Hope: Data on bed availability in medium secure units are not collected centrally.

The number of beds currently available in high secure services for men and women are shown in the following table:

Beds currently available

	Number
Male mental illness and personality disorder	673
Learning disability	48
Female mental illness and personality disorder	50
Dangerous Serious Personality Disorder	108

Data are not held centrally on average occupancy of beds rates in each category for each of the last three years. Data available are contained in the following tables:

Current occupancy rates at 30 September 2008

	Percentage
Male mental illness and personality disorder	90.6
Learning disability	89.6
Female mental illness and personality disorder	88
Dangerous Serious Personality Disorder	85.1
Overall occupancy rate	90.4

Note:
This excludes patients on trial leave i.e. patients who are staying in medium security as part of their progression plan.

	Beds	*Occupancy rates (percentage)*
September 2007	790	93.2
September 2006	870	90.2
December 2005	899	92.1

Measles

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of confirmed cases of measles in children aged under 18 years in *(a)* London and *(b)* England since 1997. [252938]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department consider that the rise in the number of confirmed cases of measles in children under 18 years of age in both London and the rest of England is a result of a decade of relatively low measles, mumps and rubella vaccination uptake. The potential exposure of a large number of unprotected children to the measles virus means that there is a real risk of a large measles epidemic.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce differences between the regions in the number of confirmed cases of measles recorded each year; [252939]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of cases of measles in those under 18. [252940]

Dawn Primarolo: The way to reduce the number of confirmed cases of measles recorded each year is to increase the number of children vaccinated with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Childhood immunisation is a 'tier 2 Vital Sign' which means it is a NHS priority. As such, primary care trusts (PCTs) must set targets to improve vaccination uptake and agree these with their strategic health authorities (SHAs). The SHAs, with the help of the Department, monitor the PCTs against these targets.

In addition to the routine MMR vaccination programme, on 6 August the Department launched a MMR vaccine catchup campaign. The aim of the campaign is to immunise all children between one and 18 years of age who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated with MMR vaccine. The Department has secured additional MMR vaccine that is supplied free of charge to all PCTs. Over £5 million has been transferred to PCTs to help support this programme.

Recently the Department sent all general practitioners (GPs) surgeries new measles leaflets and posters and updated its immunisation website to launch the MMR campaign with a new measles landing page including press lines and questions and answers for PCTs to use.

PCTs have also received multiple alerts through various Departmental communications including the PCT Chief Executives bulletin 'the week', 'GP bulletin', 'Vaccine Update' newsletter and the Chief Medical Officer's Winter Update newsletter.

A public relations campaign is planned to start in late February to support the MMR vaccination.

We also underlined our commitment to immunisation by stating that immunisation is a 'right' in the NHS constitution.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of how many overseas organisations with contracts to provide services to NHS patients his Department has been informed that they have been indicted for defrauding taxpayers, patients or clinicians in their own country. [253795]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not aware of any overseas organisations that have contracts to provide services to national health service patients which have been indicted for defrauding taxpayers, patients or clinicians in their own country. This is because the Department does not centrally collect details of arrangements entered into by local NHS organisations with overseas organisations.

In terms of central procurements, while the Department's commercial directorate has contracted with the United Kingdom subsidiaries of a number of overseas health care organisations, it is not aware of any instances where these UK suppliers have been indicted for fraud.

In purchasing goods and services for the NHS, the Department is subject to all European Union (EU) public procurement regulations. The regulations require that as part of due diligence, all participating organisations must complete a pre-qualification questionnaire to ensure that they are suitable to play a role in the NHS. Under the EU procurement guidelines, public bodies are required to exclude a company that has been convicted of a criminal offence or grave professional misconduct in relation to the conduct of their business. The various offences leading to mandatory exclusion are listed in regulation 23 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. The mandatory exclusion does not relate to parent companies.

MMR Vaccine

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information campaigns have been undertaken by his Department to encourage uptake of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in each of the last five years; what expenditure his Department has incurred on such campaigns in each year; and what targets he has set for the uptake of the vaccine in the next 12 months. [252949]

Dawn Primarolo: As with all vaccines, clear factual information on the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is available from our information resources, such as leaflets, factsheets and the immunisation website, and through health professions working in primary care.

In 2004 the Department collaborated with NHS London on their 'MMR capital catch-up' campaign. In August

2008 the Department issued guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) on what actions should be taken to improve MMR uptake in their area. This initiative was supported by an information leaflet and surgery poster and on-line with a question and answer, 'Big facts' sheet and a measles infection timeline. The Department's cost for the provision of information materials was £10,000 and £8,000 respectively.

Childhood immunisation is a 'tier 2 Vital Sign' which means it is an NHS priority. As such, PCTs must set targets to improve vaccination uptake and agree these with their strategic health authorities (SHAs). The SHAs, with the help of the Department, monitor the PCTs against these targets.

NHS Direct

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average *(a)* cost and *(b)* duration of a call to NHS Direct was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [253721]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average cost of a call to NHS Direct's 0845 46 47 line was £25.53 for 2007-08. This does not include other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners, e.g. calls to the appointments line (formerly the choose and book appointments line) and locally commissioned services.

The average duration of a call to NHS Direct is 528 seconds (8 minutes 48 seconds) for the calendar year January-December 2008. This includes all calls to the 0845 46 47 line and other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners, including calls to the appointments line and locally commissioned services. The time quoted is the duration of time that a frontline staff member speaks to a patient for each call and this includes:

calls warm transferred directly from a health adviser to a nurse;

calls placed on a queue for a nurse or health information advisor (although time spent on the queue is not included);

calls answered and completed by a nurse; and

calls fully handled by a health adviser.

R. Channing Wheeler

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Mr. R. Channing Wheeler *(a)* commenced and *(b)* finished working in his Department. [253793]

Mr. Bradshaw: Mr. Chan Wheeler joined the Department on 18 June 2007 and left its employ on 15 July 2008.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Mr. R. Channing Wheeler in remuneration and expenses for his work in his Department. [253794]

Mr. Bradshaw: The remuneration package for Mr. Chan Wheeler for the financial year 2007-08 is recorded in the Department's Remuneration Report, part of the resource accounts 2007-08 which was laid before Parliament (HC 1042) and is available in the Library.

The remuneration for Mr. Wheeler for his period of employment with the Department which falls in the financial year 2008-09 will be recorded similarly in the resource accounts 2008-09 which will be laid before Parliament later this year.

Watford Hospital

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with the proposed private finance initiative redevelopment of Watford General Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [253805]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. However, further details can be obtained from the East of England Strategic Health Authority.

Since May 1997, 132 hospital schemes worth over £17.3 billion have been approved to proceed—121 via the private finance initiative and 11 through public capital. 49 of those hospitals are already built and operational with a further 19 which have reached financial close and are now under construction.

The target of 100 new hospital schemes by 2010 as detailed in the NHS Plan is on course to be achieved.

Wheelchairs: Waiting Lists

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average wheelchair users wait to obtain a chair with different specifications in *(a)* West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust, *(b)* Hemel Hempstead and *(c)* Hertfordshire in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [252935]

Phil Hope: Information about waiting times for wheelchair users is not held centrally. The collation of wheelchair information that may assist commissioning decisions is for local determination.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Compensation

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 328W, of the 38 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007 and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, what the *(a)* 10th, *(b)* 25th, *(c)* 50th, *(d)* 75th and *(e)* 90th percentiles were for the amount awarded in respect of the claims that were settled by 13 January 2009; and how many of the claims had been determined by 13 January 2009. [249588]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Unfortunately Defence Analytical Services and Advice are currently unable to provide information on compensation amounts paid out to personnel that were very seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007. However, I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Of the 38 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, all have had their claims determined as at 13 January 2009.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 327-8W, of the 42 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007 and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, what the *(a)* 10th, *(b)* 25th, *(c)* 50th, *(d)* 75th and *(e)* 90th percentiles were for the amount awarded in respect of the claims that were settled by 13 January 2009; and how many of the claims had been determined by 13 January 2009. [249581]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Unfortunately Defence Analytical Services and Advice are currently unable to provide information on compensation amounts paid out to personnel that were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007. However, we will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Of the 42 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, 40 have had their claims determined as at 13 January 2009.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in discussions with the Scottish Executive on the repatriation of members of the armed forces killed in action abroad and whose families wish an inquest to take place in Scotland under the fatal accident inquiry system; and if he will make a statement. [250664]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The then Defence Secretary wrote to Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Communications, on 27 March 2008 seeking a way forward to enable investigations to take place in Scotland into service deaths overseas. We received a response on 19 November. I wrote to Mr. MacAskill on 15 January with proposals for resolving this issue quickly. I have received a constructive reply and I hope we will now be able to find a way forward without further delay.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Operating Costs

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost per track/road mile, excluding crew costs, of operating the *(a)* Warrior, *(b)* Bulldog and *(c)* Mastiff armoured vehicles. [252863]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The estimated cost per track kilometre, excluding crew and fuel costs, for financial year 2009-10 is as follows:

	£ per kilometre
Warrior	104.50
Bulldog	43.38

These costs include first and second line repair costs of equipment in the Field Army, together with equipment support costs.

Information on operating costs for wheeled vehicles is not held in a format that would enable an estimate per kilometre to be made, therefore no costs are available for Mastiff.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence since the creation of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, how many Cypriot civilians have been forcibly resettled in the region. [252904]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Cypriot civilians have ever been forcibly resettled in the sovereign base areas.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken to protect the infrastructure in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia against risks of *(a)* earthquakes and *(b)* adverse weather conditions. [252905]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 1992, all new buildings in the sovereign base areas (SBA) have been required to comply with the Seismic Code for Reinforced Concrete Structures in Cyprus and the European Community regulations covering buildings in areas vulnerable to the risk of earthquakes.

Responsibility for buildings and civil infrastructure outside the SBA military camps is delegated to the Republic of Cyprus (RoC). As such, all SBA villages are included in the RoC's earthquake and disaster plan. Officials from the SBA meet twice a year with the RoC to discuss contingency plans and the provision of support in the event of a disaster.

Officials from the SBA also participate twice a year in European Community civil protection exercises. These are hosted by the RoC and are aimed at both improving co-ordination between the relevant agencies, and ensuring the suitability of contingency plans in response to natural disasters and emergency situations on the island of Cyprus.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Royal Navy maintains a permanent presence in the Mediterranean. [252906]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy's permanent presence in the Mediterranean consists of the squadrons based in Gibraltar and Cyprus who operate two Maritime Patrol Vessels each. In addition, the Royal Navy routinely undertakes maritime security operations and NATO taskings in the region.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the future of the medical facilities of Princess Mary's RAF Hospital at Akrotiri. [252907]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A project is currently under way to consider the future provision of secondary health care in Cyprus. A range of options is being considered. None have yet been ruled out. Final implementation is expected to take in the region of two years.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Cypriot civilians inhabiting the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [252910]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The civilian population of the sovereign base areas (SBA) is determined by census undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus. The last census, conducted in 2001, confirmed the following figures:

Cypriot civilians in Akrotiri: 4,329

Cypriot civilians in Dhekelia: 2,642

The Republic of Cyprus is due to conduct its next census in 2011.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often he has met the Foreign Secretary in the last 12 months to discuss events in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [252913]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last 12 months, the Secretary of State for Defence has not met the Foreign Secretary specifically to discuss the sovereign base areas; although they have met regularly, discussing a wide range of topics including exchanges on Cyprus.

Both MOD and FCO maintain a keen interest in the sovereign base areas, which receive regular visits by Ministers. I visited both Akrotiri and Dhekelia in December 2008; the former Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Halton (Derek Twigg) visited in May 2008 and the former Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) visited in April 2007.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252266]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information held centrally by the Ministry of Defence indicates that MOD had no direct contracts with the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008. Defence agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and individual military units may have placed locally arranged, low value contract, with the Internet Advertising Bureau. Details of these are not be held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what European Security and Defence Policy missions are in the pre-operational planning stage. [253364]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to increase the number of its *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff attached to the (i) European Union military staff and (ii) European Defence Agency. [253365]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have no plans at present, but would consider opportunities as they arise and if and when resources are available.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of providing *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff attached to the (i) European Union military staff, (ii) European Defence Agency, (iii) European Union Military Committee and (iv) other EU institutions in 2008. [253367]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total cost to the Department of the military personnel and MOD civilian staff attached to the European Union Military Staff, European Union Military Committee and other EU institutions was £1.9 million in 2008.

Military personnel and MOD civilian staff attached to the European Defence Agency (EDA) are paid directly by the EDA from its functioning budget, which covers all of the operating costs of the Agency. The UK's contribution to the EDA's functioning budget was €4.1 million (£3.94 million) in 2008.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 39W, on the Small Scale Focused Intervention Force, what the difference in capability between the Small Scale Focused Intervention Force and the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group is. [253370]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Small Scale Contingent Battle Group can undertake the same range of tasks as the Small Scale Focused Intervention Force that it replaced.

The unit currently undertaking this role, 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, also provides an enhanced capability for the Small Scale Contingent Battle Group to undertake air assault operations.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 20 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 712W, on the Helsinki Headline Goal, what the expected maximum percentage is of troops offered by the UK under the Helsinki Headline Goal which will be infantry. [253387]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 20 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 712W, to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton).

Falkland Islands

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent in total by his Department on operations in the Falkland Islands in each of the last five years. [253218]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: In each of the last five years the costs to the Chief of Joint Operations, who is responsible for maintaining UK forces in the Falkland Islands, are as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2003-04	110.6
2004-05	113.1
2005-06	143.3
2006-07	65.0
2007-08	67.4

The reason for the much lower figures in the most recent years is because, as a consequence of a change in MOD accounting policy, the Chief of Joint Operations is no longer responsible for reporting fixed asset depreciation costs and the cost of capital on fixed assets.

Future Rapid Effect System

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure to date has been on each variant on the Future Rapid Effect System programme; and if he will make a statement. [253341]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As at the end of December 2008, expenditure on the FRES programme, inclusive of VAT was as follows:

	£ million
Utility vehicle (UV)	133
Specialist vehicles (SV)	25
Total spend	158

Injured Personnel

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department makes available to service personnel injured on operations. [252612]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Service personnel injured due to service on or after 6 April 2005, including those injured due to service while on operations, receive compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). This provides both a tax-free lump sum payment of up to £570,000 that can be paid during service, and for the more seriously injured a Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP), which is tax-free, index-linked and payable from discharge for the rest of their life. The total compensation received can therefore exceed £1 million.

The War Pension Scheme (WPS) provides compensation and a range of allowances to service personnel disabled as a result of their service, up to and including 5 April 2005, payable after discharge. These include a basic war disablement pension based on the degree of disablement, supplementary allowances and allowances for dependents.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 35W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between his Department and the Department for International Development during Operation Telic One. [253818]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 876W.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of external legal services provided to his Department in each of the last five years. [251349]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Specific data on the expenditure by the MOD on external legal fees in each of the last five years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Merlin Helicopters

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Merlin helicopters have been fit for service in each year since 2003. [253219]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Minesweepers: Research

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department receives information on the work and research of the US Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [252874]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD regularly exchanges information on work and research with its allies to the mutual benefit of all parties. As part of continuing successful coalition operations, MOD discusses such topics with the US.

Morocco: Joint Exercises

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1301W, on Morocco: armed forces, for what reason a news article of 24 October 2008 on his Department's website on training and adventure states that a joint exercise had taken place partly in the Atlas Mountains and partly in the Western Sahara. [253796]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence intranet site and the MOD internet site contained an article which reported British forces and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment training in Morocco. More specifically it referred to training in the Western Sahara. This article was ambiguous: all training was conducted within Morocco, including areas in the western Sahara desert, not in Western Sahara. The article has been amended to remove this ambiguity. It remains the case that British armed forces do not conduct military activity in Western Sahara, the status of which has yet to be determined by the UN.

Netherlands: Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many joint training exercises involving the UK and the Netherlands were conducted in support of the UK/Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force in 2008; and how many are planned for 2009. [253366]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been three joint training exercises in support of the UK/Netherlands amphibious landing force in 2008. There is one joint training exercise planned for 2009.

Personal Protective Equipment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to improve the standard of personal protective equipment issued to service personnel. [252614]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: The need to improve personal protection in response to developing threats is continually assessed. Further improvements to body armour and helmets are being developed and are planned to be introduced later this year. In the longer term, the Personal Equipment and Common Operational Clothing (PECOC) programme, which is currently in its assessment phase, will deliver further upgrades to items of personal protective equipment.

Service Personnel: Fitness for Duty

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence How many *(a)* officers and *(b)* personnel in other ranks in each regular infantry and Royal Marine battalion were unfit for duty at the latest date for which figures are available. [253658]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: Unfit for duty has been interpreted as medically unfit to perform any duty. Personnel unfit for duty in their primary role but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity are not included in the following tables.

The figures given include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen. Separate figures for officers and soldiers are not held centrally.

As at 1 December 2008, the figures requested for the infantry were:

Div	*Unit*	*Number of personnel unfit for duty*
Guards	1 Grenadier Gds	5
	1 Coldstream Gds	0
	1 Scots Guards	5
	1 Irish Guards	7
	1 Welsh Guards	5
Scots	1 Scots	2
	2 Scots	4
	3 Scots	2
	4 Scots	20
	5 Scots	13
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	4
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	6
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	6
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	32
	1 Royal Anglian	4
	2 Royal Anglian	1
Kings	1 Lancs	11
	2 Lancs	4
	1 Yorks	9
	2 Yorks	1
	3 Yorks	4
PoW	1 Mercian	0
	2 Mercian	3
	3 Mercian	8
	1 Royal Welsh	4
	2 Royal Welsh	13
Rifles	1 Rifles	[1]0
	2 Rifles	11
	3 Rifles	2
	4 Rifles	2
	5 Rifles	0
RI	1 Royal Irish	11
Para	2 Para	30
	3 Para	0
RGR	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	8
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	0

[1] 1 Rifles data are as at 29 January 2009.

In addition, there are three incremental guards companies that are primarily for public duties but can also be used to augment the other guards battalions as required:

Unit	*Number of personnel unfit for duty*
N Coy Grenadier Gds	0
7 Coy Coldstream Gds	0
F Coy Scots Gds	0

As at 29 January 2009, the figures for the Royal Marines Commando Units were:

Unit	*Number of personnel unit for duty*
40 Cdo RM	0
42 Cdo RM	0
45 Cdo RM	3

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many force generation conferences have there been for Operation Atalanta; and how many are planned. [253357]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been one force generation conference for Operation Atalanta. Any future force generation conferences will be called as required but none are currently planned.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK owned or operated unmanned aerial vehicles transited through UK airspace in 2008. [252110]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There were no non-UK owned or operated unmanned aerial vehicle transits through UK airspace in 2008.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft and Shipping: Safety

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many safety inspections have been carried out on *(a)* aircraft at airports and *(b)* ships in port in each of the last 12 months. [252444]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) carried out 594 inspections of foreign aircraft at UK airports in 2008. These inspections are carried out on behalf of the Department for Transport and form part of the European Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft programme. The number of inspections conducted each month was:

	Number of SAFA inspections January to December 2008
January	28
February	71
March	10
April	55
May	80
June	53
July	68
August	56
September	44
October	74
November	36
December	19
Total	594

The CAA's Airworthiness Division also carried out approximately 900 safety inspections on UK registered aircraft during 2008. These inspections were carried out at maintenance organisations as well as at airports and formed part of a pre-planned monitoring programme that is applied to each UK aircraft owner or operator. The inspections varied in depth and scope between a simple 'in service' ramp inspection through to a more in depth inspection during maintenance.

In addition, the CAA's Flight Operations Division has a system of planned audits of UK commercial operators which includes inspections of aeroplanes at airports. There were approximately 129 such inspections evenly spread throughout 2008. A further 20 inspections were specifically conducted on UK cargo aircraft.

Details of these inspections are not recorded centrally and therefore providing either an exact number of inspections or the months in which they took place would incur disproportionate cost.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency carries out inspections to check safety standards and living conditions on UK and dependent territory ships, as well as port state control inspections for foreign ships visiting UK ports. Over the last 12 months we have carried out the following number of targeted inspections and port state control inspections.

2008	*Number of targeted inspections on UK and dependent territory Ships (inspected in the UK)*	*Port state control inspections for foreign ships visiting UK ports*
January	36	174
February	15	172
March	22	134
April	19	153
May	19	132
June	26	142
July	16	112
August	19	134
September	18	175
October	17	182
November	11	149
December	15	161
Total	233	1820

Airports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the National Policy Statement on airports to be published *(a)* in draft and *(b)* in its final form. [251812]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have yet to take decisions on the timetable for preparing a national policy statement (NPS) on airports, but it is expected to be published in draft by 2011. The draft NPS will then be subject to public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny as set out in the Planning Act 2008 before it can be formally designated.

Aviation: EU Action

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* have taken place and *(b)* are planned to take place within the EU on widening the responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency; whether any discussions (i) have taken place and (ii) are planned to take place in the EU on Annex II to EC Regulation 216/2008; and if he will make a statement. [253492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In June 2008 the European Commission published a regulatory proposal to extend the European Aviation Safety Agency's competence to cover the safety of aerodromes, air navigation service providers and air traffic management.

Negotiations on the proposal began in the technical working group of the council in July 2008 and are ongoing. The proposal was discussed at the Transport Council in December where Ministers agreed a partial general approach on articles concerning air navigation services, air traffic management and the proposal's application to the military.

We understand that EASA, as part of a review into the regulation of light aircraft, may recommend future changes to Annex II.

Aviation: Risk Assessment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risk registers *(a)* are in use and *(b)* have been in use in the last two years in relation to projects within his Department's Aviation Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [253211]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: The Department's aviation directorate regularly uses risk registers to monitor all of its strategic projects. The directorate also uses risk registers to monitor non-strategic projects and business as usual activities relating to regulatory issues, airport capacity and operations, aviation and the environment, and aviation safety.

Aviation: Type Approval

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Civil Aviation Authority first received an application for the ELA O-7 gyroplane to be approved for use in UK airspace; what the reasons for the time taken to consider the application are; and if he will make a statement. [253645]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The CAA received an application for the validation of the Spanish certification of the ELA 07 gyroplane in April 2006. As part of the certification process the CAA had consulted the Spanish authorities on the differences between the Spanish and UK airworthiness codes for gyroplanes. Significant differences between the codes were identified. As a result, the CAA have been involved in discussions with the Spanish authorities and ELA, the manufacturer of the gyroplane, with a view to agreeing and approving the modification necessary to meet the UK requirements. The CAA last met with the Spanish authorities and the manufacturer in October 2008. All of the follow up action from that meeting rests with ELA. ELA has requested the CAA not to do any additional work on the validation until ELA and the Spanish authorities have agreed the way forward.

Coaches: Disabled

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase the accessibility of national and international coach travel to people with a disability. [252761]

Paul Clark: The Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations apply to all buses and coaches with more than 22 passenger seats operating to a published timetable. The Regulations require all buses to comply from the year 2015 to 2017 (depending on the type of bus) and 2020 for coaches used on scheduled services.

The European Commission have recently made proposals, relating to bus and coach passenger rights. The Department for Transport will be considering this in due course.

Crossrail Line

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the risk of contamination from *(a)* bubonic plague, *(b)* anthrax and *(c)* other biological agents as a consequence of the possible disturbance of burial grounds during the construction of the Crossrail project. [252334]

Paul Clark: Crossrail, in common with all other major projects, has been the subject of a comprehensive environmental impact assessment. A significant part of this was the investigation of archaeological remains, including burial grounds, along the route. This investigation was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Services. Although there are a number of burial grounds on the route, this is not generally an issue where the running tunnels are at some depth underground. There are issues, however, at the stations where excavation must of necessity be carried out from ground level.

Only one site was identified where this issue may arise. This is at the eastern end of the Farringdon station adjacent to the eastern end of the Smithfield meat market. A trial pit will be excavated as soon as Crossrail has obtained possession of the site, and the appropriate testing will be carried out. The techniques for dealing with these matters are well understood by archaeologists and the necessary specialist advice will be taken.

This matter was discussed at some length in the House of Lords Select Committee on the Crossrail Bill and subsequently with Lord James of Blackheath who was a member of the Committee. In the event that any contaminated remains are found these will be dealt with in the appropriate manner as set out in guidance from Government, English Heritage and the ecclesiastical authorities.

Cycling: Accidents

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the *(a)* rate and *(b)* severity of cyclist casualties of legal requirements for cyclists to wear helmets. [253180]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The evidence indicates that cycle helmets provide protective benefits in the event of a collision and therefore prevent and reduce injuries. Research suggests that between one third and one half of pedal cycle casualties attending hospital sustained an injury to the head or face. (See DfT Road Safety Research Report Number.30.)

However, we do not know how many head injuries may have been prevented or reduced had the cyclist been wearing a helmet, since we do not know what level of protection is offered in different types of accidents.

The Department has recently commissioned a new research project-looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues. This is now under way and is being undertaken by a consortium led by TRL and including MVA, ITS Leeds, Simon Christmas Ltd, SHM and Arup. It will examine the following topics:

Road user safety and cycling data

Cycling infrastructure

Attitudes and behaviours of cyclists and other road users

Bicycle helmets, including an updated evaluation of their effectiveness.

The research project as a whole is likely to be three years in duration, but we are aiming to complete the review of cycle helmet effectiveness by the end of 2009.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Dartford River Crossing DART tags have been issued *(a)* in total and *(b)* to businesses since 1 November 2008. [253130]

Paul Clark: The number of Dart-Tags issued between 1 November 2008 and 26 January 2009 was 25,022, including tags for use in the local resident discount scheme. There are no records on the division of tags between personal and business users.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252377]

Mr. Hoon: The spend on Ministers' offices in the last 12 months was £17,332. Most of this was spent on installing energy efficient lighting mechanisms and will be offset by lower running costs.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of his Department' contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251366]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 386-87W, given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien).

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [251136]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not hold centrally collected records on all ICT projects carried out by the central Department and its seven executive agencies. Available information shows that the following ICT projects were abandoned before completion since the Department was formed in 2002.

Project	*Start date*	*End date*	*Supplier*	*Cost (£)*
Central DFT				
Integration of an Electronic document and records management system	June 2003	October 2004	BT	854,000
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency				
Tracking Vehicles Through The Trade (TV3T)	June 2005	June 2007	IBM	7,900,000
Electronic Licensing for Fleets (ELF)	December 2006	June 2007	IBM	270,000
Highways Agency				
Correspondence document management system	September 2000	August 2003	Admiral	228,000
Driving Standards Agency				
Self Service Kiosks in Practical Test Centres	September 2007	March 2008	In-house	0
ADLI phase 4	April 2005	May 2006	Capita	37,000

None of the other four executive agencies had ICT projects abandoned before completion.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what websites his Department has operated other than its main departmental website over the last five years; and what the operating budget for those websites was; [251355]

(2) what websites his Department operates apart from its main departmental website; and what the operating budget for each of those websites is in 2008-09. [251356]

Mr. Hoon: Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing websites operated over the last five years and their operating costs. Total operating costs are not yet available for the current financial year.

Where annual operating costs are not available this is due to a number of reasons; either the site has only recently been available and costs are only applicable for the current financial year; the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs. Figures provided do not include staff costs.

The Department for Transport intends to measure website costs in line with the proposed guidance issued by the Central Office of Information, 'Measuring website costs (TG128)', starting from the financial year 2009-10.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253264]

Mr. Hoon: Information is made available to staff on added pension, additional voluntary contributions, and stakeholder pensions by the following means:

(a) all new staff are provided with a scheme booklet on pension choices when they join the Department;

(b) all staff in the scheme are provided with an annual pension statement which details the current and projected value and provides information about ways of boosting their pension;

(c) the Department's intranet and staff handbook provide information about the pension scheme and a link to the scheme website where more information is available;

(d) the Department's pension team provides a pensions helpline for all pension enquiries including information about ways of boosting pension.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251249]

Mr. Hoon: The Department was formed in May 2002 and figures for the 2002-03 financial year could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The cost of public relations consultancies for the last five complete financial years is as follows:

					£000
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DFT Central	214	253	255	362	625
DSA	0	0	0	0	0
DVLA	257	347	872	371	500
HA	0	0	0	0	0
VOSA	0	0	0	26	27
MCA	60	51	73	79	53
VCA	0	0	0	0	0
GCDA	0	0	0	0	0

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 835W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251319]

Mr. Hoon: Other Ministers in the Department for Transport have taken the following training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008: induction and action learning set.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in the provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252220]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252011]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its agencies operate a flexible working system where staff participating may accrue a credit balance of more than their conditioned hours. Time off in lieu can be granted by line managers to staff who have accrued additional hours.

Line managers may formally agree in advance that staff carry out essential work outside contracted hours attracting time off in lieu or overtime.

All working arrangements must comply with the working time regulations, such as taking appropriate minimum break during the working day.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252012]

Mr. Hoon: This information is not available.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249134]

Mr. Hoon: Separate records of these occasions are not kept and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a statutory duty to issue an acknowledgement letter following receipt of a statutory off road notification or notice of a change of owner; and if he will make a statement. [253563]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is under no statutory obligation to issue acknowledgement letters. However, the DVLA is committed to sending all customers an acknowledgement letter. Upon receipt of a statutory off road notification (SORN) or disposal notification, an acknowledgement is automatically generated and sent to the keeper of the vehicle.

Driving Tests

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* took and *(b)* passed their driving test in (i) Ribble Valley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years. [253226]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: There are no driving test centres within the Ribble Valley.

The number of driving tests conducted by the Driving Standards Agency in Lancashire and where the result was a pass in each of the last five years for car, motorcycle, lorry and bus categories are:

		Overall	
	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
Car			
2007-08	38,149	17,889	46.9
2006-07	40,271	17,987	44.7
2005-06	41,616	18,138	43.6
2004-05	37,768	15,553	41.2
2003-04	31,661	13,300	42.0
Bike			
2007-08	2,380	1,605	67.4
2006-07	2,115	1,380	65.2
2005-06	2,345	1,448	61.7
2004-05	2,432	1,535	63.1
2003-04	2,502	1,601	64.0
Lorry			
2007-08	2,060	1,068	51.8
2006-07	2,232	1,156	51.8
2005-06	2,519	1,275	50.6
2004-05	2,415	1,222	50.6
2003-04	2,250	1,197	53.2
Bus			
2007-08	220	134	60.9
2006-07	230	139	60.4
2005-06	265	141	53.2
2004-05	258	131	50.8
2003-04	314	166	52.9

The Driving Standards Agency is responsible for conducting driving tests within Great Britain. The Driver and Vehicle Agency is responsible for driving tests conducted within Northern Ireland. The number of driving tests taken and passed in Great Britain over the last five years for car, motorcycle, lorry and bus categories are:

		Overall	
	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
Car			
2007-08	1,769,860	783,632	44.3
2006-07	1,789,885	776,329	43.4
2005-06	1,827,381	777,817	42.6
2004-05	1,670,302	707,018	42.3
2003-04	1,399,385	598,347	42.8
Lorry			
2007-08	70,766	32,779	46.3
2006-07	78,140	36,119	46.2
2005-06	88,815	40,247	45.3
2004-05	79,431	36,935	46.5
2003-04	66,832	32,598	48.8
Bike			
2007-08	87,962	58,520	66.5
2006-07	77,007	50,112	65.1
2005-06	80,162	51,051	63.7
2004-05	77,897	50,063	64.3
2003-04	83,451	53,789	64.5
Bus			
2007-08	10,331	5,203	50.4
2006-07	9,922	4,602	46.4
2005-06	11,698	5,210	44.5
2004-05	12,251	5,369	43.8
2003-04	10,083	4,591	45.5

Car driving tests conducted in Northern Ireland are shown in the following table. Data for other categories are unavailable.

		Overall	
	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
2007-08	61,298	27,584	45
2006-07	61,173	28,751	47
2005-06	57,264	28,059	49
2004-05	41,547	19,942	48
2003-04	47,022	22,100	47

Driving Under Influence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government spent on campaigns against drink-driving in the last year for which figures are available. [251744]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Directly attributable marketing expenditure on the "THINK! Don't Drink And Drive" campaign was £3.6 million in the 2007-08 financial year. Nearly £3 million of this was on advertising across a wide range of media in June and December to coincide with police enforcement campaigns.

Driving: Licensing

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to ensure that people are aware that photocard driving licences need to be renewed every 10 years. [252875]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Photocard licence holders are sent a personalised renewal reminder two months in advance of the date of expiry of their photograph.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on regular health checks for holders of driving licences; and if he will make a statement. [253608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have had no such discussions.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each plan. [250595]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its agencies last updated their euro changeover plans in September 2006. A number of technological and structural changes have taken place since then and would need to be revisited before the plans could be published. The costs of updating the plans for publication would be disproportionate. The Department and its agencies will however review their plans at a later date.

Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* volume and *(b)* weight of freight was transported within the UK by (i) road, (ii) rail, (iii) inland water, (iv) coastal water and (v) pipeline in each year since 2001. [253310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Domestic freight transport by mode is available in table 4.1 in the publication "Transport Statistics Great Britain 2008 Edition". This is available on the DfT website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/2008edition/

Summary tables is provided as follows:

Domestic freight transport by mode, Great Britain, goods lifted

Million tonnes

	Road	Rail[1]	Coastwise traffic between UK ports	One-port traffic of UK ports[2]	Inland waters traffic	Pipeline	Total
2001	1,682	94	59	35	38	151	2,058
2002	1,734	87	60	44	36	146	2,106
2003	1,753	89	59	39	35	141	2,116
2004	1,863	100	60	35	33	158	2,248
2005	1,868	105	65	32	35	168	2,275
2006	1,940	108	58	31	38	159	2,333
2007	2,001	102	59	29	38	146	2,376

Domestic freight transport by mode, Great Britain, goods moved

Billion tonne kilometres

	Road	Rail[1]	Coastwise traffic between UK ports	One-port traffic of UK ports[2]	Inland waters traffic	Pipeline	Total
2001	159	19	34	23	1	12	248
2002	159	19	35	31	1	11	256
2003	162	19	33	26	1	11	252
2004	163	20	35	23	1	11	253
2005	163	22	39	20	1	11	257
2006	167	22	32	18	1	11	251
2007	173	21	35	15	1	10	255

[1] Rail data are based on financial years (2001-02 etc.).

[2] Traffic to and from UK offshore installations and sea dredging.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Disciplinary Proceedings

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times a written warning has been issued to a member of staff of the Government Car and Dispatch Agency following misuse of the Government procurement card since January 2006. [252677]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Two formal written warnings have so far been issued by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to two of its employees about their misuse of the Government Procurement Card.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 358, on transport infrastructure, when he plans to lift the cap of 125,000 on the number of additional flights permitted at Heathrow Airport. [250701]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have made it clear that our support for a third runway is subject to an aggregate limit of 605,000 annual movements, to be reviewed in 2020. That review will take account of a number of factors, as set out in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow—Decisions following consultation" document which can be found on the Department's website. It follows that, until that review, it is not possible to anticipate whether of not the cap might be lifted or the timing of any decision to lift the cap, subject to planning approval.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which models of plane will qualify to use the green landing slots at Heathrow Airport. [252658]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As stated in the document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow - Decisions Following Consultation" the Department intends to consult on the green slots approach to additional capacity at Heathrow. Details of how 'green slots' will work will be developed in the consultation process which is expected to begin later in 2009. It is the Government's intention that green slots will incentivise the use of the most modern aircraft available at the time.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of additional passengers using Heathrow Airport each year which would result from an increase of 125,000 in the number of flight movements from the airport each year. [252659]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009", page 131, shows the forecast passenger demand for Heathrow under several scenarios, including a third runway with an additional 125,000 air transport movements (ATMs) per year. This is available at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

The number of additional passengers in 2030, compared to a base case of no third runway at Heathrow and Stansted second runway in 2015, is 28 million.

Forecasts of additional passengers from the opening of a third runway in 2015 up to 2030 are detailed in the following table.

	Additional passengers (Million)
2015	0
2020	17
2025	23
2030	28

Note:
This assumes that Stansted second runway (2015 opening) in the base case.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence on Heathrow expansion (i) he, (ii) other Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department, have had in an official capacity with representatives from (A) BAA, (B) trades unions, (C) airlines using Heathrow, (D) other corporate bodies and (E) residents from communities affected by Heathrow expansion, since 3 October 2008; when each meeting took place; who attended each meeting; and what the subject of each meeting was. [252709]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Since October 2008, Ministers and officials have not met BAA, trade unions, airlines using Heathrow, corporate stakeholders or residents around Heathrow to discuss Heathrow airport development issues.

The Department has received a high number of letters about Heathrow airport from local residents during this period and two from the Chief Executive of BAA. The first one on 28 November 2008 concerned the monitoring of the environmental impacts of expansion of Heathrow airport, the second one, dated 16 January 2009, related to the Secretary of State's decisions on Heathrow which he announced to Parliament on 15 January 2009.

Heathrow Airport: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the Government plans to provide guarantees in relation to the financing of construction of a third runway at Heathrow; [252158]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of construction of a third runway at Heathrow. [252159]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* The Government will not be providing guarantees for the financing of the construction of a third runway at Heathrow. The financing of new infrastructure at Heathrow airport is a matter for the airport operator, subject to economic regulation.

Heathrow is a designated airport for the purposes of price control. These controls are set by the independent regulator the Civil Aviation Authority. Part IV of the 1986 Airports Act requires the CAA, when setting price controls, to (among other things)

> 'encourage investment in new facilities at airports in time to satisfy anticipated demands by the users of such airports.'

Heathrow Airport: National Policy Statements

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to publish a national policy statement on expansion of Heathrow Airport. [252657]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have stated our intention to publish a national policy statement on airports based on the Air Transport White Paper, which satisfies the requirements set out in the Planning Act.

Heathrow Airport: Planning Permission

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a planning application for a third runway at Heathrow would fall to be decided by the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [252656]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The decision to submit a planning application for a third runway at Heathrow and the timing of such an application are matters for the airport operator. The Government envisage that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be established and able to start giving advice to potential applicants this autumn and ready to begin receiving applications from spring 2010. Whether or not the IPC would act as the decision maker on such an application is also dependent on the availability of a designated national policy statement on airports, which is planned for publication in draft by 2011.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue has been generated by tolls on the Humber Bridge in each year since its opening; and if he will make a statement. [251842]

Paul Clark: The following table sets out the revenue generated by tolls on the Humber Bridge each year since its opening in 1982.

Humber Bridge toll income

Financial year ended 31 March:	*£*
1982	3,182,632
1983	4,143,464
1984	4,476,913
1985	4,810,129
1986	5,350,985
1987	6,589,507
1988	7,453,600
1989	8,820,175
1990	9,658,526
1991	10,353,960
1992	10,937,157
1993	11,228,919
1994	11,913,017
1995	12,158,380
1996	12,389,582
1997	12,679,463

Humber Bridge toll income

Financial year ended 31 March	£
1998	14,169,800
1999	16,682,260
2000	17,533,710
2001	17,490,660
2002	17,921,900
2003	18,519,810
2004	19,306,480
2005	20,244,280
2006	20,394,690
2007	21,437,750
2008[1]	21,755,730
Total	341,603,159

[1] Subject to audit.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of people exempt from Humber Bridge tolls; and if he will make a statement. [252052]

Paul Clark: There are 11,500 individuals registered for exemption from tolls at the Humber Bridge.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of holding an inquiry into the application to revise tolls charged at the south bank of the River Humber; and if he will make a statement. [253767]

Paul Clark: The inquiry will open at 10 am on 3 March 2009 at the Willerby Manor hotel, Hull. The location is a matter for the Humber Bridge Board.

Local Government: Transport

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage local authorities to include plans to improve urban design and regeneration in their next local transport plans. [253192]

Paul Clark: A consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) guidance for 2011 onwards was published on 18 December 2008. The guidance sets out the importance of the Department for Transport's strategy, 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS), in providing a framework for LTPs. Good urban design and regeneration are important elements in addressing the goals set out in DaSTS, particularly those on Quality of Life and Equality of Opportunity, respectively. We would expect local authorities appropriately to address these issues in their local transport plans.

On urban design, local authorities have been directed towards key policy documents and best practice in the Policy and Best Practice Handbook, published alongside the consultation.

On regeneration, the Department continues to work closely with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government to align local transport planning with the emerging regeneration framework.

LTP guidance is out for consultation until 9 April 2009. The Department would welcome any comments to consider for full guidance, which we expect to publish in summer 2009.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251264]

Mr. Hoon: The following table lists organisations that provided media monitoring services to the Department for Transport in each of the last three financial years and the cost. Comparable information for 2003-04 and 2004/05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

			£000
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfT(C)	296.1	313.0	336.0
DSA	17.0	18.0	20.0
DVLA	1.4	1.4	1.4
GCDA	—	—	—
HA	40.1	67.7	90.3
MCA	65.4	100.0	105.9
VCA	—	—	3.0
VOSA	—	—	—

Merseyrail: Park and Ride

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many park and ride spaces serving the Merseyrail network there were in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [253188]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Full details of station parking facilities are on the Merseyrail website at:

http://www.merseyrail.org

or are available from Merseyrail, Rail House, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool L1 1JF.

Merseytravel is undertaking improvements to and expansion of park and ride services across Merseyside as part of its local transport plan.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirement there is for insurance of vehicles in storage or under repair and declared under statutory off-road notifications regulations. [253478]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: Current legislation requires compulsory motor insurance against third party risk for the use of a vehicle on a road or other public place. There is no statutory requirement to insure vehicles in private storage or under repair and declared under statutory off-road notification (SORN).

We are consulting on proposals for a "Continuous Insurance Enforcement" scheme. Under the proposed scheme it would be an offence to keep a vehicle which has no valid insurance unless there is in place a valid SORN declaration. Those potentially uninsured will be identified by frequent comparison of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's vehicle register and the motor insurance industry's database.

Newhaven Marine Railway Station

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the last passenger train departed Newhaven Harbour Marine station. [249334]

Paul Clark: A passenger train service is still operating from Newhaven Marine station, but due to safety concerns at the station information is available advising passengers that they may call Southern's customer service team to arrange a replacement taxi or they may wish to walk the three minutes north to Newhaven Harbour station to catch alternative services.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what restrictions exist on how local authorities may spend money raised from *(a)* on-street parking charges and *(b)* parking fines. [252955]

Paul Clark: Income from on-street parking charges and all penalty charges must only be used in accordance with section 55 (as amended) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes have been made to the guidance issued by his Department to local highways authorities on the design of pedestrian crossings since 2005. [253774]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport have not published any new or updated guidance on pedestrian crossings since 2005.

Guidance on the design of stand-alone pedestrian crossings (zebras, pelicans and puffins) is given in Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/95 "The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings", and LTN 2/95 "The Design of Pedestrian Crossings". These are available free from the DFT website at

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/.

Guidance on the design of pedestrian facilities at traffic signal junctions is given in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/05 "Pedestrian Facilities at Signal-Controlled Junctions", published in 2005. This is also available free on the DFT website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/tal/.

Public Transport

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he is making on increasing integration of public transport *(a)* timetables and *(b)* ticketing. [253185]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working with the industry to increase integration across different modes of public transport.

The Department's online journey planner, Transport Direct:

www.transportdirect.info

provides comprehensive travel information and integrated journey plans for both public transport and car.

National Rail Enquiries also have a lead role in providing comprehensive timetabling information. They are currently updating their data to assist the public in planning their journey to and from the station, including adding timetable information for other modes of transport.

Station Travel Plans aim to provide the best access options to the station. The 24 pilot schemes currently running will consider rescheduling timetables to ensure better integration of public transport services.

The Department is also working with the industry to support this and other initiatives in integration across different modes of public transport.

Work is under way on an integrated ticketing strategy for England. This will cover buses, trains, coaches, taxis and parking and the intention is to publish a consultation paper in the late spring. Officials are currently meeting informally with key stakeholders to inform development of the consultation paper. However, there are a considerable number of integrated tickets already available. These include multi-modal tickets such as Travelcards in London, the, 'Kangaroo Ticket' in Nottingham and 'PlusBus', which provides a simple add-on bus option to rail tickets at either or both ends of a journey.

Railway Stations: Closures

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many manned railway stations have been permanently closed in each of the last five years. [251780]

Paul Clark: The following stations in England have closed in each of the last five years (closures in Scotland and Wales are a devolved matter):

	Station
2004	None
2005	Etruria
2006	Garston
	Silvertown
	North Woolwich
	West Ham, Canning Town, Custom House and Stratford Low Level[1]
2007	King's Cross Thameslink
2008	None

[1] National Rail platforms closed as part of the new DLR line from Stratford International to Canning Town.

Railway Stations: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to improve standards of *(a)* seating, *(b)* shelter and *(c)* passenger facilities at rail stations in Merseyside. [253169]

Paul Clark: Stations in Merseyside are eligible for funding from the national stations improvement programme (NSIP) and the access for all programme. In particular, the national stations improvement programme can be used to provide improved seating, shelters and passenger facilities. On 23 January the Minister of State opened the newly refurbished Sandhills station, which benefited from funding under the access for all programme.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to require the Association of Train Operating Companies to introduce railcards for persons over 25 years of age for train journeys *(a)* commencing and *(b)* ending outside South East England; and if he will make a statement. [252000]

Paul Clark: The Government have no present proposals to require the Association of Train Operating Companies to introduce any additional railcards on the National Rail network.

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has allocated for new railway infrastructure in each year since 1997 and in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [253313]

Paul Clark: Network Rail is responsible for investing in the majority of new railway infrastructure in the United Kingdom. The company is funded through a combination of direct grants from Government and track access charges levied on train operators.

Details of Government expenditure on the railway as a whole, as well as investment in rail by the rail industry are set out in "National Rail Trends", which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies of "National Rail Trends" are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Details of the Government's plans for future investment in the railway years are set out in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", which was published and announced to Parliament on 24 July 2007. This can be found on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/hitepapersustainablerailway1.pdf

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to establish a regional rail budget to allow local transport authorities to *(a)* re-open closed rail stations and *(b)* open new rail stations. [253605]

Paul Clark: There are no proposals to establish a regional rail budget. Regions can consider investment in rail schemes alongside other transport schemes when determining priorities in the use of their regional funding allocation (RFA).

Railways: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average level of ridership on rail services in Merseyside in each of the last two years. [253190]

Paul Clark: Statistics on rail passenger numbers are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of trains in Merseyside ran no more than five minutes late in the last 12 months. [253191]

Paul Clark: In the last 12 months, 94.7 per cent. of trains operated by Merseyrail were no more than five minutes late at their destination.

Other companies provide train services in this area, but the Department for Transport does not hold information specific to Merseyside for these operators.

Railways: Standards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the performance of train operating companies against their targets; and if will make a statement. [253186]

Paul Clark: The public performance measure of rail punctuality has risen to 90.8 per cent. in January 2009, up 1.6 per cent. in only a year. Performance is now at its best since this measure was introduced in 2000-01.

Train operators' franchise agreements contain minimum performance standards, and actual results compared with these are monitored on a regular basis.

Railways: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train service on the *(a)* Trans-Pennine and *(b)* Northern network was the most overcrowded in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [252689]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Roads: Accidents

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has issued on the procedure to be followed by *(a)* police forces in England and Wales and *(b)* prosecutors in England and Wales in seeking to obtain access to data stored on vehicle data recording devices when investigating the causes of road traffic collisions; and if he will make a statement. [253093]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has issued no guidance concerning access to data stored in vehicle data recording devices whether for accident investigation or any other purpose.

The fitting and use of electronic data recorders was the subject of debate during the passage of the Road Safety Bill.

Calls for data recorders were not adopted into the Road Safety Bill. It was noted that the subject was under discussion in the international arena and Government believed that this was the most appropriate forum for discussions about this technology.

Transport: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on improving the transport infrastructure in Crosby since 2003; [253181]

(2) what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other assistance his Department has provided for the improvement of transport infrastructure in Crosby since 2003. [253187]

Paul Clark: Allocations provided by the Department for Transport to the Metropolitan borough of Sefton, which covers the Crosby constituency, since 2003 are shown in the following table. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Sefton

£ million

	Integrated transport block	*Highways maintenance*	*Other funding*[1]	*Total local transport funding*
2008-09	2.840	1.914	1.051	5.805
2007-08	3.007	1.237	0.757	5.001
2006-07	2.735	2.167	0.738	5.640
2005-06	2.547	1.548	0.720	4.815
2004-05	3.688	1.657	0.654	5.999
2003-04	3.550	4.549	1.686	9.785

[1] Other funding covers revenue detrunking and bridge strengthening on the primary route network.

Sefton also benefits from funding support provided to the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority. Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department spends funds on the strategic road network through the Highways Agency (HA). The HA's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity. Estimates are compiled for regional expenditure to supplement data reported in the Department's annual report.

Likewise, funding for other transport projects in England, such as rail projects, is not generally available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

Transport: Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on *(a)* transport and *(b)* transport infrastructure in the Luton Borough Council area in each year since 1997. [252645]

Paul Clark: In addition to funds for specific major schemes, the Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Allocations provided to Luton borough council since 1997 are shown in the following table.

£ million

	Integrated transport block	*Highways maintenance*	*Specific road safety funding*	*Major schemes*	*Total local transport funding*
2008-09	2.408	1.012	0.637	2.500	6.557
2007-08	3.150	0.899	0.660	4.400	9.109
2006-07	2.546	0.918	—	5.300	8.764
2005-06	3.100	0.889	—	—	3.989
2004-05	3.300	1.185	—	—	4.485
2003-04	4.310	1.020	—	—	5.330
2002-03	4.000	0.862	—	—	4.862
2001-02	4.100	0.819	—	—	4.919
2000-01	1.800	0.587	—	—	2.387
1999-2000	4.344		—	—	4.344
1998-99	1.449		—	0.500	1.949
1997-98	3.152		—	2.300	5.452

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department spends funds on the strategic road network through the Highways Agency (HA). The HA's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity. Estimates are compiled for regional expenditure to supplement data reported in the Department's annual report.

Likewise, funding for other transport projects in England, such as rail projects, is not available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Compulsory Purchase

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Vale of Clwyd of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 360W, on compulsory purchase, (1) how many compulsory purchase orders have been submitted for land for traveller sites since 2006, according to the casework management database; and how many have been *(a)* upheld and *(b)* rejected; [251903]

(2) how many years' data are held on the casework management database on compulsory purchase orders; and whether it contains data in respect of the whole of England. [251904]

Mr. Iain Wright: The casework management database contains basic information from 2004-05 about Housing and Planning CPOs for England submitted to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for confirmation such as the number of cases dealt with, the number opposed or unopposed, the number confirmed or refused and the CPO power used. It holds similar data about CPOs made by regional development agencies and the former English Partnerships. However, the database is not able to identify whether a CPO had been made for the purposes of acquiring land for a travellers' site.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what categories of records *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(c)* Government regional offices hold on compulsory purchases of land since 2006. [251910]

Mr. Iain Wright: For compulsory purchase orders submitted for confirmation to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government since 2006, the Department holds correspondence on some cases that were dealt with by the Government offices for the regions (GORs). The Planning Inspectorate holds basic information on CPOs for casework management purposes along with electronic copies of Inspectors' reports. The GORs have retained their casework files or electronic records.

Council Housing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed Social HomeBuy transactions there had been at the latest date for which figures are available. [252305]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social HomeBuy is a voluntary demand-led scheme introduced in April 2006. The scheme enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to buy a minimum 25 per cent. share up to 100 per cent. in their rented home at a discount. Up to the end of December 2008, over 290 households have taken up this opportunity to access home ownership and stay in their communities, including those tenants who did not previously have an opportunity to purchase their current home.

Social HomeBuy is one of a suite of options designed to help people to buy a home. Since 1997 the Government have helped more than 110,000 households into home ownership through shared ownership and shared equity schemes, with social tenants having first priority.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households to be assisted under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each year; and how much funding has been allocated to the scheme in 2008-09. [252458]

Mr. Iain Wright: Rent to HomeBuy is a demand-led scheme aimed at addressing current market conditions. The Government have not set any specific targets for the number of households to be assisted or any limit on the number of homes that will be funded. Our aspiration is to help 75,000 households into low cost home ownership by 2010-11, including through Rent to HomeBuy.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold under each HomeBuy scheme in each month since their commencement. [252503]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne) today to PQs 251709, 251710, 251711 and 251712, which provides some of the information requested. Also, in response to the hon. Member's question which was answered on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1270W, tables have been deposited in the Library of the House which show completions by month and location local authority for each HomeBuy scheme in 2006-07 and 2007-08 through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme.

Demolition

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances planning permission is required to demolish a building. [252288]

Mr. Iain Wright: The demolition of buildings constituting development is permitted development under Part 31 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, so planning permission is not generally required. Permitted development rights do not apply where a building has become unsafe or otherwise uninhabitable by deliberate action or neglect by the owner, so planning permission is necessary in such circumstances. Where the demolition of a building is required as part of a redevelopment for which planning permission is sought, details of the demolition should be included in the planning application, and any planning permission granted for the development should include permission to demolish the building. The demolition of listed buildings, buildings in conservation areas, and buildings designated as scheduled monuments, is not classed as development but is subject to consent under separate consent regimes.

Departmental Accountancy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons there is an entry for Overtime Ministers in her Department's Chart of Accounts 2008-09. [251790]

Mr. Khan: The account was created when the accounting system was implemented, but it is not in use.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252368]

Mr. Khan: Expenditure from 1 January 2008 to date has been £7,257.60. During this period further works to the value of £7,705.52 have been undertaken, for which we await invoices.

Departmental Expenditure Limit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-7WS, on the departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), to what types of data transfer the transfer of £1 million from the local government online programme to the Department for Work and Pensions is related. [252148]

Mr. Khan: The £1 million was transferred from the local government online programme to support the roll-out of the Government Connect Secure Extranet (GCSx), as part of a financial arrangement between CLG and DWP, following the transfer of the Government Connect programme to DWP in April 2008.

GCSx is intended to provide the technical platform to enable the transfer of secure interactions such as housing and council tax benefit processing between local authorities and central Government Departments.

Departmental Information Officers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1139-40W, on departmental information officers, if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the media summaries produced by her Department from the last week for which copies are available. [252799]

Mr. Khan: The media summaries referred to in the previous answer to the parliamentary question by the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) comprise short, informal notes of relevant press coverage of the day, which are designed for internal departmental purposes and circulated by e-mail only. There are therefore no plans to place copies in the Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her plans are for the number of staff employed by her Department in the next three years. [251793]

Mr. Khan: Our overall administration budget, from which most but not all of our staff are funded, is falling by 5 per cent. real year on year. We aim to maximise the efficiency with which we deploy our resources, and in doing so we would expect some reduction in staff numbers in the years ahead.

Departmental Mass Media

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1139-40W, on departmental information officers, which external newspaper cutting and broadcast monitoring services her Department subscribes to; and at what cost in the last 12 months. [252801]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1140-41W.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether staff in her Department's division handling eco-towns have received bonus payments in the last 24 months. [252785]

Mr. Khan: Given the small number of staff in the division running the eco-towns programme, it would be a breach of confidentiality and therefore inappropriate to give details.

Derelict Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of derelict land and buildings there were in each Government Office region according to the National Land Use database in the most recent year for which figures are available. [251911]

Mr. Iain Wright: The amount of derelict land and buildings in each region in England for 2007 can be found in table 14.1.2 of the publication "Previously-developed land that may be available for Development: England 2007".

Disabled Facilities Grants: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many payments her Department made to Castle Point borough council under the Disabled Facilities Grant scheme in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on such payments in each of those years. [251057]

Mr. Iain Wright: Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their annual Disabled Facilities Grant number of recipients to Communities and Local Government through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). Information for 2003-04 to 2007-08 is provided in the following table. The following table sets out the numbers and Government allocation of disabled facilities grant for Castle Point borough council:

	Number of grant recipients	£
2003-04	36	90,000
2004-05	31	90,000
2005-06	55	89,000
2006-07	51	140,000
2007-08	40	136,000

Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire, of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 948W, on eco-towns, which Minister took the decision to make the payment to Shelter to fund the document on eco-towns. [252715]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 760W.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a property with a power shower is capable of achieving Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [252301]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is possible to have a power shower in a code level 6 home. The Code for Sustainable Homes is outcome based; it does not specify particular technologies or solutions. A code level 6 home must achieve a projected average water consumption of 80 litres per person per day, which is assessed through the code water calculator methodology. This approach allows greater flexibility for the designer as it enables them to decide which fixtures and solutions to use to achieve this target in each location.

Fire Services: First Aid

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire authorities participate in co-responding schemes enabling firefighters to administer first aid emergency treatment. [253748]

Mr. Khan: At the end of 2007, the latest period for which we have verified figures, there were 18 fire and rescue services in England running co-responding schemes.

Green Belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1267-8W, on greenbelt, if she will publish the attached table referred to. [252166]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table has been provided.

Land changing to developed use[1] within designated 1997 Green Belt, by Region, 1996 to 2003

Hectares

Government office region	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*[2]	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
North East	10	150	20	n/a	50	10	30	50
North West	300	520	460	n/a	270	380	170	340
Yorkshire and Humber	190	500	450	n/a	170	170	310	510
East Midlands	200	100	90	n/a	90	120	40	210
West Midlands	300	140	130	n/a	410	240	220	500
East of England	190	200	250	n/a	320	350	190	490
London	40	100	60	n/a	40	130	50	70
South East	520	460	200	n/a	800	570	220	270
South West	220	70	100	n/a	180	110	60	60
England	2,080	2,230	1,800	n/a	2,330	2,070	1,280	2,500

[1] Includes sites changing from one developed use to another, as well as those changing from undeveloped to developed uses.

[2] Estimates from 1999 are considered to be not robust, hence absolute numbers are not provided.

Notes:

1. The data in the table above are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2007.
2. There is a time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, because some changes can take a few years to be recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated. Please see LUCS Guidance 3.2 for more information.
3. This table shows sites that are within land designated as Green Belt in 1997 irrespective of whether or not the land was designated as Green Belt at the time of change.

Green Belt: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1144W, on green belt: planning permission, what the *(a)* location, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* type of development was of each of the 15 planning applications that have been called in and then approved since 2002 which involve green belt development. [252795]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table sets out the location, local authority and development type of each of the 15 planning applications that have been called in and approved since 1 April 2002 which involve green belt development. Since the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1144W, there has been one further such application and details of this are also set out in the table.

Site name	*Date of decision*	*Location*	*Local authority*	*Type of development*
Fast Eddies	23 December 2003	Walsall	Walsall	Residential
Arnold Town FC	16 March 2005	Nottingham	Nottingham	Leisure
Packmoor Club	8 November 2005	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Residential
WHS Halo	5 July 2006	Sutton Coldfield	Birmingham	Industrial
Ryarsh Park West	5 July 2006	West Malling	Tonbridge	Residential-led mixed use
St. John's School	21 December 2006	Epping	Epping Forest	New school and residential
Storthes Hall Hospital	11 January 2007	Kirkburton	Kirklees	Retirement community
Woolley Hall	30 January 2007	Maidenhead	Windsor and Maidenhead	Residential and commercial
Germany Beck (2 applications)	9 May 2007	York	York	Residential-led mixed use
Field Lane	23 May 2007	Grimston	York	University campus
Croftlands Nursing Home	24 July 2007	Kirkburton	Kirklees	Extension to nursing home
Southend United FC (2 applications)	30 June 2008	Southend	Southend on Sea	Leisure, hotel and retail
Stonewood House	6 February 2008	Oldham	Oldham	Care home

Site name	*Date of decision*	*Location*	*Local authority*	*Type of development*
Since October 2008:				
Bedfont Trading Estate	7 January 2009	London	Hounslow	Storage/warehousing

Home Responsibility Payment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to raise awareness of the home responsibility payment. [251025]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP), introduced in 1978, is not a payment but a scheme to protect the future state pension entitlement of parents and other carers who are not in paid employment or who do not earn enough to gain a qualifying year for state pension through national insurance contributions. It works by taking away years of caring responsibilities from the number of qualifying years needed for a full basic state pension. Since 2002, it has also given entitlement to additional state pension in some circumstances.

Over 99 per cent. of people become eligible for Home Responsibilities Protection automatically through the award of child benefit for a child under 16. Most people who satisfy the conditions for receiving HRP as a carer for a disabled person also satisfy the conditions for carer's allowance as these are very similar. Since recipients of carer's allowance are credited with national insurance contributions, they do not normally need HRP.

There is publicity about HRP in a variety of leaflets concerning pensions and carers available in Jobcentre Plus offices, from the Pension, Disability and Carers Service and other outlets and on Government websites to alert the remaining carers to the need to make an application. Deficiency Notices issued by HMRC following the end of a tax year in which people have not gained a qualifying year for pension purposes also give advice about HRP and credits. There was an extensive national publicity campaign in early 2006 to make carers aware that they might need to apply for HRP in order to gain additional state pension.

The Pensions Act 2007 introduced a comprehensive package of reforms to help more carers build better pensions. These include the replacement of HRP with a system of weekly national insurance credits for parents and carers which will build up entitlement to basic and additional state pension and will extend pension protection to persons undertaking lower levels of caring. We are working to ensure that people are aware of the whole package of state pension reforms we will introduce from 2010. We want to reach all those who may be entitled to the new credits whether they have been in contact with the benefit system or not and will continue to work with interested parties to determine how best we deliver it.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of the Homes and Communities Agency is on the circumstances in which it will use its powers to act as a local planning authority. [252180]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) currently only has delegated planning powers in relation to development control in the Milton Keynes Urban Development Area (UDA). These powers were inherited from English Partnerships and were originally granted in order to provide a coordinated approach to the planning and delivery of growth and investment in the Milton Keynes UDA.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expected *(a)* level of Housing Revenue Account Subsidy and *(b)* number of households in social housing is in each local authority area in England for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [253237]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table gives figures for the level of Housing Revenue Account Subsidy for each local authority in England in 2008-09.

Subsidy figures for 2009-10 are not available at present as we are still to receive 2009-10 claim forms from local authorities.

We do not collect information by household for social housing in local authority areas for Housing Revenue Account Subsidy purposes. The table includes the number of dwellings for each local authority on 1 April 2007.

	2008-09	
Local authority	*HRA Subsidy (£)*	*Number of dwellings*
Adur	-2,390,216	2,718
Alnwick	-372,444	1,771
Arun	-3,465,115	3,471
Ashfield	1,971,555	7,134
Ashford	-3,267,783	5,302
Babergh	-4,527,320	3,568
Barking	-17,237,264	19,678
Barnet	-11,924,485	11,117
Barnsley	6,664,561	19,839
Barrow	-35,062	2,781
Basildon	-3,083,030	11,581
Bassetlaw	-3,013,736	7,004
Berwick	-1,441,759	1,933
Birmingham	-10,507,747	66,911
Blaby	-2,159,692	2,218
Blackpool	625,394	5,433
Blyth Valley	2,648,088	6,813
Bolsover	-4,758,038	5,462
Bolton	7,116,245	18,450
Bournemouth	-3,135,812	5,166
Bracknell	-6,683	5,800
Braintree	1,213,653	8,181
Brent	15,908,981	9,610
Brentwood	-3,548,489	2,560
Bridgnorth	-3,072,564	2,377
Brighton & Hove	-2,467,100	12,385
Bristol	-5,462,387	28,679
Broxtowe	-3,223,748	4,642
Bury	-4,470,173	8,383

	2008-09	
Local authority	*HRA Subsidy (£)*	*Number of dwellings*
Cambridge	-11,762,891	7,568
Camden	29,441,936	24,414
Cannock Chase	-3,152,459	5,658
Canterbury	-5,100,622	5,308
Caradon	-3,056,028	3,561
Carrick	-805,343	3,719
Castle Morpeth	964,529	2,306
Castle Point	-2,005,118	1,553
Charnwood	-3,359,625	5,888
Cheltenham	-1,729,195	4,687
Chester-le-St	0	4,331
Chesterfield	-5,501,436	9,917
City of London	742,067	1,889
City of York	-5,306,660	8,059
Colchester	-2,250,235	6,358
Corby	-3,080,050	4,904
Crawley	-13,877,873	8,290
Croydon	-16,078,194	14,106
Dacorum	-18,103,721	10,658
Darlington	-565,271	5,519
Dartford	-5,072,900	4,377
Daventry	-1,488	3,125
Derby	1,692,170	13,792
Doncaster	1,612,445	21,219
Dover	-5,230,192	4,667
Dudley	-17,155,310	23,570
Durham	-1,890,745	6,208
Ealing	5,178,264	13,816
Easington	1,775,941	8,790
East Devon	-5,358,394	4,302
East Riding	-9,363,243	11,073
Eastbourne	720,416	3,804
Ellesmere Port	-4,547,005	5,711
Enfield	-8,278,110	11,880
Epping Forest	-10,842,203	6,619
Exeter	-4,415,766	5,088
Fareham	-2,201,593	2,423
Fenland	42,292	3,779
Gateshead	4,935,249	21,805
Gedling	-1,411,193	3,439
Gloucester	-1,536,163	4,566
Gosport	-3,177,976	3,259
Gravesham	-5,959,387	6,023
Great Yarmouth	-2,703,376	6,173
Greenwich	8,802,275	24,720
Guildford	-10,337,775	5,414
Hackney	48,397,019	23,871
Hammersmith	12,979,642	13,229
Harborough	38,260	2,120
Haringey	16,634,705	16,608
Harlow	-12,373,746	9,998
Harrogate	-2,429,849	3,936
Harrow	-6,414,313	5,073
Havering	-11,456,438	10,879
High Peak	-1,912,780	4,135
Hillingdon	-10,461,727	10,752
Hinckley	-3,438,092	3,413
Hounslow	1,411,227	13,579
Ipswich	-6,133,576	8,285
Islington	58,369,138	26,666
Kensington	4,333,212	6,944
Kettering	-3,106,606	3,853
Kingston upon Hull	1,923,610	28,126
Kingston upon Thames	-6,608,682	4,870
Kirklees	8,481,553	23,746

	2008-09	
Local authority	*HRA Subsidy (£)*	*Number of dwellings*
Lambeth	11,465,899	27,226
Lancaster	-1,344,808	3,846
Leeds	30,012,444	60,063
Leicester	477,548	22,664
Lewes	-2,922,231	3,286
Lewisham	21,861,427	25,662
Lincoln	-555,651	8,013
Liverpool	240,586	16,006
Luton	-5,702,451	8,303
Manchester	34,659,290	35,039
Mansfield	-1,014,170	6,846
Medway Towns	-1,429,757	3,088
Melton	-1,514,775	1,916
Merton	-8,921,220	6,528
Mid Devon	-3,306,057	3,120
Mid Suffolk	-3,490,455	3,493
Milton Keynes	-10,183,856	12,673
Mole Valley	-10,956	3,522
NE Derbyshire	-6,748,105	8,263
New Forest	-7,954,267	5,044
Newark	-2,279,765	5,462
Newcastle upon Tyne	20,203,251	30,533
Newham	28,014,170	18,652
North Cornwall	-2,521,276	3,393
North Kesteven	-2,559,203	3,841
North Shropshire	22,452	2,309
North Tyneside	-1,369,553	15,921
North Warwick	-3,457,390	2,807
Northampton	-9,060,142	12,342
Norwich	-6,067,070	15,928
Nottingham	3,735,057	29,585
Nuneaton	-3,875,867	6,102
NW Leicester	-4,401,897	4,517
Oadby and Wigston	-928,743	1,269
Oldham	17,693,722	14,336
Oswestry	-1,537,911	1,930
Oxford City	-10,612,055	7,955
Plymouth	-1,873,599	15,317
Poole	-3,397,874	4,648
Portsmouth	-4,581,033	15,339
Reading	-4,593,762	7,427
Redbridge	-4,526,858	4,718
Redditch	-5,834,619	6,114
Ribble Valley	38,150	1,176
Richmondshire	-973,632	1,632
Rochdale	10,147,779	14,256
Rochford	-7,397	1,716
Rotherham	-2,088,888	21,322
Rugby	-3,378,087	3,906
Runnymede	-5,957,731	3,074
Rutland	-1,359,689	1,244
Salford	8,050,206	25,542
Salisbury	-7,510,880	5,466
Sandwell	-172,317	30,843
Sedgefield	-3,274,926	8,647
Sedgemoor	-3,565,993	4,171
Selby	-2,686,071	3,389
Sheffield	35,711,125	44,830
Shepway	-2,306,890	3,457
Slough	-7,803,505	6,640
Solihull	-4,401,892	10,860
South Beds	-8,563,089	5,295
South Cambridge	-11,854,192	5,643
South Derby	-2,834,642	3,128
South Holland	-3,672,405	3,930

	2008-09	
Local authority	*HRA Subsidy (£)*	*Number of dwellings*
South Kesteven	-5,602,083	6,316
South Lakeland	-3,386,251	3,216
South Norfolk	108,402	0
South Northants	-16,636	2,900
South Tyneside	-2,731,197	18,598
Southampton	-5,074,600	17,312
Southend-on-Sea	-2,699,904	6,227
Southwark	33,457,178	41,026
St. Albans	-9,699,568	5,319
Stevenage	-13,668,795	8,384
Stockport	-1,138,130	11,634
Stockton	1,861,054	10,977
Stoke-on-Trent	-5,421,108	19,740
Stroud	-5,886,100	5,255
Sutton	-9,796,217	7,281
Swindon	-9,354,996	10,631
Tamworth	-1,636,668	4,614
Tandridge	-3,675,633	2,693
Taunton Deane	-5,878,374	6,131
Tendring	-1,712,353	3,267
Thanet	-70,582	3,144
Three Rivers	-7,563	3,788
Thurrock	-8,840,184	10,369
Tower Hamlets	21,331,376	15,702
Uttlesford	-5,155,142	2,887
Waltham Forest	1,997,233	10,630
Wandsworth	-15,025,285	17,278
Wansbeck	16,693	5,431
Warrington	-5,300,899	8,903
Warwick	-6,692,644	5,645
Watford	36,964	4,859
Waveney	-3,582,717	4,672
Waverley	-10,027,624	4,998
Wealden	-2,286,718	3,173
Wellingborough	37,537	4,633
Welwyn Hatfield	-16,366,366	9,413
West Lancashire	-4,584,661	6,444
Westminster	6,933,085	12,333
Wigan	684,501	23,093
Winchester	-8,281,069	5,121
Woking	-5,308,543	3,495
Wokingham	-4,853,627	2,781
Wolverhampton	-6,152,026	24,025
Wycombe	-11,318,958	6,212

Note:
A negative figure shows that the local authority would make a payment to the Exchequer and positive figures show the local authority would receive subsidy payments.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to improve accessibility to plots of land for use by self-builders. [252933]

Mr. Iain Wright: Applications for self-build development will be considered by the local planning authority in line with the policies in their local development framework. There are no plans to issue further policy or guidance. In order to provide information about what surplus public sector sites are available for development the Homes and Communities Agency is proposing to establish a small sites programme whereby developers and self-builders will be made aware about the release of former public sector sites on to the market. This programme is not yet fully developed but in advance of this details for some small sites to be auctioned in mid February by the Homes and Communities Agency will be released on their website shortly. Details of small sites recently taken to the market by the Homes and Communities Agency's predecessor, English Partnership, can be accessed through this web address:

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/smallsites.htm

Housing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 592W, on housing sales, what the terms of reference of the working group on condition information are; and what the group's membership is. [251885]

Mr. Iain Wright: The membership and terms of reference of the working group are still being finalised. I will place a copy of this information in the House once this work is complete.

Land Use: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on discussions (1) which have taken place between *(a)* officers, *(b)* Members and *(c)* actual or potential developers under the auspices of Castle Point Borough Council and Essex County Council in respect of the building of (i) a new link road for Cornelius Vermuyden School and (ii) other development of land west of the school; and if she will make a statement; [250950]

(2) between *(a)* officers, *(b)* Members and *(c)* actual potential developers under the auspices of Castle Point Borough Council and Essex County Council on planning developments on Castle View School playing fields; and if she will make a statement. [250951]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State Communities and Local Government, holds no information on discussions which have taken place between *(a)* officer, *(b)* Members and *(c)* actual or potential developers under the auspices of Castle Point borough council and Essex county council on planning developments on Castle View school playing fields.

The Secretary of State is however aware of a petition dated 7 October 2008 submitted by the hon. Gentleman, requesting that the House of Commons urge the Government to press Castle Point borough councillors to vote against the plan to sell off a Canvey Island school playing field for development.

Local Government: Private Finance Initiative

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have applied for PFI contracts in each of the last five years; and what the value of each of these contracts was. [253241]

Mr. Khan: Central Government support has been agreed for the following number of local authority PFI projects (including under Building Schools for the Future contracts) in each of the last five years:

	Number
2004-05	29
2005-06	15
2006-07	16
2007-08	28
2008-09	18

Records of project capital values supported by central government in the form of PFI credits are updated regularly. These are available on the CLG website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/pfi/lapfilist.xls

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cars of what engine cubic capacity are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by her Department. [250029]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, regarding cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

The Department itself does not own or lease any cars. When cars are needed for official purposes they are hired from the Department's approved supplier or from the Government Car and Dispatch Agency.

Ordnance Survey: Datasets

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what datasets Ordnance Survey collates on *(a)* access and *(b)* proximity to public transport. [252304]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey datasets are primarily topographic in nature, as they record the location of the physical features of the natural and man-made environment. Depending upon the scale and specification of the dataset, they contain details of the topographic alignment of roads, railways, tramways, canals and navigable waterways which may be used by public transport, together with the position of features such as coach, bus and railway stations, airport complexes, and on large scale mapping bus shelters.

Ordnance Survey does not explicitly hold, maintain or provide datasets relating to qualitative information on public transport routes or access to public transport, though some information of this nature may be inferred from the topographic data.

Ordnance Survey: Photography

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ordnance Survey uses *(a)* aerial and *(b)* satellite photography to develop its (i) 1:10,000 raster, (ii) 1:50,000 raster, (iii) 1:25,000 raster, (iv) Boundary Line, (v) Code Point with Polygons, (vi) Master Map Topography Layer and (vii) Address Layer 2 products. [252295]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey uses aerial imagery to assist in revising the topographic geometry contained within the National Topographic Database (NGD), at nominal scales of 1:1250 in urban areas, 1:2500 in rural areas and 1:10,000 in mountain and moorland areas. NGD feeds the OS MasterMap® Topography Layer dataset, while revision of raster data at scales of 1:10,000, 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 is derived from NGD in whole or part. Boundary-Line™, Code-Point® with polygons and OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2 do not involve information derived from Aerial imagery.

Ordnance Survey has not used satellite imagery imagery.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1152W, on planning permission, what changes to her Department's policy on call-ins are under consideration for inclusion in the new Direction. [252788]

Mr. Iain Wright: A consultation on the review of call-in directions was carried out between 7 January 2008 and 31 March 2008. This set out proposals aimed at reducing the number of planning applications automatically referred to Government for consideration of whether they should be 'called in' for ministerial decision by consolidating the existing directions into one new direction, with some changes to reflect current policy, specifically:

Deleting the requirement to refer cases of over 150 houses;

Deleting the requirement to refer cases of local authorities developing their own land, or being the applicant for development;

Deleting the requirement to refer cases which would significantly prejudice the implementation of the development plan's policies and proposals;

Retaining the requirement to refer applications involving more than 5,000 square metres of gross retail, leisure, office or mixed commercial floor space but only for proposals on sites in edge or out of centre locations and which are not in accordance with an up to date development plan document; and extending this requirement to include some proposals for increases of existing floor space of over 2,500 square metres, where the total would then exceed 5,000 square metres;

Introducing a new requirement to refer proposals which may have a significant adverse impact on the outstanding universal value and significance of a World Heritage Site or its setting;

All other requirements remain unchanged.

Further details of the Government's proposals can be found in the consultation document which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/callindirections.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House. The Government are in the process of analysing the responses received to the consultation with a view to publishing a new direction in the spring.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1287-8W, on planning permission, what guidance has been given to the Planning Inspectorate on how a planning appeal should be considered if a materially relevant Planning Policy Statement or Planning Policy Guidance note has changed in the period after the original planning application was considered by the local planning authority, with particular reference to whether the previous Planning Policy Statement or Guidance or the new version should be applied when assessing the merits of the appeal; and whether the same principles will apply to national policy statements which are revised. [252740]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such guidance has been issued.

In relation to an appeal under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Secretary of State has a power under Section 79(1) of the same Act to deal with an application as if it had been made to her in the first instance, which means that she can take account of any new policy which has come into force since the local planning authority made its decision. An appeal will be determined on the basis of policy which exists at the time the appeal is being determined.

Planning Permission: Caravan Sites

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful appeals against refusal of planning permission for unauthorised traveller sites were considered by (i) the Secretary of State and (ii) the Planning Inspectorate in each year since 1997; [251866]

(2) with reference to the answer to Lord Avebury of 25 November 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA284, on Gypsies and Travellers, how many appeals against refusal of planning permission for authorised traveller sites *(a)* she and *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate considered in each year since 1997 for which figures are available; and how many were (i) refused and (ii) upheld. [251935]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information in relation to planning appeals against refusal of planning permission for authorised or unauthorised traveller sites is not held centrally and could only be collated at disproportionate cost.

Data are available on numbers of planning appeals determined by the Secretary of State and the Inspectorate relating to both Gypsies and Travellers with effect from 2002 to 2008 and their outcome. This is shown in calendar years in the following table. Detailed data on Gypsies and Travellers are only available from 2002 with data for Secretary of State appeals only available from 1 April 2002.

	Secretary of State			*Planning Inspectorate*		
Planning Appeals	*Appeal upheld (Allowed)*	*Appeal refused (Dismissed)*	*Total*	*Appeal upheld (Allowed)*	*Appeal refused (Dismissed)*	*Total*
2002	2	2	4	12	36	48
2003	11	38	49	25	31	56
2004	2	42	44	33	44	77
2005	4	35	39	43	65	108
2006	3	11	14	71	26	97
2007	2	8	10	81	36	117
2008	0	4	4	53	44	97
Total	24	140	164	318	282	600

Planning Permission: Hammersmith and Fulham

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what grounds she called in the planning application for the G Gate Hotel in Olympia in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. [252723]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State's reasons for calling in the application are set out in paragraph 4 of her call-in letter of 23 October 2008, a copy of which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House and on the Government Office for London's website.

http://www.gol.gov.uk/gol/Planning/Planningcasework/270430/365277/

Planning: Mining

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to introduce a requirement for a 500 metre buffer zone around opencast mines through the Minerals Planning Guidance. [253279]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's White Paper on Energy "Meeting the Energy Challenge" (2007) indicates that making best use of UK Energy resources, including coal reserves, where it is economically viable and environmentally acceptable to do so, contributes to the Government's goal of security of energy supplies. Planning Policy for coal extraction in England (whether open cast or deep mine) is set out in Minerals Policy Guidance Note 3 "Coal Mining and Colliery Spoil Disposal" (MPG3) published in 1999. Consistent with the broader policy in the White Paper, this sets a presumption against such development unless the proposal meets specific tests in terms of environmental acceptability or the provision of local and community benefits which clearly outweigh the likely impacts. The Government believe that these tests are sufficient to ensure that the environmental effects of opencast coal mining are properly considered in the planning process. There is no current intention to review policy in MPG3.

The full text of MPG3 is set out on my Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mineralsplanningguidance2

Planning: Terrorism

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 696W, on planning, what guidance her Department has published on planning policy and counter-terrorism. [252499]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has not yet published any guidance on planning policy and counter-terrorism. However, we are developing joint guidance in partnership with the Home Office and working with other key stakeholders to produce a supplement to the existing guidance "Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention", which will cover counter-terrorism issues. We expect to publish this document for public consultation later this year.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for a partial review of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy. [252744]

Mr. Khan: The South East England regional assembly are currently undertaking two partial reviews of the regional spatial strategy. The first is in relation to the apportionment of primary land-won aggregates. And the second in relation to providing place to live for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People in the south east.

Both of these are due to be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination later this year.

Regional Planning and Development: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities in Yorkshire *(a)* have and *(b)* have not received funding from Growth Area Fund programmes; and how much each local authority has received in each wave of the programme. [253172]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two Growth Points in Yorkshire that are eligible to receive funding from the Growth Fund:

The Doncaster and South Yorkshire Growth Point includes the authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. They have been allocated £250,000 in 2008-09, £3,784,791 in 2009-10 and £5,933,131 in 2010-11.

The Leeds City Region Growth Point includes the authorities of Barnsley, Calderdale and Wakefield. They have been allocated £200,000 in 2008-09, £2,476,060 in 2009-10 and £3,881,723 in 2010-11. The authority partnership is co-ordinated by Leeds as the convener of the Leeds City Region.

Barnsley is represented in both Growth Points, as 50 per cent. of the proposed growth will lie in each area.

As funding from the Growth Fund is unringfenced, it is paid to the Growth Point's nominated lead authority for the payment of grant. It is for the Growth Point authorities to prioritise how the funding is divided at the local level.

East Riding, Kingston upon Hull, Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby, York, Bradford and Kirklees are not part of a Growth Point and so not eligible for this funding.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for the agreement of each regional spatial strategy. [251859]

Mr. Iain Wright: The regional spatial strategies for the following regions are expected to be issued by the Secretary of State as follows:

Spring 2009: East Midlands
Spring 2009: South East
Summer 2009: South West
Spring 2010: West Midlands (phase 2)
Autumn 2011: West Midlands (phase 3)

Four RSSs have already been issued by the Secretary of State and phase 1 of the West Midlands RSS as follows:

15 January 2008: West Midlands (phase 1) Black Country sub-regional plan
12 May 2008: East of England
21 May 2008: Yorkshire and Humber
15 July 2008: North East
30 September 2008: North West

Right to Buy Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing association tenants have *(a)* the right to buy and *(b)* a preserved right to buy. [252627]

Mr. Iain Wright: Secure tenants of non-charitable housing associations are eligible for the Right to Buy scheme. The number of such tenants is 18,599.

Former tenants of local authorities who have transferred with their homes to housing associations since 1988 retain a Preserved Right to Buy. The number of such tenants is 1,117,827.

Rural Areas

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to respond to the hon. Member for Truro and St Austell's report on rural economy and affordable housing; and if she will make a statement. [253627]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government expect to make their formal response to the Taylor Review shortly.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding has been made available to each local authority for shared ownership schemes in each month since May 2008; [251709]

(2) how many homes have been sold in each local authority through shared ownership schemes in each month since May 2008; [251710]

(3) how much funding has been made available to each local authority for equity loan schemes in each month since their introduction; [251711]

(4) how many homes have been sold in each local authority through equity loan schemes in each month since their introduction. [251712]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables have been deposited in the Library showing grant provided through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme to their investment partners by month for equity loan and shared ownership schemes by local authority area from April 2008 to December 2008.

Tables showing completions through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme by month for equity loan and shared ownership schemes by local authority from April 2008 to December 2008 have also been deposited in the Library.

There is no direct comparison between spend and completions especially on shared ownership schemes. Shared ownership scheme payments are made in tranches usually on start on site and at practical completion. For equity loan schemes, the payment is made on completion of the scheme as these are generally open market purchases. The figures cover the current open market homebuy equity loan scheme which commenced in April 2008. Tables have been deposited in the Library of the House which show completions by month and local authority location for each homebuy scheme in 2006-07 and 2007-08 through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the economic turndown on the number of new social homes to be provided through the section 106 process in the next 12 months. [251727]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers and officials have been meeting housing associations and the National Housing Federation to discuss provision of affordable housing in the current housing market downturn, including the impact of a potential downturn on section 106 activity. In response, we have taken a number of steps to encourage delivery including allowing the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) increased flexibility on levels of grant funding to support development. The HCA will assess each bid on a case by case basis to ensure it meets its funding criteria, including value for money requirements.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new social housing has been provided under section 106 agreements in the last 12 months. [251728]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007-08, 51 per cent. (14,860) out of a total of 29,370 new homes for social rent were provided under section 106 agreements.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report* columns 632-3W on stamp duties, how many of the 200 planned zero-carbon homes near Bristol have been built; and how many qualified for zero per cent. stamp duty on zero-carbon homes. [252426]

Mr. Iain Wright: The site at Hanham Hall near Bristol is the first to be developed under the carbon challenge which the Homes and Communities Agency is delivering on behalf of Communities and Local Government. A planning application to build 195 homes at this site was submitted to the local planning authority in December 2008. Subject to consent being granted we anticipate that construction will start on the site before the end of this year with the first homes being completed in 2010.

The brief for the carbon challenge requires that the new homes must achieve level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. In keeping with the brief, Barratt Developments Plc, the preferred bidders for the Hanham Hall site, have designed the homes to meet the requirements of the definition of net zero carbon in the Code for Sustainable Homes. We therefore envisage that all 195 homes will qualify for stamp duty tax relief in due course.

Tenant Services Authority: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for the Tenant Services Authority is for its first full year of operation. [251800]

Mr. Iain Wright: The budget available to the Tenant Services Authority for 2009-10 is £35.573 million.

Tenant Services Authority: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of the Tenant Services Authority's pink camper van campaign. [251733]

Mr. Iain Wright: The TSA is the successor (since 1 December 2008) to the Housing Corporation as the regulator of housing associations. It has been set 10 statutory objectives relating to the supply, quality and management of social housing, protection for and involvement of tenants in estate management, the financial viability and proper conduct of HAs, and 'light touch' regulation.

The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 gives it powers to set standards for the nature, extent and quality of accommodation, and facilities and services provided by HAs, and in respect of the management of HAs' financial and other affairs. It is expected that these powers will be brought into effect early in 2010.

The TSA is therefore undertaking wide-ranging public consultation in 2009 on how to exercise these powers. It has launched a 'National Conversation' and is encouraging landlords all over England to engage their tenants in discussion. The TSA is also holding its own events and activities. These include hiring a camper van fitted out with a video camera for nine days, which has proved to be an effective way of speaking to tenants who would not otherwise give their views through more traditional consultation events. The cost of hiring this facility is £14,816.00 plus VAT.

Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unauthorised Traveller caravans were recorded in each Government Office region in the summer of each year since 1997. [252289]

Mr. Iain Wright: The bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, undertaken in January and July, records the number of caravans on unauthorised sites by each Government Office region. Copies of the caravan count are available in the Library of the House.

Zero Carbon Delivery Unit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 369W, on Zero Carbon Delivery Unit, if she will place in the Library a copy of the business plan for the zero-carbon hub. [252149]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department expects to receive a copy of the final business plan soon and will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library when it is received.

JUSTICE

Penalty Notices

12. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the percentage of the sum imposed in fines under penalty notices issued in 2007 and 2008 which has not been paid. [253533]

Mr. Malik: Approximately 52 per cent. of offenders given PNDs pay at the first opportunity. Apart from a small percentage who challenge the PND in court, the remainder are registered as fines at one and a half times the amount and enforced in the normal way.

Overall, [illegible] per cent. of the value of fines imposed is collected.

Use of Restraint: Young Offenders

14. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to end the use of restraint on young offenders in secure accommodation. [253535]

Mr. Hanson: It is the Government's intention to ensure that restraint is only used as a last resort. The recent review, published on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 84WS, set out the revised policy on the use of restraint.

Prison Places

15. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places he plans to provide by 31 December 2009. [253536]

21. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places he plans to provide by 31 December 2009. [253543]

Mr. Hanson: In total, around 2,150 new places will be provided in 2009; 180 have been provided to date.

Civil Legal Aid

16. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on piloting new ways to provide civil legal aid. [253537]

Mr. Malik: Pilots can provide important evidence about the effectiveness and cost of new arrangements for legal aid. We are seeking to expand our ability to conduct pilots through the Coroners and Justice Bill.

Titan Prisons

17. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects construction of the first Titan prison to begin. [253538]

Mr. Hanson: We plan to open the first prison cluster on a phased basis from December 2012. Construction will commence around two years prior to this.

Custody Licence Scheme

18. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to end the end of custody licence scheme. [253539]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Clwyd West (Mr. Jones) at Justice oral questions today.

Court Cells: Bournemouth

19. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will allow Bournemouth's court cells to be used by Bournemouth police to detain suspected offenders. [253540]

Mr. Hanson: The Dorset police have been given permission to use the cells at Bournemouth magistrates courts at weekends during peak summer months pending completion of their own custody suite.

Domestic Violence

20. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to support during judicial processes those who have undergone domestic violence. [253542]

Bridget Prentice: Since 1997 the Government have been working to ensure that all sections of domestic violence law support and protect all victims of domestic abuse. In 2004 the Government passed the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act which was the biggest overhaul of domestic violence law in 30 years

Aside from legislation, on a national level in criminal courts this has included practical system changes promoting a co-ordinated community response to domestic violence through a set of initiatives in and around the criminal justice agencies. This includes establishing 104 specialist domestic violence courts (SDVC) with a commitment to increase this to 128 courts by 2011. Linked to each SDVC is a dedicated independent domestic violence adviser service which provides invaluable support to victims of domestic violence and their families. Evidence shows that incidents of victimisation decrease and victims are less likely to withdraw from cases when this support is provided.

Forced Marriages

22. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 in enabling the courts to prevent forced marriages. [253544]

Bridget Prentice: As the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 was only implemented on 25 November 2008, it is too early to evaluate trends. 10 orders have been made since the introduction of the Act including one for the victim returned from Bangladesh. We are continuing to monitor the number of forced marriage protection orders made by the courts. We have asked the courts dealing with the Act to provide statistics on the number of orders they make.

British Statement of Values

23. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to consult on a British statement of values. [253545]

Mr. Wills: Since the publication of the Governance of Britain Green Paper in July 2007 we have been conducting an inclusive discussion on citizenship and the values that underpin what it means to be a member of UK society, through a series of online discussions, consultation toolkits and local events. We expect to continue this discussion as part of the proposed Green paper on a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

Magistrates Courts

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of differences between magistrates courts in their use of custody for remand and for sentences. [253523]

Mr. Malik: On 5 December 2007 we published a report on local variation in sentencing in England and Wales. The study describes geographic variation in custodial sentencing for the period 2003 to 2006 and the possible reasons for it. No similar assessment has been in relation to the use of custody for remand.

Custodial Sentences: Single Parents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effects on dependent children of custodial sentences for single parents. [253534]

Mr. Malik: The Government recognises that this is an important issue, especially for the children of women offenders who are more likely to be single carers. It is one of the reasons why we commissioned the Corston Review on vulnerable women in the criminal justice system. The Government have made considerable progress in taking forward the recommendations from that review, as has been reported to this House by my ministerial colleague the member for Liverpool, Garston. We agree that more should be done and we are working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to ensure services join-up to meet the needs of these vulnerable children.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* offenders on home detention curfew and *(b)* defendants on bail have used the Bail Accommodation and Support Service since June 2007; [252832]

(2) in which local authority ward each Bail Accommodation and Support Service property is located. [252833]

Mr. Straw: The service commenced on 18 June 2007. Up to 26 January 2009, 1,073 offenders on Home Detention Curfew and 1,385 defendants on bail have been placed in the service. Of these 1,048 offenders on Home Detention Curfew and 1,292 defendants on bail have been provided with housing.

It is not our practice to publicise the precise whereabouts of the properties, which are the private rented homes of those living in them. When a property is brought into use the hon. Member in whose constituency it is located is advised of the local authority ward. The local authority is given the address and the opportunity to comment on its suitability before a property is brought into use. A list of constituencies and postcode areas was provided on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 911W in answer to the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert).

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs have been of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) in 2008-09; what budgets for CAFCASS have been fixed over the next two financial years; and if he will make a statement. [243873]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The funding allocation for CAFCASS for the current and next two financial years is shown as follows. For this financial year, CAFCASS have received £78,311,528 of which £57,486,020 has been for staff costs.

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	114,855,000
2009-10	124,094,000
2010-11	132,822,000

Community Orders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders receiving a community sentence in 2007 had *(a)* more than five, *(b)* more than 10, *(c)* more than 15, *(d)* more than 25 and *(e)* more than 100 previous convictions. [252835]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the previous criminal history of offenders sentenced to community orders in England and Wales in 2007. Information is not available in precisely the format requested. These figures are based on data published in chapter 6 of "Sentencing Statistics 2007" and count both previous convictions and previous cautions.

Persons sentenced to community sentences for indictable offences by previous criminal history, 2007

Number of previous convictions or cautions	*Number of sentences*
First time offenders	11,451
1-2 previous convictions/cautions	25,158
3-6 previous convictions/cautions	23,609
7-10 previous convictions/cautions	10,249
11-14 previous convictions/cautions	6,150
15 or more previous convictions/ cautions	13,651
Total number of offenders (100%)	90,268

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Further information can be found in chapter 6 of "Sentencing Statistics 2007" at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Sentencing remains a matter for the court.

Community Orders: Research

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library *(a)* a copy of the full schedule of questions and *(b)* a breakdown of results from the research on community punishments undertaken by ICM and announced by his Department on 16 November 2007. [252842]

Mr. Hanson: ICM conducted surveys of 1,085 victims of non-violent crime surveyed between 5-14 October 2007 broken down by gender, age, social class and region and 999 victims of non-violent crime surveyed between 31 October-4 November broken down by gender, age, social class and region.

The research was used for public awareness raising about community sentences. A full schedule of questions and the breakdown of the relevant ICM survey results, including regional results, has been placed in the Library.

Coroners

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which coroners' courts his Department plans to relocate in the next 12 months; for what reason in each case; and if he will make a statement; [252971]

(2) which coroners' courts have been closed since January 2008; and what the reason for closure was in each case; [252972]

(3) which coroners' courts have been relocated since January 2008; and what the reason for relocation was in each case. [252973]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has no direct responsibilities for the location or relocation of coroners' courts. All arrangements for coroners' court accommodation are made locally and information about the closure and relocation of coroners' courts is not held centrally.

Crime Prevention: Finance

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account he has taken of the effect of the current economic downturn on levels of crime in planning resource allocation to *(a)* the Probation Service and *(b)* HM Courts Service; and if he will make a statement. [252778]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice's Ministers and Corporate Management Board are supplied with regular statistical information about both the economic downturn itself, and areas of the Department's business where demand for services might be affected. This ensures that timely action can be taken where necessary.

Changes in demand for services are taken into account when agreeing allocations to departmental business groups, along with other factors such as policy considerations, inflationary pressures and the potential for efficiency savings.

The Department remains committed to living within its budget as set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. We are currently looking hard at the services we provide in order to find new ways to improve how we deliver them, while ensuring that we focus on our frontline services. We aim to drive out inefficiencies, overlap and duplication and to reduce our overheads, especially in our headquarters areas. Where possible the Department will actively look to redeploy staff to alternative and appropriate roles.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether wounding with intent contrary to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 is classified as a serious offence. [252843]

Maria Eagle: For the purposes of the dangerous offender provisions in Chapter 5 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 is a serious offence and is specified in Schedule 15 to that Act, which means that an offender convicted of the offence may attract a sentence for public protection.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences of wounding with intent contrary to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 were committed by offenders under probation supervision in each of the last five years. [252844]

Mr. Straw: Information on reoffending of offenders commencing court orders under probation supervision or on release from custody on licence is not broken down by detailed offence type. Serious reoffending rates are available which include wounding with intent.

Table 1 provides the number of further severe offences committed per 100 offenders during the one year follow up period for offenders commencing a court order under probation supervision in the first quarter (1 January to 31 March) of the years 2000 to 2006.

The reoffending data do not show if an offender was still under probation supervision when the offence occurred.

The following table shows the severity rates per 100 offenders for adults following commencement of a court order under probation supervision.

		Number of offenders	*Number of severe offences per 100 offenders*[1]
Court orders[2]	2000 Q1	28,859	0.6
	2002 Q1	29,014	0.7
	2003 Q1	30,757	0.7
	2004 Q1	31,720	0.7
	2005 Q1	29,728	0.8
	2006 Q1	36,777	0.6

[1] Severe offences includes wounding with intent, as well as other serious violence offences and serious sexual offences. Please note the small numbers of most serious offences committed places a limitation on any robust breakdown of the severity rate.

[2] Court orders include pre-CJA 2003 community sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders.

Note:

Data for 2001 are unavailable due to problems with archived data for community sentences.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serious further offences were committed by offenders under probation supervision in each *(a)* probation area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in the last year for which data are available. [252845]

Mr. Straw: The Offender Management Caseload Statistics, which are published annually, provide data on serious further offences (SFOs) by offenders under probation supervision, as notified to the National Offender Management Service Public Protection Unit (PPU).

For the purposes of the notification process in force at the time of the offences listed in the table, an SFO was a specified sexual or violent offence, which met the criteria set out in Probation Circular 41/2006.

The following table shows, as at 20 January 2009, the number of convictions recorded to date for an SFO that was notified to the PPU between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, by probation area:

Area	*SFO convictions*
Avon and Somerset	10
Bedfordshire	2
Cambridgeshire	7
Cheshire	9
Cumbria	1
Derbyshire	6
Devon and Cornwall	8
Dorset	6
Durham	18
Dyfed-Powys	5
Essex	14
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	54
Gwent	7
Hampshire	8
Hertfordshire	2
Humberside	15
Kent	22
Lancashire	25
Leicestershire	11
Lincolnshire	1
London	76
Merseyside	17
Norfolk	7
North Wales	9
North Yorkshire	3
Northamptonshire	4
Northumbria	31
Nottinghamshire	26
South Wales	16
South Yorkshire	18
Staffordshire	15
Suffolk	5
Surrey	5
Sussex	7
Teesside	9
Thames Valley	5
Warwickshire	4
West Mercia	14
West Midlands	58
West Yorkshire	38
Wiltshire	6
Total	605

As at 20 January 2009, there were 191 cases of offenders charged with a serious further offence during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 still awaiting trial.

We do not hold information about the parliamentary constituency in which the relevant offenders were supervised. To obtain such information would require manual checking of files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

The number of SFO convictions is around 0.35 per cent. of the number of offenders being supervised in the community by the Probation Service.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its shadow agencies which will be lost through natural wastage under his Department's financial plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008 to 2011. [252690]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is committed to delivering £1 billion of saving by March 2011 and establishing a modern and efficient justice system that delivers the best possible service to our customers and the public.

We are looking hard at the services the MOJ provides and finding new ways to improve how we deliver them while focusing on our frontline services. We are also driving out inefficiencies, overlap and duplication and reducing our overheads, especially in our headquarters areas.

Centrally we have estimated that for the MOJ as a whole (excluding the probation service) natural wastage will drop from around 10 per cent. in 2008-09 to 5 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2010-11, resulting in around 8,000 exits in 2008/09 and 4,000 a year for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Detailed planning at agency level to estimate exits due to natural wastage, and determine which of these posts will be filled through redeployment or recruitment, is yet to be completed. The Department is consulting with the trade unions and will continue to do so as the plans develop.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many members of the public took part in his Department's online discussion on greater citizen engagement; [252818]

(2) how many members of the public responded to his Department's consultation on a framework for greater citizen engagement; [252819]

(3) what the cost was of the consultation on a framework for greater citizen engagement. [252820]

Mr. Wills: A summary of responses to the discussion paper: "A National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement" was published on the Ministry of Justice website on 8 January 2009.

27 written responses were received from engagement organisations and consultants, voluntary and community organisations, academics, local authorities and individuals. 22 people contributed to the online discussion. The summary report can be found at:

http://governance.justice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/summary-of-responses-report.pdf

The framework was one of the topics for discussion at the five 'townhall' events on the wider governance Britain programme. The total cost of these events was £3,929.42.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the results of his Department's consultation on bail and murder. [252830]

Mr. Straw: The Government response to the Bail and Murder Consultation was published on the Ministry of Justice website on 2 February 2009.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the results of his Department's consultation on designation of additional public authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [252847]

Mr. Wills: The public consultation on section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act concluded on 1 February 2008. The Government will publish their response to the section 5 public consultation by the summer.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the results of his Department's consultation on Titan prisons. [252946]

Mr. Straw: The Government plan to publish its response to the consultation before the end of the current financial year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the 2008-09 near cash allocation to each of his Department's business groups was. [252822]

Mr. Straw: The following table sets out the near cash departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for MOJ business groups, as agreed in the Winter Supplementary Estimate. The Spring Supplementary Estimate, which contains the latest figures, is due to be published on February 10 2009.

Business area	*Winter supplementary numbers (£ million)*
Corporate Performance Group	362
Democracy Constitution and Law	79
Access to Justice	3,626
NOMS	3,931
Criminal Justice Group	574
Scotland Office	7
Wales Office	8
Total	8,587

Governance of Britain

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local government, *(d)* invited members of the public and *(e)* other members of the public attended each Governance of Britain event. [252846]

Mr. Wills: The five "Governance of Britain" 'townhall' events held in summer 2008, were designed to engage active members of the local community in the Government's constitutional renewal agenda with an aim of encouraging them to take the debate out to their community groups and organisations. The events were hosted by myself as Minister of State for Justice and were supported by Ministry of Justice officials who acted as facilitators and note takers. The information required for each event is set out in the following table.

	2008				
	Bristol: 30 June	*Nottingham: 9 July*	*Newcastle: 14 July*	*Brighton: 17 July*	*London: 22 July*
(a)	1	1	1	1	1
(b)	5	5	5	5	5

	2008				
	Bristol: 30 June	*Nottingham: 9 July*	*Newcastle: 14 July*	*Brighton: 17 July*	*London: 22 July*
(c)	11	10	7	2	2
(d)	25	27	16	25	27
(e)	0	0	0	0	0

Homophobia

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to bring into force section 74 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. [252829]

Mr. Straw: Commencement of the offences of stirring up hatred on grounds of sexual orientation has been delayed to ensure compliance with the e-commerce directive. This issue will be resolved by provisions proposed in the Coroners and Justice Bill. We intend to commence section 74 as soon as possible thereafter.

Legal Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the Government plans to increase court costs for conviction in the magistrates' court for failure to pay a television licence in line with the proposed increase in costs for an application for a liability order against council tax defaulters; [253250]

(2) whether he plans to allow magistrates' courts to *(a)* reduce and *(b)* remit court costs in proportion to means for (i) unemployed persons on means tested benefits and (ii) other cases of hardship. [253251]

Bridget Prentice: A consultation paper 'Civil Court Fees' (CP31/08) was published on 10 December 2008. The consultation period closes 4 March 2009. The paper proposes to increase fees in order to maintain full-cost recovery for civil business in the county courts and High Court and increase civil fees for the magistrates court to 100 per cent. cost-recovery. The current fee for an application for conviction within the magistrates court is in three stages, costing a total of £90. The consultation proposes a single fee of £250. There are no plans to increase the fee of £3 for an application for a liability order against council tax defaulters.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to ensuring that court fees do not prevent access to the courts for those less well-off. A system of fee concessions is available in the High Court, county court and magistrates courts to ensure those of limited means are not denied access to the courts because they genuinely cannot afford to pay the fees. The system allows a full remission or part remission of the court fee and is aimed at people who are in receipt of a specific means-tested benefit, whose income is below a prescribed limit and for some whose financial commitments leave them with little or no disposable income.

Magistrates

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to increase or abolish the maximum age at which a person can serve as a magistrate. [252983]

Mr. Straw: There are no current plans to review the retirement age for magistrates, which is set in statute at 70 years of age.

Magistrates Courts: ICT

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether all magistrates' courts have access to full Libra functionality. [252831]

Bridget Prentice: All magistrates courts have access to full Libra functionality. The application was deployed to the final courts on 9 December 2008.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were (i) sentenced to prison, (ii) given community sentences and (iii) detained in appropriate hospital accommodation prior to sentencing in each of the last five years. [252574]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not available to answer the question as posed.

The numbers of males and females (all ages) sentenced to custodial and community sentences in the last five years for which data are available are given in the following table.

Number of persons given custody[1] or community sentences, 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Custody[1]					
Males	100,759	99,651	101,051	117,166	122,547
Females	9,434	9,526	9,851	12,360	13,347
Total	110,193	109,177	110,902	129,526	135,894
Community sentence					
Males	163,136	172,166	172,859	161,444	165,807
Females	28,545	30,780	31,388	29,393	30,517
Total	191,681	202,946	204,247	190,837	196,324

[1] Immediate and suspended custodial sentences.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The annual Statistical Bulletins of Mentally Disordered Offenders show that for England and Wales, over the last five years for which figures are available, the numbers of mentally disordered offenders admitted to hospital as restricted patients were:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Males	894	948	1,218	1,213	1,279
Females	112	138	111	137	161
Total	1,006	1,086	1,329	1,350	1,440

These figures do not include hospital orders without restrictions, for which statistics are not available. The figures include a relatively large group transferred from prison either after sentence, or while untried or unsentenced. They also include a smaller group admitted under a hospital order with restriction order. Additionally, they include some patients recalled to hospital by the Secretary of State, and very small numbers admitted from other parts of the United Kingdom (see Table 5 of 'Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders 2006 England and Wales'). Bulletins on mentally disordered offenders can be downloaded from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were transferred from prison to appropriate hospital accommodation under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last five years; and what proportion waited over (i) six and (ii) 12 weeks for transfer; [252575]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners who have (i) one and (ii) two or more mental health conditions together with an alcohol or substance abuse problem; [252681]

(3) what the average size of a mental health prisoner in-reach team is; and what the average number of prisoners in the prisons they serve is. [252683]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The data requested are not held centrally in the format requested.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on *(a)* mental health in-reach services for prisons and *(b)* other mental health services in prisons in each of the last three years. [252682]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2006 £200 million has been invested each year, including £20 million every year on mental health in-reach services.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken to undertake routine screening of prisoners for health problems was *(a)* on initial entry to a prison establishment and *(b)* subsequently in the latest period for which figures are available. [252684]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

All new prisoners have a first reception health screen undertaken on entry into custody, this initial health screen generally takes up to 30 minutes to complete. A second health screen which provides a more in depth history of an individuals health and allows for care and treatment to be planned, is completed within the first five days of being in custody.

We do not hold the figures requested centrally.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will appoint a director with responsibility for reducing reoffending to the National Offender Management Service Board. [253820]

Mr. Hanson: The director of commissioning and operational policy is the member of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Board responsible for reducing reoffending. In addition, the director-general of NOMS is the lead official for the delivery of the departmental strategic objective on protecting the public and reducing reoffending on the Ministry of Justice Corporate Management Board.

Police Custody

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of Operation Safeguard was in each of the last three years. [252825]

Mr. Hanson: Invoices to the value of £14,373,500 were paid between October 2006 and March 2007, £50,761,500 between April 2007 and March 2008 and £9,894,750 between April 2008 and 31 October 2008 for activation of Operation Safeguard.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* operational capacity of prisons in England and Wales was in each year since 1997. [252823]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides the information requested. These details are taken from the end of year statistics provided by HM Prison Service.

Certified normal accommodation (CNA) and occupational capacity for prisons in England and Wales Since 1997

	In-use CNA	*Operational capacity*
1997	58,876	65,787
1998	62,677	70,097
1999	62,492	70,226
2000	63,487	71,158
2001	63,999	72,016
2002	65,008	75,116
2003	66,758	77,162
2004	68,691	78,889
2005	69,607	80,283
2006	70,992	82,088
2007	72,252	83,955
2008	74,561	86,725

Prisoners Release

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of convicted murderers had served less than half of their custodial sentence at the point of release in the last five years; how many of them committed a serious crime in the six months after their release; and if he will make a statement. [252557]

Mr. Hanson: When an offender is convicted of murder, the courts must hand down a life sentence. Such a sentence will include a minimum tariff which must be served before the offender can be considered by the Parole Board for release. This tariff is set by the courts and is the minimum term required for retribution and deterrence, which is set in line with Section 269 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

As a rule, no life sentence prisoner is released before the expiry of their tariff, although there are provisions under the Section 30 of the Crime Sentences Act 1997 for the compassionate release of life or other indeterminate sentenced prisoners. Compassionate release is granted only in the most exceptional circumstances and normally only when the prisoner is terminally ill and close to death.

In the period of 2002-08. there were just 16 compassionate releases of life or other indeterminate sentence prisoners, none of whom have been reported as having gone on to commit further serious crimes.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners formerly held in *(a)* HMP Canterbury and *(b)* HMP Bulwood Hall have been released. [254130]

Mr. Straw: In 2007, the most recent annual data available, a total of 7,450 foreign national prisoners were discharged from prison establishments in England and Wales. This includes those transferring to immigration centres, those removed from the country, and those released into the community. Of the total (7,450), 210 were released from HMP Bulwood Hall and 500 from HMP Canterbury. It is not possible to identify how many others were released from other prison establishments having previously been held in HMPs Bulwood Hall or Canterbury while serving their sentence.

These figures have been drawn from IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and so the numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences of *(a)* murder, *(b)* attempted murder, *(c)* rape, *(d)* attempted rape and *(e)* homicide have been committed by offenders on release on temporary licence in each of the last five years. [252836]

Mr. Straw: To provide the information requested would involve the manual examination of many hundreds of individual records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much in subsistence payments has been made by *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* his Department to offenders on end of custody licence in each of the last 12 months. [252838]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is shown in the accompanying table. Figures for subsistence paid locally are collated on a quarterly basis; breaking this figure down monthly would entail revisiting local records at disproportionate cost. Figures for more recent months are not yet available.

When the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme was first introduced, offenders released for the maximum of 18 days received their subsistence payments in instalments through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), who make payments on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. Offenders released for less than 18 days were paid in full by prisons on release. From 23 June 2008, payment in instalments by DWP was extended to offenders spending 15 days or more on ECL, and the effect of this is shown in the table. From 15 December, payment in instalments by DWP has been further extended to offenders spending eight days or more on ECL.

£

Month	*Paid centrally by Department of Work and Pensions on behalf of MoJ*	*Paid locally by prison establishments*
October 2007	119,125.92	[1]449,634
November 2007	130,745.76	[1]—
December 2007	94,444.40	[1]—
January 2008	111,402.96	[1]440,380
February 2008	90,102.48	[1]—
March 2008	83,209.52	[1]—
April 2008	121,398.35	[1]418,100
May 2008	86,914.00	[1]—
June 2008	142,591.96	[1]—
July 2008	213,625.39	[1]282,952
August 2008	172,167.36	[1]—
September 2008	216,541.81	[1]—
Total	1,582,269.91	[1]1,591,066

[1] Figure shown covers the three rows.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign nationals are being held on indeterminate sentences for public protection; [252840]

(2) how many foreign nationals being held on indeterminate sentences for public protection have completed their minimum tariff. [252841]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service in the process of completing an audit of prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection and who are recorded centrally as being a foreign national. This audit is scheduled to be completed by the end of February, and I will write to the hon. and learned Member, providing the data which he has requested and will place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average annual overall resource cost per prisoner was in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [252691]

Mr. Hanson: The overall average resource cost per prisoner in England and Wales was:

	£
2007/08	39,000
2006/07	37,500
2005/06	36,500
2004/05	34,500
2003/04	33,000

Note:

Figures are to the nearest £500.

The average costs comprise the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the Annual Report and Accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the National Offender Management Service; and the resource expenditure of contracted-out prisons also increased by certain costs borne centrally. This involves some estimation. Income from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of services recharged to the YJB is excluded in order to show the overall cost to the Ministry of Justice. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education). The amount of expenditure met by other Government Departments may have altered over the period, possibly affecting comparability of the figures. The prisoner escort service is included.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to undertake the second stage of consultation on prisoners' voting rights. [252816]

Mr. Straw: In response to the Hirst (No. 2) judgment, the Government committed to undertake a two-stage consultation process. The first stage concluded in March 2007. The Government remain committed to carrying out this a second, more detailed public consultation, but we have not yet set a time-scale for this.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects Lord Patel's Prison Drug Treatment Review Group to report their findings to him; and when he plans to publish the report and his response to it. [254135]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group reports jointly to the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health. Work on the review started in September 2008 and is expected to take two years to complete.

I expect to receive quarterly updates on progress and will report periodically to the House. A decision has yet to be taken on publication of the final report.

Prisons: Wind Power

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have made to (i) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (ii) the Department for Energy and Climate Change on issues arising from the proposed siting of wind turbines near prisons; and if he will make a statement. [253821]

Mr. Hanson: No direct representations have been made by Ministers or officials to the Department for Communities and Local Government or the Department for Energy and Climate Change on issues arising from the proposed siting of wind turbines near prisons. Officials would however comment on proposals submitted to them from local planning authorities such as in the case of HMP Whitemoor and would approach local authority planning departments about any Ministry proposals to erect wind turbines on prison land. Officials are liaising with the Carbon Trust regarding potential prison land for the erection of wind turbines.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been acquitted of speeding offences as a consequence of speed measure devices *(a)* not having been properly calibrated and *(b)* used by officers who have not received specialist training, in each of the last three years. [253004]

Maria Eagle: Statistical information collected centrally by my Department on the number of persons dealt with for offences of contravening speed limits does not identify the reason why the court, after hearing the evidence, decide the defendant is not guilty.

Victims of Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of victims of crime reported satisfaction with the criminal justice system in each of the last 10 years. [252815]

Maria Eagle: From 2003-04 to 2007-08, victim satisfaction with the criminal justice system (CJS) was assessed through the British Crime Survey (BCS), as part of an overall measure of victim and witness satisfaction. The BCS is a survey of the general public and includes a question to those members of the public who have been victims or witnesses about their experience of the CJS. The following table shows results for England and Wales from the last six months of 2003-04 to the end of 2006-07.

Victim and witness satisfaction with the CJS (British Crime Survey)

Period	Percentage
6 months to March 2004	58
Year ending March 2005	59
Year ending March 2006	59
Year ending March 2007	60

Since 2008, the public service agreement for the CJS has changed to use the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) to measure victim and witness satisfaction with the CJS. WAVES surveys victims and witnesses whose cases resulted in a charge being brought. The survey was introduced to give more detailed feedback about the experience of victims and witnesses. Unlike the BCS, WAVES gives both national and Local Criminal Justice Board-level data and contains many more questions about every aspect of the CJS.

The following table shows results for England and Wales from 2007-08 (the latest available data).

Victim and witness satisfaction with the CJS (WAVES)

Period	Percentage
Year ending March 2008	80

There are a number of reasons why there is a disparity between the two sets of figures. The BCS is a survey of the general public and although it interviews nearly

50,000 people, this includes only a relatively small proportion of victims whose cases have gone all the way through the CJS. WAVES focuses specifically on victims whose cases have got to the stage of a charge being brought or beyond, and interviews nearly 40,000 victims and witnesses. Hence the two surveys sample different groups. The BCS and WAVES also use different measures of satisfaction. The BCS defined satisfaction as the percentage of victims who were fairly or very satisfied with the contact they had with the CJS. WAVES gives victims the choice of three different levels of satisfaction defining overall satisfaction as the percentage of victims who were fairly, very or completely satisfied with the contact they had with the CJS. This is the standard scale now used by most customer satisfaction surveys and allows a more detailed breakdown of different levels of satisfaction.

Witnesses

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures govern the selection and termination of appointments of witness intermediaries. [253006]

Maria Eagle: Intermediaries come from a range of professional backgrounds including speech and language therapy, psychology, occupational therapy, education and other health care professions. To register as intermediaries they must undergo a rigorous assessment process overseen by the Intermediary Registration Board. They are also required to successfully complete an initial five-day procedural training requirement introducing them to the criminal justice system before being placed on the register.

There is a formal complaints process where the users of the service—the police, prosecutors and defence—can raise a specific complaint about individual intermediaries which is then subject to investigation by a member of the Quality Assurance Board for Intermediaries. The remedies available include the removal of the intermediary from the intermediary register.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methods are used by witness intermediaries to interpret statements by those diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder. [253007]

Maria Eagle: The methods used by intermediaries to interpret statements by witnesses diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder will be determined by the intermediary concerned on a case by case basis in the light of their professional qualifications, training, experience and knowledge. Intermediaries come from a range of professional backgrounds including speech and language therapy, psychology, occupational therapy, education and other health care professions.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cabinet: Press

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he place in the Library a copy of the press cuttings pack prepared for the most recent meeting of the Cabinet. [249901]

Mr. Byrne: A press cuttings pack is not prepared for meetings of the Cabinet.

Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on Catz Club, what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with Catz Club representatives since April 2005. [249949]

Mr. Byrne: Ministers in my Department have not held any meetings with Catz Club representatives since April 2005.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on Catz Club, whether a copy of the confidentiality agreement between Futurebuilders and Catz Club is held by the Cabinet Office; and if he will place in the Library a copy redacting commercially sensitive elements. [249950]

Mr. Byrne: This is not a matter for the Cabinet Office. I am therefore unable to place a copy in the Library.

Death: Asthma

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many asthma-related deaths were recorded in each of the last five years. [252156]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many asthma-related deaths were recorded in each of the last five years. (252156)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where asthma was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributing factor, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Deaths from asthma[1] [2] in England and Wales[3], 2003-07[4]

		Deaths (persons)
	(i) Underlying cause	(ii) Any mention
2003	1,267	2,662
2004	1,264	2,669
2005	1,183	2,571
2006	1,082	2,569
2007	1,033	2,503

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J45-J46.

[2] Figures shown as 'any mention' (column ii) include those where asthma was recorded as the underlying cause'(column i).

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* special advisers have allocated desk space in the Prime Minister's office in No. 12 Downing Street. [252361]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister works alongside his Private Office, with space allocated for Cabinet Office Ministers and advisers.

Departmental Courier Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on *(a)* courier services and *(b)* venue hire in the most recent year for which figures are available. [249966]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Land

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 783W, on departmental land, whether any of the land held for development within the Duchy of Lancaster's *(a)* Crewe and *(b)* Yorkshire Survey is (i) green belt and (ii) green field land. [249945]

Mr. Byrne: Some areas within the Duchy's Crewe estate are designated as green belt land. However, none of this land has been identified for development.

Within the Yorkshire Survey, all sites held for development fall within green field land. At Pontefract, representations have been made for three small allotment sites which fall within green belt land.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W, on departmental pensions what account was taken of the *(a)* new FRS 17 accounting standard and *(b)* abolition of dividend tax credits in the decision to close the Duchy of Lancaster staff pension scheme to new entrants. [249942]

Mr. Byrne: The abolition of dividend tax credits came into force in 1997 and there was no reference to this in the minutes relating to the decision made on 6 February 2002 to close the Duchy of Lancaster staff pension scheme to new entrants. The FRS 17 accounting standard came into force after the aforementioned decision.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W, on departmental pensions, what percentage contribution the Duchy of Lancaster makes to staff pensions for staff who are not in the final salary scheme. [249943]

Mr. Byrne: A contribution equivalent to 10 per cent. of the gross salary of a Duchy of Lancaster employee not within the final salary scheme is made to those younger than 50 years of age. Staff who have attained in excess of 50 years of age receive a contribution of 13 per cent. of the applicable gross salary.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W, on departmental pensions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which it was decided to close the Duchy of Lancaster Staff Pension Scheme to new entrants. [249944]

Mr. Byrne: The decision to close the Duchy of Lancaster Staff Pension Scheme was made by the Duchy Council on 6 February 2002. However, as the Duchy of Lancaster is a private body the minutes of meetings are confidential and it would not be appropriate for these to be placed in the Library.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; what proportion of this expenditure related to training for staff employed in the Prime Minister's Office; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office attended at least one such training course. [252262]

Mr. Watson: All Cabinet Office Units (including No. 10) have delegated responsibility for spend against their training budgets. No payments were made to the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2007-08 year.

There was no centrally organised digital media training provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau for Cabinet Office staff in 2007-08 year.

Futurebuilders

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 43W, on Futurebuilders: Catz Club, for what reasons the Who Cares? Trust is no longer a Futurebuilders investee. [250362]

Mr. Byrne: Futurebuilders England informs me that they withdrew further investment in Who Cares? Trust in July 2006 because Who Cares? Trust was unable to meet its 2006 revenue targets.

Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance his Department has provided to other Government departments on procedures to be followed in cases of unauthorised disclosure of information since the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford; and if he will make a statement. [249463]

Mr. Byrne: Guidance to Departments on procedures to be followed in cases of unauthorised disclosure of information has not changed since the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green).

Higher Civil Servants: Retirement

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which permanent secretaries have retired since 1997; and which of these have subsequently accepted salaried positions paid from the public purse. [250660]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Information relating to permanent secretary retirements will be accounted for in departmental annual reports and accounts.

Data are not centrally held by the Cabinet Office on their subsequent employment, but where the "Rules on the Acceptance of Outside Appointments by Crown Servants" required that permission be sought before an appointment was taken up the details of these appointments are outlined in the annual reports of the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (ACOBA), copies of which are available in the Library of the House and on their website:

www.acoba.gov.uk.

I-Monitoring Security Co-ordination Centre

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), what the functions and activities of the *(a)* i-Monitoring Security Co-ordination Centre and *(b)* Information Assurance Technical Programme are. [249951]

Mr. Byrne: The Government Security Zone (GSZ) i-Monitoring Security Co-ordination Centre, now referred to as the Government Security Zone-Information Room (GSZ IR), is a key deliverable from the GSZ programme. This programme is a linked series of projects intended to improve the collective physical security of Government Departments and other specified establishments located within the zone, by enhancing existing security arrangements.

The GSZ IR has three main functions:

Proactive use of CCTV to identify threats (particularly terrorist-related threats) and suspicious activity within the zone;

Co-ordination of security information between the Government departmental security community and the Metropolitan Police Service and other police units;

Provide Government Departments with a 24/7 link to the police for immediate advice on counter-terrorism and security issues and to initiate a response to incidents.

The Information Assurance Technical Programme is a common good programme which aims to provide a sustainable UK Information Assurance capability benefiting the whole of UK Government. The IATP is run by CESG, the national technical authority for Information Assurance, and an arm of GCHQ, in partnership with industry. Governance of the programme has recently moved from the CSIA in the Cabinet Office to the Ministry of Defence. More information on the work of the IATP can be found at:

http://www.cesg.gov.uk/products_services/iatp/index.shtml

Lobbying: Registration

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will bring forward legislation to establish a mandatory register of lobbyists as recommended by the Public Administration Select Committee; and if he will make a statement. [253509]

Kevin Brennan: The Report from the Public Administration Select Committee was published on 5 January. The Government will respond in due course.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what cars of what engine cubic capacity are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by the Cabinet Office. [250031]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office owns one car, which utilises both a petrol engine, with a cubic capacity of 1497, and 500V electric engine.

For cars leased by the Cabinet Office, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State at the Department for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Place and Prosperity Seminar

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts prepared for the Strategy Unit seminar on Place and Prosperity held on 11 December 2008. [252474]

Mr. Watson: Yes.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W, on Rural Payments Agency, how much the Duchy of Lancaster received in payments from the Rural Payments Agency in the last year for which figures are available. [249946]

Mr. Byrne: No further payment has been received from the Rural Payments Agency since that for 2007 reported in the answer given on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W. Receipt of the 2008 payment is expected by March 2009 but due to fluctuations of exchange rates the figures are unavailable at present.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 4 February 2009

WALES

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254082]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253258]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not employ financial advisers. The HR team can talk to staff about pension options and provide information, but are not qualified to advise on their individual financial circumstances or retirement needs. They will always advise the individual to discuss their pension options (including added years and AVCs) with a qualified Independent Financial Adviser before making a decision.

Employment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate he has made of the effects of globalisation on levels of employment in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Blaenau Gwent. [250942]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The effects of globalisation on employment in Wales must be seen as both a challenge and a significant opportunity.

The Government are working to maximise the gains to the UK economy from globalisation while at the same time attempting to mitigate the downside risks associated with globalisation, by raising productivity and competitiveness.

In relation to overseas markets the Government and National Assembly for Wales seek every opportunity to maximise export and inward investment opportunities.

SCOTLAND

Barnett Formula

6. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the mechanisms by which the Barnett formula operates. [253064]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions concerning a range of topics with my right hon. Friend.

Welfare Reform

7. **Miss Anne Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the likely effects of welfare reform on people in Scotland. [253065]

Ann McKechin: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend on a range of issues, including the measures in the Welfare Reform Bill. The reforms will give people the help they need to move away from a life on benefits, and put in place a new conditionality regime for those people who are able to work with the right support.

Job Losses

8. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of trends in numbers of job losses in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [253066]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The trends in claimant count in Scotland are in the range of a low of 67,700 in 1974 to a high of 334,000 in January 1987. Today there are 97,000 people on jobseeker's allowance in Scotland.

Forth Crossing

9. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on UK Government assistance for the financing of the construction of a new Forth crossing. [253067]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I plan to meet shortly with my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary and Mr. John Swinney, the Cabinet Secretary in the Scottish Government to discuss funding for this vitally important project.

High-speed Rail Link

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on a high-speed rail link between London and Scotland. [253068]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues across Government about a wide range of issues.

National Minimum Wage

11. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on steps to ensure that businesses in Scotland are complying with the requirement to pay the national minimum wage. [253069]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor on a range of issues. We are committed to effective national minimum wage enforcement through new penalties contained within the Employment Act 2008, awareness raising initiatives and an increased enforcement budget.

European Social Fund

12. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on the use of the European social fund in Scotland. [253070]

Ann McKechin: I, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland, have had no recent discussions with Scottish Ministers concerning the use of the European social fund in Scotland. European social fund money for Scotland goes directly from the European Commission to Scottish Ministers and it is up to them whether they wish to use this money to provide, for example, careers advice, skills training and support for unemployed people in Scotland. The UK Government have committed to doing this for people in England.

Digital Switchover

13. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on digital switchover in Scotland. [253071]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on a range of issues, including digital switchover. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport visited the Borders region in advance of Scotland's first digital switchover last autumn and met with local council and interest groups. My right hon. Friends are hosting a broadcasting summit in Glasgow on the 19 March which will be attended by numerous representatives of Scotland's broadcasting and creative industries.

Local Government Finance

14. **Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on mechanisms for allocating the block grant to Scotland in 2010 and 2011. [253072]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are no plans to change the mechanism of payment of the Scottish block grant.

Retained Firefighters

15. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues for the purposes of agreeing the UK's position in EU discussions on the effect on retained firefighters in Scotland of an end to the voluntary opt-out from the provisions of the EU working time directive. [253073]

Ann McKechin: There have been no specific discussions. However, the UK Government will continue to work with the Scottish Government on this matter. Protecting communities across Scotland, and the UK, is our top priority.

The amendments to the Common Position voted by the European Parliament on 17 December are the latest step in a complex negotiation. Implementation of the working time directive, by setting a 48-hour maximum to the working week, would greatly reduce the hours which firefighters working the retained duty system could be available for duty. The UK Government therefore place great importance on retaining their opt-out from the directive.

Departmental Internet

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many hits his Department's blog has received in each month since its launch. [248515]

Ann McKechin: The number of visits to the Secretary of State's blog each month since its launch in October 2008 is set out in the following table:

Month	*Number of hits*
October 2008	5,077
November 2008	4,910
December 2008	4,450
January 2009	5,142

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department has taken to publicise its blog; and what the cost of such activity was. [248516]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State launched his blog:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/secretary-of-state-blog/

on 6 October 2008. It was publicised by press notice as part of the departmental press office's routine communications activity, and as such it is not possible to provide a discrete cost.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many overseas visits Ministers in his Department have undertaken in the last 12 months; to which destinations; and how many departmental staff accompanied the Minister on each occasion. [253002]

Ann McKechin: In the last 12 months the following overseas visits have taken place:

Date	*Minister*	*Destination*	*Departmental staff*
August 2008	Minister of State for Scotland	Norway	2
November 2008	Secretary of State for Scotland	Iceland	3
December 2008	Secretary of State for Scotland	Germany	1

Departmental Training

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* training, *(b)* coaching and *(c)* personal development courses each Minister in his Department has received since 2005; and what the cost of providing this training was. [252987]

Ann McKechin: Since 2005, Ministers in the Scotland Office have received training in Presentation and Public Speaking Skills and have participated in Introduction Workshops for New Ministers.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to answer Questions *(a)* 248515 and *(b)* 248516 tabled on 13 January 2009, on his Department's blog. [253330]

Ann McKechin: These parliamentary questions were answered today.

TRANSPORT

British Railways Board (Residuary): Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the workplace parking charges being introduced by Nottingham city council will be passed on to staff members in whole or in part of British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd where those staff have offices located within the workplace parking charging zone. [253772]

Paul Clark: No decision has been taken by Ministers on whether or not to confirm Nottingham city council's workplace parking levy order. It would not be appropriate, while the scheme is being considered, to speculate on the implications of the city council's proposals for any employers located in Nottingham or their staff.

Compulsory Purchase: Hagley

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the compulsory purchase of the Prince of Wales public house at Stourbridge Road, Hagley, Worcestershire; how much has been spent on *(a)* compensation payments, *(b)* legal costs, *(c)* provision of a mobile unit in the car park, including associated personnel costs and *(d)* other costs in connection with the purchase; and if he will make a statement. [249330]

Paul Clark: The Prince of Wales Public House was purchased by the Highways Agency on 14 July 1993 for £325,000 following a request from the owner to purchase under blight provisions in connection with the A449/A456 Kidderminster-Blakedown-Hagley bypass. A breakdown of this amount by compensation payment and legal costs is currently unavailable because the information is archived.

The total cost of the mobile unit and associated on site security to date is £30,660.

Other costs include management fees to the Highways Agency's managing agents to date of £24,194, and legal costs of £110,647 which were incurred in connection with protracted legal proceedings culminating in a High Court hearing to obtain vacant possession following the lease of the property. Costs were awarded to the Highways Agency and they are seeking to recover them.

The property is now surplus and will be sold.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Fines

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has collected in fines from vehicle owners for failure to notify change of ownership in the most recent year for which figures are available; for what purpose this money has been used; and if he will make a statement. [253564]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the period January 2008 to December 2008 the DVLA collected £1,943,667 in fines as a result of failure to notify change of keeper.

All money collected is returned to Treasury.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps he has taken to reduce the number of people who drive without insurance. [253502]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Measures introduced in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 gave the police improved access to the motor insurance database. This enabled them to have data on uninsured vehicles for use with their automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment. The police were also given powers to seize, and in appropriate cases destroy, vehicles being driven uninsured. In 2007 around 150,000 vehicles were seized.

The Road Safety Act 2006 introduced a new offence of being a registered keeper of a vehicle for which there is no valid motor insurance. Further regulations are required to bring the provisions into force. We are consulting on these and the details of the proposed scheme for Continuous Insurance Enforcement.

Rather than relying on the police to spot vehicles in use, Continuous Insurance Enforcement would identify uninsured drivers by frequent comparison of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's vehicle register and the insurance industry's database. Those that ignore warning reminders that their insurance has expired and take no action would be sent a fixed penalty notice and fine of £100, and may be liable to court prosecution, the vehicle clamped, impounded and disposed of.

Driving under Influence

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on reducing the drink-drive limit from its current level in the last 12 months. [253196]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have received a number of representations for and against reducing the prescribed alcohol limit for driving. On 20 November 2008, we published a paper, Road Safety Compliance Consultation, inviting views on the matter, and expect a range of responses by the deadline of 27 February. An analysis of the responses we receive will be published in due course.

Heathrow Airport

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions with the Mayor of London on the future expansion of Heathrow airport. [252889]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, has regular meetings with the Mayor of London. These cover a broad range of London transport issues. It is likely that this could include the development of Heathrow airport.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to improve public transport provision for rural communities. [253826]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* We are supporting the provision of rural bus services by means of Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG), which is now paid to local authorities as part of their area-based funding. Since its introduction in 1998, over £500 million has been made available for the support of rural bus services in this way; £57 million has been allocated this year.

In addition, a total of £110 million has been awarded to authorities successful under the Rural Bus Challenge (RBC) programme from 1998 to 2003. This scheme has encouraged the development of innovative solutions to meeting rural transport needs. Many of the 300 projects initially supported by RBC funding are now continuing with mainstream funding from local authorities and other sources.

The rules for the route registration of local bus services have been amended. This has enabled the introduction of flexibly routed, demand-responsive bus services. We also extended to these services eligibility to receive Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) from the Department for Transport. BSOG eligibility has also been extended to include community transport operators, with over 1,000 operators, many in rural areas, now claiming BSOG.

The Local Transport Act 2008 includes a number of important steps to enable local authorities to secure better local bus services in rural and urban areas alike by means of:

more effective partnerships with bus operators

making the introduction of quality contracts (i.e. franchising as in London) a more realistic option

a new regime to deliver improved punctuality

measures to support development of the community transport sector and to extend to the Private Hire Vehicle sector the ability to provide taxibuses

The Department has implemented the community rail policy on many rural routes, particularly branch lines. This policy aims to bring together the efforts of the train operating company, Network Rail (NR), the local authority and also local communities to put local or rural services on a steady footing by working together to promote and support local rail operations, increase patronage and awareness of the service. In each individual case, the route is assessed and designated as a 'Community Rail' route, supported by a Community Rail Partnership.

Railways: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths have occurred in accidents on railway crossings in (i) Lancashire and (ii) the UK in each year since 1998. [253723]

Paul Clark: The data below are based on incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). Figures for 2008 are provisional and may change with the receipt of coroners' findings for inquests that are currently outstanding.

The following tables cover incidents at level crossings in Great Britain, as the ORR is not responsible for rail safety in Northern Ireland.

Table: 1 Fatalities and injuries at level crossings 1998-2008[1] (excluding trespassers and suicides) Great Britain

	Fatalities	Lancashire figures	Injuries	Lancashire figures	Total	Lancashire figures
1998	13	1	40	2	53	3
1999	11	1	26	0	37	1
2000	13	0	28	0	41	0
2001	10	0	20	2	30	2
2002	14	1	32	1	46	2
2003	16	1	26	0	42	1
2004	16	0	64	0	80	0
2005	15	0	21	0	36	0
2006	8	0	28	1	36	1
2007	11	0	14	0	25	0
2008[1]	15	0	27	0	42	0

[1] Provisional figures

Table: 2 Fatalities and injuries to trespassers and suicides at level crossings 1998-2008[1] Great Britain

Year	Fatalities	Lancashire figures	Injuries	Lancashire figures	Total	Lancashire figures
1998	12	0	0	0	12	0
1999	8	1	0	0	8	1
2000	9	0	2	0	11	0
2001	10	0	3	1	13	1
2002	13	0	0	0	13	0
2003	15	1	0	0	15	1
2004	12	0	1	0	13	0
2005	20	2	3	1	23	3
2006	19	1	0	0	19	1
2007	17	0	0	0	17	0
2008[1]	15	1	2	0	17	1

[1] Provisional figures

Railways: Bus Services

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of rail replacement bus services in each of the last 12 months. [253983]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Only one rail replacement bus service is funded by the Department for Transport. This is the service between Ealing Broadway and Wandsworth Road. Estimate of cost for this service since the start of operation in December 2008 is £1,410 in December 2008 and £1,880 in January 2009.

The rules for the route registration of local bus services have been amended. This has enabled the introduction of flexibly routed, demand-responsive bus services. We also extended to these services eligibility to receive bus service operators grant (BSOG) from the Department for Transport. BSOG eligibility has also been extended to include community transport operators, with over 1,000 operators, many in rural areas, now claiming BSOG.

The Local Transport Act 2008 includes a number of important steps to enable local authorities to secure better local bus services in rural and urban areas alike by means of:

more effective partnerships with bus operators;

making the introduction of quality contracts (i.e. franchising as in London) a more realistic option;

a new regime to deliver improved punctuality; and measures to support development of the community transport sector and to extend to the private hire vehicle sector the ability to provide taxibuses.

The Department has implemented the community rail policy on many rural routes, particularly branch lines. This policy aims to bring together the efforts of the train operating company, Network Rail (NR), the local authority and also local communities to put local or rural services on a steady footing by working together to promote and support local rail operations, increase patronage and awareness of the service. In each individual case, the route is assessed and designated as a 'community rail' route, supported by a community rail partnership.

Railways: Freight

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the environment of the decision to reduce funding for rail freight schemes. [253179]

Paul Clark: The Government are not reducing funding for rail freight. We have recently announced additional funding of £67 million to the Sustainable Distribution Fund. £61 million of this is allocated to the capital budget from which the freight facilities grant allocations are made, and in the last 18 months the Government have announced record levels of rail freight investment to support continued growth including £200 million towards the development of a strategic freight network and over £150 million of funding towards the provision of infrastructure enhancement for freight through the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund.

Railways: Scotland

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of *(a)* demand for a high-speed rail link between London and Scotland and *(b)* the effect of such a rail link on levels of demand for domestic flights. [253501]

Paul Clark: A new company, High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. has been formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland

As a first stage, the company is expected to bring forward proposals for Britain's second new high speed line, between London and the West Midlands, by the end of the year, and to consider the potential for new lines to serve the North of England and Scotland.

The company will need to assess the likely environmental impact and business case of different routes—including the propensity for modal shift from road, air, and conventional rail.

Roads: Accidents

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries have been attributed to drivers speeding in the last (i) six months, (ii) 12 months and (iii) five years; [253855]

(2) how many deaths of children under 13 years old have been attributed to drivers speeding in the last *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months and *(c)* five years; [253856]

(3) how many deaths *(a)* in total and *(b)* of children under 13 years old have been attributed to drivers speeding in the last 12 months. [253857]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured casualties and *(c)* deaths of children under 13 years old resulting from reported personal injury road accidents, where either 'exceeding speed limit' or 'travelling too fast for conditions' was recorded as a contributory factor are given in the table for each of the last three years.

Number of casualties

	All casualties		*Children under 13 old years*	
	Killed	*Seriously injured*		*Killed*
2005	793	5,024	—	9
2006	856	4,998	—	22
2007	727	4,555	—	8
Total	2,376	14,577		39

Note:
Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Information regarding contributory factors is only available from 2005. Data for 2008 will be available from the end of June 2009.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1105W, on tolls, whether the local authorities in road pricing demonstration project areas were consulted about the decision to conduct the demonstrations in their areas. [253514]

Paul Clark: Neither the Government nor their contractors have consulted the local authorities whose boundaries will be used as the framework for data collection within this research project, nor is there a requirement to do so. The locations for the trial activity chosen by our contractors will have no bearing on the project results.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has allocated for new rolling stock in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [253312]

Paul Clark: In July 2007, the Department for Transport issued a statement of funds available for implementing its high level output specification (£10 billion) during Control Period 4 (2009-14). This includes provision for procurement of 1,300 additional coaches. The phasing of expenditure by year which depends on the delivery and implementation programme is not yet finally determined.

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations he has met to discuss the Mottram Tintwistle bypass. [249318]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State for Transport has so far met Tameside metropolitan borough council to discuss the Mottram-Tintwhistle bypass. In recent years Ministers in the Department for Transport have met a number of stakeholders to discuss the same scheme.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds of Prey: Genetics

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what process his Department has put in place for the use of DNA testing to track the movement of peregrine falcons and merlins suspected of having been taken illegally from the wild after they have been sold on to new owners. [253750]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 319W to my hon. Friend the member for Sheffield, Hillsborough (Ms Smith).

British Airports Authority

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence (i) he, (ii) other Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department have had with representatives from BAA since 3 October 2008; when each meeting took place; who attended each meeting; and what the subject of each meeting was. [252765]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 29 January 2009]*: DEFRA Ministers have had no meetings with BAA since 3 October 2008.

DEFRA officials attended a meeting on 13 November 2008 with the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee at which representatives of BAA were present, and in which DEFRA officials made a presentation about the public consultation on the guidance for airport operators to produce action plans under the terms of Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.

In relation to correspondence, Richard Norman replied on behalf of BAA to the DEFRA Consultation on the Guidance for Airport Operators to produce action plans under the terms of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006. There has not been any subsequent correspondence from DEFRA to BAA.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1587W, on the Common Fisheries Policy, (1) when he plans *(a)* to complete a detailed impact assessment of the proposals and *(b)* formally to consult on the proposals; and if will make a statement; [253400]

(2) when he plans to make a formal response to the Council of Ministers and the European Commission on Article 47 of the proposed Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy; [253429]

(3) with reference to the provisions of Article 47 of the proposed Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, how much quota he plans to allocate to recreational sea anglers, broken down by species in each fishing area and expressed as a percentage of overall national quota; and if he will make a statement. [253430]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My officials are currently engaged in discussions with the EU presidency, the Commission and other member states over the detail of the Commission's proposal for a council regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy. As part of that discussion, officials will be asking the Commission for further clarification on the intent of article 47. Once we have that clarification, we will be able to better understand the potential impact of article 47 as drafted, including the implications for quota, and can then respond formally to the council. My intention is to consult on the proposal by the end of February. An initial impact assessment will form part of that consultation.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248386]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the Department's expenditure with its major catering services providers in each of the last three years is as follows:

Supplier	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 April to November*
Baxter Storey	1,791,601.00	1,799,984.00	1,160,628.00
Eurest	335,595.00	508,593.00	340,234.00
Mellors	66,861.20	79,595.73	84,370.00
Aramark	88,434.00	91,985.00	41,677.00
ABM	18,901.00	19,846.00	12,304.00
Just Deli	43,351.00	45,519.00	29,436.00
Star	12,440.00	13,060.00	9,140.00

The ratio of food to beverages expenditure is 55 per cent. to 45 per cent. A detailed analysis of the breakdown of the expenditure on food and beverages across all sites and for all suppliers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248411]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is the policy of DEFRA and its Executive agencies that both temporary and permanent employees appointed to the same grade are paid within the same pay range. Temporary employees are defined as those employed directly by the department or its agencies and does not include individuals sub-contracted through a third party.

Differences in hourly pay rates between temporary and permanent employees can occur within the same pay range due to a number of business reasons. Permanent members of staff have more opportunity to progress higher up the pay range due to the likelihood of their being in post for longer and receiving more annual pay awards.

Differences can also occur in hourly pay rates when employees, within the same grade and pay range, are appointed on pay rates above the minimum of the pay range due to the skills and experience that they bring to the position.

Environment Protection: Demolition

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which body is responsible for *(a)* monitoring the environmental impact of demolition sites and *(b)* ensuring that correct procedures are followed in the disposal of hazardous waste from building material at such sites. [252652]

Jane Kennedy: The main body responsible for monitoring the environmental impact of demolition sites is the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Some responsibility may also lie with the local authority (e.g. nuisance).

Waste producers have a responsibility under Duty of Care which is monitored by the Environment Agency. All wastes must go to appropriate sites that are permitted by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency checks compliance at these sites. Much of the waste from demolition is not disposed of but re-used and recycled.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his Department's Marine Programme Plan for 2008-09, whether the quota reform task group has been established. [253399]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Access to fisheries is being considered as part of the wider common fisheries policy reform process which is now underway, and due for completion in 2012. The UK governance framework for this negotiation will ensure all stakeholders get the opportunity to feed in their views.

In addition, I have recently announced my intention to establish a more targeted advisory group, including industry and community representatives, to support work to achieve our goal of sustainable access to inshore fisheries. I expect this group to be set up by the spring. This work is closely aligned with the work on CFP reform and long term reform of the wider UK industry.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the draft proposals of the Quota Management Change Programme (QMCP) produced prior to the withdrawal of the Scottish Executive from the QMCP; and if he will make a statement. [253427]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Discussions on the quota management change programme were incomplete when the Scottish Executive withdrew from the process in June 2007. Moreover, subsequent developments have in any case overtaken certain aspects of these discussions. Therefore, I do not intend to publish documents relating to these internal discussions.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the inclusion of recreational sea angling catches in national quota derives from recommendations of the Quota Management Change Programme. [253428]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No. The proposal to count recreational sea angling catches, in certain circumstances, against a member state's quota forms part of the recently published Commission proposal for a Council regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy. The UK Government had no discussions with the Commission prior to the publication of the proposal.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's Marine Programme Plan for 2008-09, when he plans to consult on the principles of quota separation; and if he will make a statement. [253431]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Last year, the Scottish Executive put forward a number of proposals to amend the existing quota management arrangements. We have yet to see any firm proposals following their consultation last year. The current quota management and licensing rules and management arrangements remain in place.

It is my strong preference to take forward discussions on quota management and licensing arrangements reform through the wider discussions on common fisheries policy (CFP) reform, now under way. This is the best way to make sure we end up with a workable approach that reflects the needs of all four Administrations and ensures we engage with the Commission and other member states productively throughout the negotiation, and that the wishes of the UK are fully reflected in the final outcome.

Floods: Motorways

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the Answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 29-30W, on floods, which stretches of motorway have a significant flood risk probability according to the Environment Agency's flood vulnerability database. [252491]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The flood vulnerability database draws heavily on information held by other parties, and provides a summary of vulnerability to flooding in each 100 metres of land in England and Wales.

Information on motorways at risk of flooding was provided by publicly available ordinance survey data. However to geographically identify and describe each section of motorway at significant flood risk would incur disproportionate cost.

In response to the floods of 2007 and Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations the Highways Agency has been investigating the resilience of the strategic road network to flooding. The Highways Agency is currently reviewing the Environment Agency's fluvial flood risk maps and information on 'Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding' to identify vulnerable locations and develop appropriate contingency measures. This work is ongoing.

Food: Procurement

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to announce a review of the public sector food procurement initiative. [252686]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 January 2009]*: DEFRA commissioned an evaluation of the public sector food procurement initiative (PSFPI) in October 2008. The evaluation is looking at what has worked well, what could be improved and will provide recommendations for the future. The final report of the evaluation is due in early February, after which we intend to publish the key findings and our response to its recommendations.

Food: Public Sector

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the Answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on 10 Downing Street: catering, what the remit of the public sector food procurement initiative is; and whether the initiative has adopted a policy on using genetically-modified food and ingredients. [250041]

Jane Kennedy: The PSFPI's remit is explained in the guide "Putting it into practice" that can be seen at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/resources.htm.

The primary aim is to support the Government's Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy for England, which aims to deliver a world class sustainable farming and food sector that contributes to a better environment and healthier, prosperous communities.

DEFRA's catering toolkit asks public bodies to specify in contracts that suppliers: "Clearly label any genetically modified products used, including the presence of any genetically modified ingredients used in the preparation of the food".

This is consistent with the Food Standard Agency's advice on EC Regulation 1829/2003 (GM Food and Feed Regulation) that requires all foods that either consist of or contain live GMOs or foods or ingredients derived from GMOs to be labelled and traceable throughout the food supply chain.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the operation of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme by the Rural Payments Agency, with particular reference to the administration of its operational programmes. [252582]

Jane Kennedy: No such assessment has been made.

Noise: Pollution

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on how local authorities should deal with noise complaints. [252631]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has issued the following guidance on how local authorities should deal with noise complaints:

> Guidance to Local Authorities in England—Noise Offence Act for licensed premises;
>
> Neighbourhood Noise Policies and Practice for Local Authorities—A Management Guide (jointly with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health);
>
> Guidance on Section 69 to 81 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

These can all be found on the DEFRA website.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pets have entered the UK from abroad in each of the last three years. [241469]

Jane Kennedy: The total number of pets entering the UK through quarantine or under the PETS scheme is as follows.

	Number
2005	82,983
2006	94,289
2007	102,233

Pigmeat

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with pork retailers and processors on proposals for a fully integrated supply chain for pork products. [252105]

Jane Kennedy: Ministers in DEFRA have for several years promoted with retailers and processors the benefits of strong supply chain relationships for agricultural products including pork. I met with pork processors on 11 December 2008 and meet regularly with retailers to discuss a range of issues including supply chain. I welcome the recent report of the EFRA Committee into the State of the English Pig Industry and I am studying its recommendations carefully.

Recycling

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of trained local authority recycling officers. [252921]

Jane Kennedy: It is the local authorities' responsibility to recruit and train their staff, including recycling officers. However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme under its Local Authority Support Programme can provide support and guidance to officers on operational, communications and waste prevention activities.

Recycling: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to introduce statutory targets for levels of recycling by local authorities. [252922]

Jane Kennedy: Statutory Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) targets for levels of recycling by local authorities were last set for 2007-08.

These were replaced in April 2008 by the new National Indicators. These are now the only measures on which central Government will manage outcomes delivered by local government working alone or in partnership.

DEFRA has no plans to reintroduce any additional targets for levels of recycling by local authorities.

Rodents

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of changes to the rat population in each of the last four years; what provision his Department makes for the removal of *(a)* rats and *(b)* other vermin by local authorities; and what information his Department holds on the charges applicable. [253200]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The latest report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is available on DEFRA's website. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, local authorities are responsible for ensuring that their districts are kept so far as practicable free from rats and mice. Should local authorities fail to discharge their responsibilities under the 1949 Act, DEFRA has certain default powers to initiate action.

Sewers: Fats

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of sewer blockages caused by used cooking oil, fat, soils and greases in the last 12 months. [253712]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water UK, the representative body for the water industry, estimates that there are on average around 200,000 sewer blockages in England and Wales each year, of which fats, oils and greases are responsible for up to 75 per cent.

Soil: EU Action

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions are planned with his European Union counterparts on the draft Soil Framework Directive. [253922]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Discussions on the draft Soil Framework Directive have been ongoing at official level since the German presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2007. DEFRA officials have taken part in bilateral meetings with like-minded and other member states to explain UK concerns. Discussions have also been held at ministerial level with a number of member states, including the Czech Republic, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Member states were unable to reach a common position at the Environment Council in December 2007. Since then, the UK has continued to engage in discussions both officially and at ministerial level, and will continue actively to do so in the light of the Czech presidency's indication that it intends to seek political agreement at the June 2009 Environment Council.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisation has managed each project funded by his Department in Helmand province since 2005; what the budget of each was; how much has been spent in each case; what monitoring, impact assessments and evaluations have been undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [245776]

Bill Rammell: The UK took responsibility for Helmand province through the establishment of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in 2006. The PRT combines the efforts of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in a comprehensive approach to development. Accordingly, the PRT delivers reconstruction and development projects from a tri-departmental budget managed jointly by FCO, DfID and MoD. £7.04 million was spent in 2006-07 and £9.99 million in 2007-08 from the Global Conflict Prevention Pool. To date, £14.08 million (of a Stabilisation Aid Fund budget of £34.41 million) has been spent in 2008-09. Prior to the establishment of the PRT in 2006 there was no specific allocation of funding to Helmand province.

The tri-departmental funding facilitates a range of projects in Counter Narcotics, Rule of Law, Strategic Communications, Governance, Political activities and Area Based Stabilisation. These projects are administered in Lashkar Gah or London dependent on the implementing agent. Projects are managed through a range of partners including the Afghan government, local community organisations, international or local non-governmental organisations or external contractors. Programmes are reviewed and updated monthly by an official in our Embassy in Kabul and the PRT in Lashkar Gah. Projects are evaluated at six-monthly intervals.

In addition to this tri-departmental budget the FCO spent £17,000 in 2007-08 from its bilateral programme fund, on Helmand specific projects.

Burma: Religious Freedom

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the State Peace and Development Council in Burma on its recent order to close churches in Rangoon. [253435]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned that the Burmese regime has imposed restrictions on churches and other places of worship for religious minorities in Rangoon. We condemn the marginalisation or persecution of any community based on their religious beliefs. The regime's actions are part of a wider deterioration of the human rights situation in Burma and the UK will continue to ask the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices mission and representatives of the UN human rights bodies to raise our concerns with the State Peace and Development Council.

China: Human Rights

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue meeting of 12 to 13 January was, with specific reference to Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [249326]

Bill Rammell: Issues discussed at the recent human rights dialogue included China's co-operation with international human rights mechanisms, the death penalty, reform of the administrative detention system, religious freedom in Xinjiang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea border-crossers and freedom of expression. We held detailed discussions on disability and mental health issues, and the role of the prosecutor in the UK and China in upholding defendants' rights. We welcomed the decision to make permanent more liberal regulations on foreign journalists, but also raised our concerns about the continued detention of a signatory of charter 08. We handed over a list of 50 other individual cases and asked for further information about these. We urged China to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee Against Torture and to issue open invitations to UN Special Rapporteurs to visit China. With reference to Tibet, we made clear that we remain concerned about the apparent lack of due process for those in detention in Tibet, restrictions on freedom of religion and lack of transparency. We urged renewed dialogue between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama to resolve the underlying issues, and pressed for agreements on visits by foreign journalists and diplomats.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on national caveats applicable to the operations of troops deployed with the UN peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [240833]

David Miliband: Certain troop contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo have placed what the UN refers to as 'theatre specific restrictions' with regard to the geographical deployment of their troops and on mission chain of command. In my contacts with colleagues from troop contributing countries, I have encouraged them to be as flexible and responsive to the recent crisis as possible.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248054]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has spent the following on maintaining, decorating and improving departmental buildings, at home and overseas, for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08.

£ million

	Costs of maintaining and decorating departmental buildings	*Cost of improving departmental buildings*
2004-05	37.6	38.8
2005-06	43.3	43.0
2006-07	41.1	53.0
2007-08	45.2	76.4

The cost of wallpaper is not recorded separately and figures prior to 2004-05 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The FCO maintains a forward programme for the upkeep of its UK estate as do our overseas posts. For 2008-09, the FCO has budgeted £17.4 million for building maintenance. Information about planned future expenditure by our overseas posts is not kept centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Japan: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens visited Japan in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006. [245262]

Bill Rammell: According to figures supplied by the Japanese Ministry of Justice, in 2007 192,148 British citizens and 30,681 British Nationals (Overseas) visited Japan. In 2006, 186,633 British citizens and 33,618 British Nationals (Overseas) visited Japan.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of suspension of Israel's application for membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development until allegations of war crimes during Israel's military operation on Gaza have been fully investigated; and if he will make a statement. [250332]

Bill Rammell: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) launched accession negotiations with Israel in 2007. Following the submission of Israel's initial memorandum, which sets out the current state of Israel compliance with the OECD body of law and best practice, negotiations have consisted so far of technical scrutiny of the memorandum. Any political issues about the Israeli accession will be considered once the technical phase is over.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar shells fired at Israel by Hamas in each year since 2001. [253015]

Bill Rammell: According to the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs the number of rockets and mortars fired at Israel between 2001-08 is as follows:

	Number of rockets and mortars fired
2001	249
2002	292
2003	420
2004	1,157
2005	417
2006	968
2007	1,645
2008	3,102

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to restrict access to funding and resources on the part of Tamil forces. [252000]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), or "Tamil Tigers" was proscribed by the then Home Secretary in 2001 under the terms of the Terrorism Act 2000. One of the consequences of proscription is that the resources of the organisation are defined as "terrorist property." The definition of "terrorist property" is money or other property likely to be used for the purposes of terrorism, including any resources of a proscribed organisation. As such, there are a number of provisions, also contained in the Terrorism Act 2000, which make it unlawful to carry out specified fundraising activities if the person intends or has reasonable cause to suspect that the money or property may be used for the purposes of terrorism. The specified activities include inviting another to provide money or other property, receiving money or other property, providing money or other property, or possessing money or other property.

The LTTE is also subject to financial sanctions, i.e. an asset freeze, as a result of being both designated domestically by HM Treasury and listed under EU Council Decision 379.

A wide range of law enforcement and other agencies conduct operations to prevent financial resources reaching terrorist organisations, and the investigation of alleged terrorist finance offences is a matter for the police.

Stem Cells: Research

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the seminar on stem cell research organised by the British Embassy in Israel on 26 and 27 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247756]

Bill Rammell: I have arranged for a copy of the report to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what files his Department holds on the seminar on stem cell research organised by the British Embassy in Israel on 26 and 27 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247757]

Bill Rammell: A brief report of the seminar was compiled by the science and innovation attaché at our embassy in Tel Aviv, which also has files covering the logistical arrangements for the seminar.

USA: Foreign Relations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to initiate contacts with the incoming US administration. [248111]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Government have excellent links with the incoming Administration. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has met President-elect Obama twice in 2008, and spoken to him on other occasions. We have long standing ties with Vice-President-elect Biden as well as the nominees for Secretaries of State, Defence and Treasury, as well as with nearly all other prospective Cabinet Secretaries. These strong Cabinet relations are mirrored at all levels, thanks to the work of our embassy in Washington and our other US posts in establishing, cultivating and building strong links with officials who will work in the White House and across the incoming Administration.

JUSTICE

Driving Under Influence

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for driving under the influence of alcohol in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority. [253289]

Maria Eagle: Available information held by the Ministry of Justice on convictions at all courts for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in the following table. Data for 2008 should be available in the autumn of 2009.

The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be provided separately.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-07[2,3]

Number of offences

	Findings of guilt				
Police force area	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	2,666	2,692	2,595	2,457	2,490
Bedfordshire	1,072	1,028	1,050	1,152	1,064
Cambridgeshire	933	1,083	1,214	1,268	1,240
Cheshire	1,905	2,128	1,709	1,866	1,804
Cleveland	981	1,071	959	1,032	948
Cumbria	843	907	853	859	868
Derbyshire	1,617	1,874	1,645	1,520	1,466
Devon and Cornwall	2,667	2,560	2,446	2,336	2,247
Dorset	1,264	1,239	1,207	1,156	1,191
Durham	1,170	1,277	1,168	1,002	1,051
Essex	2,622	2,853	2,549	2,697	2,553
Gloucestershire	890	913	834	812	725
Greater Manchester	4,743	4,811	4,653	4,570	4,462

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-07[2,3]

Number of offences

	Findings of guilt				
Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Hampshire	3,663	3,743	3,372	2,993	2,974
Hertfordshire	1,904	1,881	1,836	1,860	1,830
Humberside	1,445	1,623	1,592	1,518	1,071
Kent	2,811	3,010	2,907	2,824	2,836
Lancashire	2,652	2,706	2,723	2,775	2,756
Leicestershire	1,725	1,754	1,631	1,512	1,520
Lincolnshire	1,111	1,209	1,176	1,274	1,233
London, City of	230	169	184	168	189
Merseyside	2,687	2,849	2,964	2,737	2,541
Metropolitan Police	12,621	13,227	12,887	13,075	12,237
Norfolk	1,274	1,240	1,265	1,335	1,246
Northamptonshire	799	922	853	1,016	879
Northumbria	2,747	2,675	2,561	2,559	2,482
North Yorkshire	1,194	1,131	1,244	1,261	1,194
Nottinghamshire	1,644	1,669	1,626	1,699	1,517
South Yorkshire	2,089	2,224	2,220	2,019	2,023
Staffordshire	1,733	1,733	1,718	1,657	1,704
Suffolk	1,213	1,332	1,103	1,158	1,058
Surrey	1,464	1,425	1,503	1,413	1,517
Sussex	2,430	2,368	2,379	2,475	2,479
Thames Valley	3,884	3,539	3,474	3,419	3,356
Warwickshire	918	845	871	895	994
West Mercia	1,797	1,689	1,917	2,008	1,904
West Midlands	5,233	5,584	5,693	5,554	5,483
West Yorkshire	3,720	3,897	3,863	3,587	3,429
Wiltshire	1,031	1,024	1,038	1,028	816
England	87,392	89,904	87,482	86,546	83,377
Dyfed Powys	995	986	932	927	906
Gwent	1,149	1,188	1,129	1,188	1,097
North Wales	1,326	1,349	1,364	1,335	1,297
South Wales	2,840	2,811	2,811	2,675	2,546
Wales	6,310	6,334	6,236	6,125	5,846
England and Wales	93,702	96,238	93,718	92,671	89,223

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of which offences contained in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 penalty notices for disorder have been issued in the last three years. [253144]

Mr. Straw: The offences for which a penalty notice for disorder (PNDs) is available, together with the numbers issued for each offence in 2005, 2006 and 2007 (the last three years for which confirmed data are available) are included in the following table. PND data for 2008 will be available in November 2009.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders of all ages by offence, England and Wales 2005-07

Offence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Higher Tier Offences (£80)			
Wasting police time	2,525	3,933	3,966
Misuse of public telecommunications system	405	909	1,193
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	92	106	96
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	64,007	82,235	77,827
Throwing fireworks[1]	642	682	649
Drunk and disorderly[2]	37,038	43,556	46,996
Criminal Damage (under £500)[3]	12,168	20,620	19,946
Theft (retail under £200)[3]	21,997	38,772	45,146
Breach of fireworks curfew[4]	33	53	39
Possession of category 4 firework[4]	13	28	22
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[4]	47	76	106
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[5]	32	47	81
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18	3	60	54
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18[1]	2,058	3,195	3,583
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18[3]	170	407	555
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	83	60	64
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery[3]	209	297	431
Lower Tier Offences (£50)			
Trespassing on a railway	220	1,042	1,527
Throwing stones at a train/railway	20	15	25
Drunk in a highway	3,138	2,712	2,066
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	712	1,061	1,544
Depositing and leaving litter[3]	737	1,169	1,374
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[3]	84	75	85
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[3]	27	14	11
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[5]	21	73	158
Totals			
Total Higher Tier Offences	141,522	195,036	200,754
Total Lower Tier Offences	4,959	6,161	6,790
Total all offences	146,481	201,197	207,544

[1] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 5 March 2004.

[2] Offence moved from the tower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004.

[3] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.

[4] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.

[5] Offence added with effect from 04 April 2005.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Closure Orders: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions courts in Merseyside issued a closure order in 2008. [253401]

Bridget Prentice: On one occasion. Southport county court was closed from 4.00 pm on 23 December 2008 until 10.00 am on 2 January 2009.

Community Orders: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were issued in *(a)* the area covered by Hambleton and Harrogate councils and (b) the North Yorkshire area in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007. [253143]

Maria Eagle: The available information is shown in the following table:

Number of community sentences issued in North Yorkshire police force area, 2003-07

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All community sentences	2,434	2,547	2,842	2,598	2,712
Of which community orders[1]	n/a	n/a	1,017	1,650	1,651

n/a=Not available or Not Applicable

[1] Community orders were introduced on the 4th of April 2005 and are available for offences committed on or after that date, and for offenders aged 18 and over.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice Ref: PQ(OMSAS) 026-09 (28/01/2009)

Data held by the Ministry of Justice are available by Police Force Area (PFA) and the table shows the figures for North Yorkshire PFA. These data are made available for smaller areas because detailed checks on sentencing data are not carried out at court level.

Criminal Cases Review Commission

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Criminal Cases Review Commission plans to take to reduce its level of case accumulation; and how the Commission will monitor the effectiveness of those steps. [253149]

Maria Eagle: The Criminal Cases Review Commission expects to bring about further improvements in the number of applicants awaiting review and the time taken to review their cases by refining casework processes as part of an ongoing project.

Since that project started three years ago, the number of cases waiting for review by the Commission and the average waiting time of each case has fallen significantly. For instance, in March 2005 there were 360 cases awaiting review. In December 2008—the last full month for which figures are available—there were 90.

Between September 2005 and December 2008, the time that applicants in custody with complex cases had to wait for the review of their cases to begin fell from 20 months to six months.

Casework trends are analysed and steps to bring about improvements are discussed in various forums including weekly meetings of the senior management team and monthly meetings of the full Commission. All non-confidential casework policies can be seen on the publications section of the Commission's website at

www.ccrc.gov.uk

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the Criminal Cases Review Commission measures the *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* efficiency and *(c)* economy of its policies. [253150]

Maria Eagle: The Commission's policies all feed into the performance of its core function—reviewing alleged miscarriages of justice. The effectiveness and efficiency is assessed through the performance of the Commission.

The Commission uses a set of eight key performance indicators to help it monitor and manage performance. The indicators help the Commission measure waiting times, waiting lists and time taken to reach certain key stages in the life of each case such as time to allocation and time to completion. The Commission sets targets in each of these areas and measures its performance against those targets. Targets and performance are reviewed regularly by the Commission and the senior management team. Performance across most KPIs has improved substantially over the last two years.

Commission policies are regularly reviewed with input from Commissioners and staff and revised as necessary.

The KPIs are developed by managers and Commissioners and approved by the Commission. They appear in the CCRC business plan and are reported on annually in the annual report—both documents are available on the Commission's website at

www.ccrc.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures apply to the *(a)* recruitment, *(b)* training and *(c)* assessment of the welfare of the Criminal Cases Review Commission's expert staff. [253151]

Maria Eagle: The Commission's Recruitment and Equal Opportunities policies seek to ensure that all the Commission's recruitment activity is fair and open.

The Commission provides in-house training for staff and Commissioners to share knowledge and expertise and promote good practice. The Commission also supports external training for staff in line with the aims of the organisation.

The Commission takes seriously the welfare of all its staff. Human Resources staff and line managers are responsible for supporting staff dealing with various day-to-day welfare issues.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Criminal Cases Review Commission has taken to increase the public's understanding of its role. [253152]

Maria Eagle: The Commission issues a press release about every referral it makes to the appeal courts. The organisation, and its chair in particular, seek appropriate opportunities to engage with local and national media about the work of the Commission, miscarriages of justice in general and about individual cases as far as possible.

Commissioners and Commission staff give regular presentations about the Commission and its work at universities, law clinics and at other events and venues.

The Commission tends to focus on specific sections of the public likely to have an interest in its work and on reaching those who may have legitimate reason to make an application to the Commission for review of an alleged miscarriage of justice. For instance, the Commission holds stakeholder events for groups and individuals interested in the issues and runs an annual programme of visits to prisons of all kinds to increase informed awareness of the Commission among prisoners and prison staff. The Commission advertises in media directed at the prison population and is developing ways of feeding information and material into the training of prison officers providing legal advice to prisoners.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253272]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) asks new and re-employed civil servants to complete a pension questionnaire which enables them to be sent details of the pensions options available to them on joining the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). On the basis of their reply, information is subsequently provided to them on added years and additional voluntary contributions.

For existing staff, information is available on the Ministry of Justice's intranet site. This site also directs staff to the Civil Service Pensions website and provides contact details for Capita Hartshead who are the Ministry of Justice's Authorised Pensions Administration Centre (APAC), both of which can also provide information about these options to interested staff. NOMS staff have access to the Ministry of Justice intranet and can phone the Home Office Pension Service (NOMS APAC) help desk for advice and are also provided with details of the Civil Service Pensions website address when they join.

The purchase of added years was replaced by added pension from 1 March 2008 and this change was given prominent publicity in June 2007 and again in February 2008.

From time to time, relevant pension-related information is published on the Ministry of Justice's intranet and brought to the attention of employees.

Information on the 36 probation boards and six probation trusts has not been included, as their members of staff are not employees of the Ministry of Justice. Probation staff are generally eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Glen Parva Young Offenders Institution

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the building of the planned extension of Glen Parva Young Offenders Institution will be *(a)* started and *(b)* completed; how many additional places and what facilities for young offenders the extension will provide; what facilities currently available will be removed; and what the total cost will be of the extension. [253352]

Mr. Hanson: Solutions are being developed on behalf of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to build a new prison adjacent to the site of the existing Glen Parva YOI; this is not an extension to the existing Glen Parva YOI for young adult males.

Planning permission is due to be submitted in the summer of 2009. If this is granted, work is anticipated to start in late 2009 and expected to be completed in early 2012.

The new prison will create approximately 360 new prison places and, as this is a new self-contained prison for young men aged 15-17, no existing facilities will be removed from the existing establishment. The development at Glen Parva will include facilities for young people to take part in a variety of training and education activities to help them gain the necessary skills they need on release to help reduce their risk of reoffending. The total cost of the project has not been determined and will be subject to competition over the next six to eight months.

Legal Services Ombudsman

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* applications and *(b)* successful applications for judicial review of decisions made by the Legal Services Ombudsman have been made in each year since 2002; [253131]

(2) how many *(a)* applications and *(b)* successful applications for judicial review of decisions made by the Legal Services Ombudsman there have been in each year since 2002. [253318]

Bridget Prentice: Although the Legal Services Ombudsman is independent of Government, we understand from her annual reports that:

> In 2004-05, 14 applications for Judicial Review were made. None were successful.
>
> In 2005-06, eight applications were made. None were successful.
>
> In 2006-07, nine applications were made. None were successful.
>
> In 2007-08, eight applications were made. Five have been unsuccessful. The three remaining cases continued into 2008-09 and were subsequently unsuccessful.

According to the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman there are no records available to confirm the number of applications for Judicial Review between 2002-04.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the performance of the *(a)* Legal Services Ombudsman and *(b)* Legal Complaints Service. [253284]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Regulation and Redress Division (LSRRD) in the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the policy relating to the regulation of legal services in England and Wales.

During 2008, LSRRD received 56 representations regarding the performance of the Legal Services Ombudsman, and 37 representations regarding the performance of the Legal Complaints Service.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints he has received regarding decisions made by the Legal Services Ombudsman in each of the last five years. [253319]

Bridget Prentice: The Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman is independent of Government. Therefore, the Department does not deal with complaints regarding decisions made by the ombudsman.

The ombudsman's report in individual cases is final and there is no appeal against it. However, consumers can challenge her decisions in the courts through application for Judicial Review.

Magistrates: Age

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates are aged between *(a)* 20 and 29, *(b)* 30 and 39, *(c)* 40 and 49, *(d)* 50 and 59 and *(e)* 60 and 69 years old. [253157]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is as follows:

The age of magistrates as at 28 January, 2009

Age	*Number*
(a) 20-29	134
(b) 30-39	993
(c) 40-49	4,344
(d) 50-59	9,557
(e) 60-69	14,390

Mental Health Tribunals

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether specialist legal advice is routinely made available to people who are the subject of a mental health tribunal. [253296]

Mr. Malik: Legal aid is available for representation in the first-tier tribunal and upper tribunal for mental health proceedings. It is available without reference to the means of the applicant in the first-tier tribunal.

National Mediation Helpline: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department provided to the National Mediation Helpline in each of the last three years. [253585]

Bridget Prentice: Since the launch of the National Mediation Helpline in March 2005, the year on year costs are as shown in the following table:

Justice Department funding of the National Mediation Helpline, 2005-08

	£
2005-06	73,880
2006-07	50,523
2007-08	72,094

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places he plans to provide by 31 December 2009. [253677]

Mr. Hanson: At 31 December 2009 we will have delivered over 6,000 new prison places since April 2007. This includes over 2,100 new prison places in 2009.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people released from prison less than half way through their sentence had reoffended before the date originally set for the end of the sentence in each of the last three years, broken down by offence. [253388]

Mr. Hanson: Information about the length of time that a prisoner spent in prison cannot be extracted from the Police National Computer database and we do not collate this information from the prisoner discharge dataset in the production of reoffending data. These are the two key sources for producing statistics on reoffending following a discharge from prison.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Prisoners: Bullying

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures are in place to prevent bullying of prisoners by other inmates. [253154]

Mr. Malik: Since 2004, every public sector prison has been required to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. From mid 2007 this policy has been applied to both the public sector and contracted estate. Under the strategy each prison is required to undertake regular analysis of any problem areas, consider solutions and provide an action plan to improve personal safety and reduce violence. All closed establishments are required to undertake a cell-sharing risk assessment to inform cell allocation. The violence reduction strategy is due to be reviewed during 2009.

Prisoners: Islam

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners in each high security prison in each of the last five years were Muslim. [253160]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers and percentages of Muslim prisoners in each high security prison establishment in England and Wales on 30 June each year can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Numbers and proportions of Muslim prisoners by each high security prison, June 2004 - June 2008

Prison	*Muslim prisoners*	*Percentage of total*
30 June 2004		
Belmarsh	147	16
Frankland	56	8
Full Sutton	82	14
Long Lartin	58	13
Manchester	112	9
Wakefield	26	5
Whitemoor	74	18
Woodhill	85	11

Numbers and proportions of Muslim prisoners by each high security prison, June 2004 - June 2008

Prison	*Muslim prisoners*	*Percentage of total*
Total Muslim prisoners	640	
Total all prisoners	5,547	
Muslims as percentage of all	12	
30 June 2005		
Belmarsh	145	16
Frankland	63	9
Full Sutton	85	14
Long Lartin	67	15
Manchester	126	10
Wakefield	32	6
Whitemoor	75	17
Woodhill	93	12
Total Muslim prisoners	686	
Total all prisoners	5,615	
Muslims as percentage of all	12	
30 June 2006		
Belmarsh	154	17
Frankland	73	10
Full Sutton	82	14
Long Lartin	91	21
Manchester	171	14
Wakefield	51	7
Whitemoor	73	17
Woodhill	107	14
Total Muslim prisoners	802	
Total all prisoners	5,802	
Muslims as percentage of all	14	
30 June 2007		
Belmarsh	175	19
Frankland	73	10
Full Sutton	77	13
Long Lartin	105	24
Manchester	159	13
Wakefield	61	8
Whitemoor	94	20
Woodhill	114	14
Total Muslim prisoners	858	
Total all prisoners	5,917	
Muslims as percentage of all	15	
30 June 2008		
Belmarsh	181	20
Frankland	60	8
Full Sutton	109	19
Long Lartin	106	24
Manchester	144	12
Wakefield	66	9
Whitemoor	140	34
Woodhill	113	14
Total Muslim prisoners	919	
Total all prisoners	5,820	
Muslims as percentage of all	16	

Prisoners: Racial Harassment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many racial incidents were reported by prisoners during 2008; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of subsequent investigations. [253153]

Mr. Malik: In 2008 there were 8,911 incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners—of those 2,849 were about the behaviour of other prisoners and 6,062 were concerned with the actions of members of staff. A small proportion consist of allegations of misconduct by staff and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

All investigations into reported acts of racism are overseen and signed off by the Governor or Deputy Governor. In addition the area manager conducts bi-annual checks of a random' sample of investigations.

'Race Review 2008' recently published by NOMS and available in the Library sets out the current assessment of race equality in the prison service, including the effectiveness of these systems and plans for work further to improve them.

Reoffenders: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of people released on *(a)* probation and *(b)* licence who subsequently committed a further crime were returned to prison in each of the last three years. [253336]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the number of offenders who were released on licence and who were subsequently recalled to custody, having been charged with committing a further offence in the period of their licence in the year 2007-08 and between April and December 2008, as notified to the National Offender Management Service. Accurate data on the reasons for recalling determinate prisoners who were on licence were not held centrally prior to April 2007 and to compile such data would incur disproportionate cost.

Offenders recalled for committing further offences are normally recalled at the point at which the charge is laid. Inevitably therefore, some of the cases listed would have either resulted in acquittal or would not have proceeded to trial, as the charges were subsequently withdrawn.

Furthermore, there will have been prisoners released on licence and who were charged with offences after their licence period had expired. They would not have been liable to recall.

The proportion of offenders recalled for committing further offences cannot be expressed as a proportion of the number of releases, as offenders may be recalled at any point during a licence and on more than one occasion, particularly with respect to licences that can be several years in duration.

	Offenders recalled for further charges
April 2007 to March 2008	[1]2,604
April 2008 to December 2008	[1]2,081

[1] These figures exclude all those recalled from early custody licence. It also excludes those recalled from home detention curfew who had a sentence of less than 12 months as they would not have been under probation supervision.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many charges for speeding offences were discontinued because the location of the speed camera failed to comply with the guidance in each of the last five years; [253021]

(2) how many charges for speeding offences were discontinued because of a breach of the guidance on co-located signs in each of the last five years. [253022]

Maria Eagle: Charging data are not held by my Department. Prosecutions data are normally provided in lieu.

The number of proceedings at the magistrates court for speeding offences, and the number discontinued, for 2003 to 2007 (latest available) are given in the following table.

Statistical information collected centrally on the number of persons proceeded against for offences of contravening speed limits does not identify the reason why the proceedings are discontinued.

The number of proceedings at the magistrates court for speeding offences[1] and the number discontinued, England and Wales, 2003-07[2, 3, 4]

	Number of offences	
	Proceeded against	*Proceedings discontinued*
2003	165,495	1,465
2004	172,327	1,540
2005	192,238	1,809
2006	180,630	1,759
2007	177,917	1,753

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 7 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Volumes of convictions for camera detected speed limit offences cannot be accurately established because in many cases the method of detection is not identified in the court data. It is not known exactly in how many cases it was in fact a camera or a visual detection by a police officer.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* sentenced at (i) magistrates' courts and (ii) the Crown Court in (A) Vale of York constituency and (B) England in each year since 1997. [253142]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) split by court type, as requested in the question, are only available from 1999 onward. The closest geographic level to the Vale of York for which robust numbers are available is the North Yorkshire police force area.

The PYO figures are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system, through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. However, numbers of PYO cases are not a reliable measure of overall levels of youth crime, and will give a misleading view of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The following tables show the number of PYOs dealt with in England and Wales and for North Yorkshire. The breakdowns are based on whether the cases were heard in the magistrates courts or in the Crown court.

The number of persistent young offenders in England and Wales, by court jurisdiction

	All courts	*Magistrates courts*	*The Crown court*
1997	9,868	—	—
1998	11,079	—	—
1999	12,014	9,815	2,160
2000	13,233	11,961	1,264
2001	13,854	12,889	961
2002	14,244	13,218	1,024
2003	14,244	13,297	941
2004	14,492	13,511	974
2005	14,827	13,894	924
2006	15,528	14,476	1,043
2007	16,512	15,414	1,095

The number of persistent young offenders in North Yorkshire, by court jurisdiction

	All courts	*Magistrates courts*	*The Crown court*
1997	120	—	—
1998	126	—	—
1999	155	132	23
2000	184	169	15
2001	161	141	20
2002	158	151	7
2003	167	160	7
2004	188	181	6
2005	182	171	9
2006	203	191	12
2007	252	236	16

Notes:

The Police National Computer data can contain records where the type of court in which the case was heard was unknown. This missing information only impacts a very small minority of cases, and was more a feature of the data in the past than in the present. Thus, the sum of cases heard in magistrates' courts and the Crown Court in each year is less than all cases heard in England and Wales.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes the data in the aforementioned table as National Statistics. Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the MOJ website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of performance against the 71-day target for the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders. [253148]

Mr. Hanson: Overall statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) are available from 1997 to 2007.

These figures are derived from police national computer data, and used to monitor the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days.

The PYO figures are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system, through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. However, numbers of PYO cases are not a reliable measure of overall levels of youth crime, and will give a misleading view of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The following table shows the number of PYO cases heard, and the average time interval (in days) from arrest to sentence for dealing with these juvenile offenders in England and Wales. It also provides a breakdown based on whether the cases were heard in the magistrates courts or in the Crown court.

Average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders

	All courts		*Magistrates courts*		*The Crown court*	
	Cases	*Days*	*Cases*	*Days*	*Cases*	*Days*
1997	16,010	141	—	—	—	—
1998	18,605	125	—	—	—	—
1999	21,151	108	18,851	96	2,271	212
2000	23,131	95	21,146	83	1,976	218
2001	25,393	76	23,752	68	1,632	196
2002	26,116	68	24,280	63	1,829	178
2003	26,086	66	24,481	58	1,590	188
2004	26,363	69	24,698	61	1,653	186
2005	27,037	68	25,498	61	1,526	192
2006	28,252	72	26,529	63	1,704	214
2007	30,683	65	28,904	57	1,769	206

Note:

The police national computer data can contain records where the type of court in which the case was heard was unknown. This missing information only affects a very small minority of cases, and was more a feature of the data in the past than in the present. Thus, the sum of cases heard in magistrates' courts and the Crown court in each year is less than all cases heard in England and Wales.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes the data in the above table as National Statistics. Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the MOJ website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Job Creation

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be created by increased funding for new broadband networks in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 under the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works; and what proportion of these jobs he estimates will go to British workers. [248745]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

This Department has not made precise estimates of the number of jobs that will be created by increased funding for broadband networks and has not estimated how many of these will go to British workers. However, we believe, like many nations that investment in new broadband networks opens the way to a whole range of job opportunities, both during and post construction of the new networks. NESTA estimates that universal super-fast broadband in the UK could directly create 600,000 new ICT jobs and add £18 billion to GDP over four years with even larger indirect benefit. There have been a number of other announcements from international competitors in recent weeks, which make reference to new employment and economic benefits.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to increase capital expenditure on a new broadband network as part of the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works. [248752]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans for an immediate increase in public capital expenditure on a new broadband network. The Caio Review concluded that there was no case for public sector intervention but recommended that Government along with Ofcom should take a lead role in shaping broadband policies that could support and inform the activity of regulators and industry players on their journey toward Next Generation Access. The Government will respond to the recommendations made in the review in due course.

We published the interim Digital Britain Report, an action plan to secure the UK's place at the forefront of innovation, investment and quality in the digital and communications industries, on 29 January, seeking comments by 12 March.

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what deposit has been paid to The Grove in Hertfordshire for the use of its facilities for the inaugural Creativity and Business International Network; and what payment has been agreed. [250245]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend, the Minister with responsibility for culture, creative industries and tourism, gave him on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1210W. The cost of hiring The Grove is included within the £1 million allocated towards the running of the World Creative Business Conference in each of the next three years, including 2008-09.

Cricket: Public Participation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of the 3 times 30 minute weekly participation target for cricket, *(b)* the effect this target has had on the England and Wales Cricket Board's recent Whole Sport Plan award from Sport England, *(c)* the effect of the reduction in the England and Wales Cricket Board's grant from Sport England on disabled and women's cricket and *(d)* participation rates in cricket in each year since Sport England began to provide funding for cricket; and if he will make a statement. [246122]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Sport England has announced that the England and Wales Cricket Board will receive nearly £38 million of 2009 to 2013 Whole Sport Plan funding to deliver its plan for cricket. This represents the largest award made to any of the 46 national governing bodies receiving Whole Sport Plan funding. The final breakdown of these awards is still being finalised with NGBs. It will also be open to the ECB to supplement this further through bidding for the significant extra funding streams which will be available, as they currently do.

In answer:

(a) Sport England is responsible for getting 1 million more people playing sport—three times 30 minute sessions of at least moderate intensity per week—and will measure this through the Active People Survey. As part of their Whole Sport Plan funding, national governing bodies will be responsible for increasing one times 30 minute weekly participation in their sport as a contribution towards the global target. Given this, the varying intensities of longer duration sports, and the emphasis on the sustain strand of the Sport England strategy, the one times 30 measure represents an effective gauge of a sport's contribution to Sport England's participation objectives.

(b) Therefore three times 30 minute participation in Cricket was not a contributory factor in the assessment of the ECB's funding submission. Sports were asked to demonstrate how they could increase one times 30 minute participation as part of the funding process.

(c) It is the ECB's responsibility to manage the sport of Cricket, creating opportunities for all. The ECB submission contains specific interventions for women and girls, and disabled cricket. Sport England's investment into the ECB will seek to encourage the grow, sustain and excel outcomes for these priority groups, and funding for these areas of work will be allocated to the ECB accordingly.

Sport England has carried out two Active People Surveys. Active People 1 (between October 2005 and October 2006) shows one times 30 minute cricket 16+ participation as 195,200. Active People 2 (between October 2007 and October 2008) shows one times 30 minute cricket 16+ participation as 204,900. One times 30 participation data are not available prior to Active People 1.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons the telephone number given for each of the private offices of Ministers in his Department in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities is that of his Department's main switchboard. [251693]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The telephone number included in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities routes callers to the Department's Public Engagement and Recognition Unit, who are able to provide responsive advice to hon. Members on issues such as the progress of correspondence and parliamentary questions.

The List of Ministerial Responsibilities is a public document, published on the Cabinet Office website. As such, members of the public may also require assistance from the public engagement and recognition unit, which aims to answer as many calls as possible without transfer. Switchboard staff in the unit are able to transfer any calls requiring contact with Ministers direct to Private Offices.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and Departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251881]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Exercise

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women over the age of 18 years who have participated in at least 30 minutes a day of moderate intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week in each of the last three years. [252810]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Taking Part survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport.

The following table shows the percentage of men and women aged 19 and over who have participated in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport on at least five separate days in the past week.

Participation in moderate intensity sport on at least five days in the past week, by adults aged 19 and over

			Percentage
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Men	12	13	15
Women	10	10	10

Note that these figures are survey estimates which each sit within a range.

For further information about the methodology and a full definition of moderateintensity sport, see the final assessment of SR04 PSA3 at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Exercise: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of children aged *(a)* five to 11, *(b)* 12 to 16 and *(c)* 17 to 18 years who have undertaken 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each day in each of the last three years. [252811]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Taking Part survey provides data on participation in culture and sport by adults aged 16 and over. In those households containing at least one child aged 11 to 15, an interview is also conducted with a randomly selected child.

Child respondents are asked to indicate on how many days in the past week they have participated in at least an hour of active sport outside school lessons. Table 1 shows the percentage of children who had participated in the past week. The child survey began in January 2006 and data are therefore available for 2006 and 2007 only.

Table 1: Participation in active sport for at least an hour during the past week, by children aged 11 to 15

		Percentage
Days	*2006*	*2007*
0	32	30
1	17	17
2	15	14
3	10	11
4	8	8
5	5	6
6	3	4
7	10	10

Note that these figures are survey estimates which each sit within a range. The information has been extracted from the report published in October 2008, Headline findings from the child survey 2007. The full report and accompanying data workbooks are available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5481.aspx

Adult respondents to Taking Part are asked on how many days in the past week they have participated in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport. Table 2 shows the percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds who had participated in the past week.

Table 2: Participation in moderate intensity sport for at least 30 minutes during the past week, by adults aged 16 to 18

			Percentage
Days	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
0	38	40	39
1	13	16	16
2	12	9	9
3	9	9	10
4	6	4	6
5	6	6	5
6	3	4	3
7	13	11	12

Note that these figures are survey estimates which each sit within a range. For further information about the methodology and a full definition of moderate intensity sport, see the final assessment of SR04 PSA3 at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Film

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to support independent film makers. [253801]

Barbara Follett: The UK Film Council, the Government's strategic agency for film, provides a range of support for independent filmmakers.

Their New Cinema Fund distributes £5 million lottery funding per year to support independent filmmakers and emerging talent. The Fund also supports several short film schemes to help new filmmakers develop their talent, enabling many new directors to make the transition from short films to full length features.

The Prints and Advertising Fund distributes £2 million lottery funding to UK distributors to enable wider distribution and publicity for films which might otherwise have only a limited distribution, helping independent filmmakers to reach a wider audience.

The Premiere Fund distributes £8 million lottery funding per year to support the production of independent and mainstream, commercially-driven feature films that can attract audiences around the world.

The Development Fund distributes £4 million lottery funding per year to broaden the quality, range and ambition of film projects and talent being developed in the UK. The fund helps filmmakers of all experience levels to develop their ideas and screenplays into viable feature films and delivers support for both first-time feature filmmakers and established filmmakers.

The UK Film Council also allocates £7.5 million per year to nine regional and three national screen agencies across the UK, supporting their efforts to build a clear film strategy and provide financial support for a wide range of film related activities. Screen West Midlands is the regional screen agency that covers the Coventry South constituency.

Independent filmmakers working in the UK also have the opportunity to access the film tax relief, which last year distributed £104 million in support of British Film.

Gambling: Regulation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many inspections have been carried out by the Gambling Commission in each year since the development of the annual visit programme; [252804]

(2) how many follow-up visits have been made by the Gambling Commission in each year since the development of the annual visit programme; [252805]

(3) how many *(a)* warnings have been issued and *(b)* licences revoked under the Gambling Commission's compliance process in each year; and what the (i) reason for the action taken and (ii) type of operation was in each case; [252806]

(4) how many compliance officers the Gambling Commission employs; [252807]

(5) how many visits made by Gambling Commission compliance officers under the compliance process to each type of operator were *(a)* programmed, *(b)* advisory, *(c)* complaint, *(d)* revisit, *(e)* survey and *(f)* other in each year since the process began; [252808]

(6) how on many visits by Gambling Commission compliance officers to each type of operator evidence was found of *(a)* operational risk, *(b)* crime and disorder risk, *(c)* fair and open risk, *(d)* risk to children, *(e)* risk to other vulnerable people and *(f)* external risk in each year since the compliance process began. [252809]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission has advised that it carried out a total of 5,545 visits and 620 follow-up visits between 1 September 2007, when the Gambling Act 2005 came into force, and 31 December 2008.

The Gambling Commission has advised that a list of revocations and formal warnings issued under the Compliance process, including the type of licence holder and details of the decision, is available on its website at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Client/mediadetail.asp?mediaid=477

The Gambling Commission has also advised that an additional 50 licensed operators have had their licence revoked following the non-payment of their annual licence fee.

The Gambling Commission has advised that it intends to publish details of its annual visit programme for 2008-09 in its next Annual Report.

The Gambling Commission currently employs 59 compliance managers.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to review the number of Category B3 machines in adult gaming centres. [253232]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The Department has no plans to review the number of Category B3 machines in adult gaming centres.

Homecoming Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role his Department is playing in relation to the Homecoming Scotland 2009 initiative. [253089]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* VisitBritain have advised that they are working closely with VisitScotland to support Homecoming Scotland 2009. VisitBritain have planned online and public relations activities incorporating the Americas, Asia and Europe.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of external legal services provided to his Department in each of the last five years. [251348]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On the basis of available records, the total cost to the Department of external legal advice in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Cost to Department of Culture, Media and Sport of external legal advice

Financial year	£
2003-04	490,242.08
2004-05	791,050.23
2005-06	456,480.95
2006-07	251,011.67
2007-08	428,524.32

Music: Young People

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage the learning of musical instruments by young people. [253140]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to promote music for young people through the package of funding for music education, which was announced in November 2007. This totals £332 million over three years and includes investment in singing, new instruments and free music lessons.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides financial support for the arts through Arts Council England, which makes funding decisions independently of Government.

The Arts Council provides funding of £10 million per year to Youth Music so that it can continue its work of complementing music in the national curriculum by supporting activities outside of school hours. Youth Music works alongside formal and community-based sectors to support music-making and training. This includes helping young people with the fewest opportunities to learn musical instruments.

Take It Away is an Arts Council initiative designed to help more people get involved in learning and playing music. The scheme allows individuals to apply for an interest-free loan of up to £2,000 for the purchase of any kind of musical instrument. Children and young people are a particular priority for the scheme and over a quarter (26 per cent.) of all customers have purchased an instrument for a young person under 18 ears of age.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what cars of what engine cubic capacity are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department. [250028]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Public Houses

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to respond to the findings of the Community Pubs Inquiry. [254590]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The recommendations in the Community Pubs Inquiry Report cover the policy interests of several Government departments. DCMS is collating a Government response and we hope to respond shortly.

Public Libraries

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on the development of community libraries. [253760]

Barbara Follett: It is right that authorities take a fresh look at how to deliver their services, and they remain accountable to their communities for the changes they make.

Some authorities have found that the best way to manage limited resources is to provide basic library services in community facilities, or to hand smaller libraries over to their communities. Authorities that have done so often report positive additional outcomes for communities.

Community libraries can be very successful and offer a full range of services, when the relationship between the community involved and the various partners is handled responsibly. DCMS encourages any authority considering the 'community run' option to carry out extensive consultation with the communities affected.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what definition his Department uses of "comprehensive and efficient" in relation to library services. [253786]

Barbara Follett: Local library authorities have duties under the Public Libraries and Museums Act (1964) to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service, and it is predominantly this duty that the Secretary of State is tasked with superintending under section 1 of the Act.

However, the Department acknowledges that what constitutes a "comprehensive and efficient" library service will vary significantly between local authority areas given the nature and needs of their particular communities.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the Big Lottery Fund's scheme for libraries on the development of community libraries since October 2006. [253914]

Barbara Follett: The majority of the funded projects have only recently started on their capital elements, so the Big Lottery fund have informed the Department that it is too early to make an assessment of the impact of the programme. However, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council are conducting an evaluation, which is expected to report in 2010, and Big Lottery Fund will also be commissioning its own evaluation in due course.

Public Libraries: Closures

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on procedures for public consultation on proposals to close a public library; [253673]

(2) how many local authorities have informed his Department that they have closed one or more public libraries in the last *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months and *(c)* two years; [253674]

(3) what proportion of public library closures were preceded by a consultation period longer than six weeks in the last two years; [253742]

(4) what estimate he has made of the proportion of public library closures reported to his Department before the closure takes place; [253747]

(5) whether his Department has established *(a)* minimum consultation periods and *(b)* processes for public library closures by local authorities; [253912]

(6) what estimate he has made of the proportion of public library closures which was preceded by effective consultation in the last two years; [253913]

(7) what steps his Department takes when it considers that a library has been closed without an effective consultation process. [253915]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not provide local authorities with guidance on procedures for public consultation on proposals to close a public library. The processes by which consultation is undertaken are a matter for local authorities and they are accountable to the communities they serve for the decisions taken.

There are no official national guidelines on consultation or periods of consultation which apply to local authorities. However the Consultation Institute and the code of practice adhered to by central Government outline that a 12-week period represents best practice for consultation. While it is expected that most local authorities would also adhere to this standard, under exceptional circumstances this might not be appropriate.

There is no duty on local authorities to inform central Government about plans to close public libraries. However, we have been informed of plans to permanently or temporarily close libraries in approximately 34 local authorities in the last two years.

We have not been informed how many or what proportion of the library closures implemented in the last two years were preceded by a consultation period of longer than six weeks.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has reviewed *(a)* the legal duties on and *(b)* guidance for local authorities on the closure of public libraries by local authorities in the last (i) 12 months, (ii) two years and (iii) five years. [253762]

Barbara Follett: Library authorities have a legal duty to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service under the terms of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has a duty to superintend library services and intervene if a library service is no longer meeting the requirements of the Act. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not reviewed these requirements in the last five years.

The Public Library Service Standards, introduced in April 2001, defined our expectations of library service provision but were not legally binding. The standards which fed into comprehensive performance assessment were removed in March 2008, when it was replaced with comprehensive area assessment.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental personnel, how many of his Department's staff are *(a)* without posts and *(b)* subject to the internal market-based system; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified for at least (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [250039]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With the exception of the senior civil service, all 1,552 of DFID civil service staff can apply for jobs through our market based internal posting system. While DFID sometimes has people between posts for short periods of time, we do not currently have any permanent members of staff classed as surplus.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248416]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The policy at the Department for International Development (DFID) is for all employees whether they are on permanent or temporary contracts to be treated the same in terms of pay. However, as each grade has an associated pay range with minimum and maximum pay points, all employees in the same grade, whatever their contractual status, will not necessarily be paid at the same hourly rate.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248708]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not operate staff award and recognition schemes outside of performance related pay.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of external legal services provided to his Department in each of the last five years. [251353]

Mr. Michael Foster: The costs of external legal services over the last five years are:

	Total (£)
2003-04	271,453.54
2004-05	266,331.06
2005-06	579,960.00
2006-07	422,584.33
2007-08	368,550.96

These figures include amounts previously reported as internal legal costs, on Office of Government Commerce advice.

Our overseas offices may obtain advice from local legal advisers on a range of foreign domestic issues, from foreign accommodation leases to local employment law. Information on these costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Buildings

Mr. Amess: To ask the honourable Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* date of opening was and *(b)* current estimated value is of each building on the Parliamentary Estate. [248142]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is in the following table. Date of opening has been taken to mean date of occupation by the House.

Building	*Brought into service*	*Total value (£ million)*
Palace of Westminster[1,2]	1847 and later dates up to 2008	1,188.0
Portcullis House[3]	2000	304.0
Norman Shaw North	1975	24.9
Norman Shaw South	1979	15.6
No 1 Canon Row[2]	1989	9.0
No 2 (A) Canon Row	1991	0.975
No 2 (B) Canon Row	1991	0.775
No 4 Canon Row	1991	2.1
No 1 Derby Gate	1991	13.6
No 1 Parliament Street[4]	1991	24.3
No 2 Parliament Street	1991	2.7
No 3 Parliament Street	1991	3.5
No 22 John Islip Street	1965	0.7
Abingdon Street Car Park	1964	5.3
Level-3 Broad Sanctuary[2]	1986	[5]—
Flat 16, 102 Rochester Row	1976	[5]—
No 2 The Abbey Garden	1961	[5]—
No 4 Millbank (part)	2006	[5]—
No 7 Millbank	1994	[5]—
No 14 Tothill Street	Awaiting fitting-out	[5]—

[1] Includes the areas occupied by the House of Lords, Westminster Hall and the rooms off, the underground car park, New Palace Yard, and the Cromwell Green Building.

[2] Includes areas occupied by the House of Lords.

[3] Excludes the retail units on Bridge Street.

[4] Includes the retail units and St. Stephen's Tavern.

[5] Leased properties.

Source:

'Parliamentary Estate Asset Valuation 31 March 2008' by the Valuation Office Agency.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Saville Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 886W, on the Saville Inquiry, whether expenditure on legal fees is expected to increase. [243244]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 992W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been spent by the Government Equalities Office on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each year since its establishment. [251653]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office does not own any properties. It leases space from Communities and Local Government in their headquarters building, Eland House. That space has not been renovated or refurbished in GEO's tenure so no costs have been incurred. I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1312-13W.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Government Equalities Office's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public has been since it was established. [251430]

Maria Eagle: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

With respect to correspondence from members of the public, this information can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual letters at disproportionate cost; however the Government Equalities Office aims to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the Government Equalities Office have been disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues since its inception. [254081]

Maria Eagle: Since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 no members of staff have been disciplined for bullying or harassment.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on broadband internet in each year since it was established. [251668]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office receives a service charge from the Department for Communities and Local Government and from Cabinet Office for IT services. Broadband internet is not separately identified in these charges.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on maintaining its departmental website in each year since the Office was established. [251900]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office website www.equalities.gov.uk was launched on 10 January 2008. The charge for maintaining the site since 10 January 2008 was £891.83. In 2008-09 the charge for maintaining the site is £2,700.

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the number of hours of work lost through sickness absence on the part of staff working in the Government Equalities Office in the last 12 months. [251651]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has lost 806 hours of work through staff sickness absence in the last 12 months.

Departmental Television

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many flat screen televisions have been purchased by the Government Equalities Office since it was established. [2[illegible]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment, the Government Equalities Office has purchased two flat screen televisions.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in the Government Equalities Office for working *(a)* in lunch breaks and *(b)* at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252028]

Maria Eagle: The calculation could be made only at disproportionate cost. The Government Equalities Office does not keep a central record of how many days off in lieu were granted to staff for working in lunch breaks and at other times. Records are held by individual members of staff and their line managers. Time off in lieu has to be authorised by managers, and be within parameters set out in GEO's terms and conditions.

Equal Pay: Private Sector

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the cost to business of mandatory pay audits in the private sector; and if she will make a statement. [252773]

Maria Eagle *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Research commissioned by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2005 found that the administrative cost of carrying out an equal pay review was typically the equivalent of three to six months of the time of a single member of staff.

Mass Media

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many press and communications officers are employed by the Government Equalities Office. [251908]

Maria Eagle: The communication team at the Government Equalities Office consists of six posts of which two are press officers.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to *(a)* police forces and *(b)* licensing authorities on using under 18 year olds for test purchases of alcohol in pubs. [247771]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not issued any recent guidance to the police or licensing authorities on the issue of test purchasing. The use of test purchase operations is a local operational matter, and as such is a decision for the chief constable. However, we are aware that both ACPO and LACORS have produced guidance on this matter.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the provisions in the draft EU Directive 86/609 relating to the use of great apes in scientific procedures. [253688]

Meg Hillier: Great apes have never been used as laboratory animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and in 1997 we gave a commitment that we will not allow their use in the future. This remains our position.

The provisions of the draft directive seek to prohibit the use of great apes, except in research aimed at the preservation of those species and where action is warranted in relation to an unexpected life-threatening or debilitating condition endangering human beings and no other species or alternative method would suffice.

Although these provisions appear weaker than our position, we support the proposal in principle. The exemptions allowed could only be invoked in genuinely exceptional circumstances and in practice the provision would be an effective ban on the use of great apes consistent with our policy.

Borders: Passenger Ships

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on strengthening domestic security in relation to cruise ships under the *(a)* e-borders programme and *(b)* Government's counter-terrorism strategy. [253703]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary is in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Transport on a range of matters including maritime security and e-Borders.

The e-Borders programme is designed to collect passenger and crew data for all those entering or leaving the UK regardless of the mode of transport and is currently in the process of being rolled out. Cruise ships are included in the implementation programme and preliminary discussions and trials with major cruise operators and with shipping agents who act on behalf of cruise operators have been held. No major issues have been identified that would prevent cruise ship operators from achieving full compliance in line with the e-Borders implementation plan.

There is an established maritime security regime in place in the UK for all passenger ships, including cruise ships, engaged in international voyages. This regime is regulated by the Department for Transport and is in accordance with the requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS) Code and EU Regulation 725/2004.

British Nationality: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people applied for UK passports from a primary residence in the Irish Republic in the last two years. [253276]

Meg Hillier: The British embassy in Dublin issued the following number of passports to British nationals applying within the Republic of Ireland.

	Number of passports
2007	9,487
2008	9,225

Statistics are not broken down by place of primary residence. However, the majority of these are issued to British nationals resident in the Republic of Ireland, the few exceptions being British nationals visiting Ireland and who lost their previous passports while there.

Community Relations

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the CONTEST 2 strategy. [254139]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* An account of the Government's long-term strategy for countering international terrorism, known within Government as CONTEST, was published in July 2006. The Home Secretary announced last October plans to revise the strategy. This revised account will be published in the spring.

Crime: Economic Situation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account she has taken of the effect of the economic downturn on levels of crime in planning resource allocations to police forces; and if she will make a statement. [252779]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Caernarfon (Hywel Williams) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 806W.

Departmental Data Protection

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many electronic or computer files her Department and its agencies lost in transit in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [241789]

Jacqui Smith: Incidents of personal data losses are recorded centrally but the numbers of electronic and computer files contained within lost data is not recorded. To answer this question would fall into the disproportionate cost threshold.

The Home Office has publicised details of personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its Resource Accounts published in August 2008. In the first half of 2008-09 a notification was made to the Information Commissioner regarding the PA Consulting data loss incident.

Domestic Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1074W, on domestic violence, what steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of such offences. [247981]

Mr. Alan Campbell: One of the key outcomes in our National Domestic Violence Reduction Delivery Plan is to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence, particularly in high incidence areas and/or communities. We are revisiting our delivery plan to ensure a greater focus on prevention. An example would be exploring how to change attitudes and behaviours of key audiences.

One initiative which is currently being promoted through the school curriculum provides scope for education on addressing the underlying causes of violence and abuse relationships. One example is SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning), which helps children develop their capacity to empathise, show respect and form positive relationships with other people. This can be expected to apply to any form of violent behaviour and thus prevent future incidences of domestic violence.

Forensic Science Service: Manpower

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forensic scientists have *(a)* left and *(b)* joined the Forensic Science Service since 2001. [253168]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: Since 2002, the following number of forensic scientists[1] (including permanent, temporary and external employees) have *(a)* left and *(b)* joined Forensic Science Service Ltd. (FSS):

	Leavers	*Starters*
1 June 2002 to 31 December 2002	71	99
1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003	139	105
1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004	139	100
1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005	116	112
1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006	143	73
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007	179	48
1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	190	153

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2069-70W, on genetics: databases, what her most recent estimate is of the number of DNA samples taken and loaded onto the national DNA database since 31 March 2008 which would not previously have been taken prior to the entry into force of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001; and if she will make a statement. [251165]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database is designed to match DNA taken from crime scenes with that taken from individuals. It does not hold information on whether those with records on it have convictions, as this is not necessary for this purpose. Some data on whether those on the NDNAD have convictions is available from the police national computer (PNC), but not as part of its routine functions and not within the cost limit for parliamentary questions. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency does obtain this information periodically and this was last done at the end of March 2008. The information is due to be obtained again at the end of March 2009.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many new profiles have been added to the national DNA database since December 2008, broken down by age group; how many have been added by each police force; and if she will make a statement; [251184]

(2) with reference to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2669-70W, on genetics: databases, how many and what proportion of new DNA profiles added to the national DNA database in each month since 18 January 2008 relate to individuals aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 20, *(d)* 21 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 40, *(f)* 41 to 50, *(g)* 51 to 60 and *(h)* over 60 years, broken down by police force responsible for the profile being added; and if she will make a statement. [251241]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures given in Table 1 show the number of profiles added to the National DNA Database by English and Welsh forces during the period 1 to 22 January 2009, broken down by age group and the police force which added the profile.

The figures given in Table 2 show the number of profiles added to the National DNA Database by English and Welsh forces during the period 18 January to 31 December 2008, broken down by age group and the police force which added the profile. It is not possible to break this information down by month except at disproportionate cost.

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[1] The term forensic scientist is taken to mean any scientist who carries out police casework. Information is not available for 2001.

The age breakdown in both tables is based on the age of the subjects as at 22 January 2009. The figures show the number of profiles added to the database. Some of these may since have been deleted.

A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more then one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. Therefore, the number of individuals on the NDNAD is approximately 13.3 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

Table 1: Age on 22 January 2009

	Under 16		*16-18*		*19-20*		*21-30*		*31-40*	
Profiles loaded to the NDNAD 1-22 January 2009—Force	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*
Avon and Somerset	60	6.8	91	10.4	81	9.2	260	29.6	173	19.7
Bedfordshire	12	10.3	11	9.5	10	8.6	34	29.3	22	19.0
British Transport	16	5.6	36	12.5	17	5.9	85	29.5	70	24.3
Cambridgeshire	42	18.9	17	7.7	10	4.5	55	24.8	45	20.3
Cheshire	31	6.2	43	8.5	46	9.1	155	30.8	99	19.7
City of London	0	0.0	2	4.0	2	4.0	29	58.0	8	16.0
Cleveland	23	7.2	39	12.1	34	10.6	96	29.9	58	18.1
Cumbria	39	12.3	46	14.5	28	8.8	80	25.2	59	18.6
Derbyshire	71	12.1	82	14.0	45	7.7	139	23.7	103	17.6
Devon and Cornwall	27	8.3	38	11.7	29	8.9	106	32.5	61	18.7
Dorset	17	6.4	32	12.0	31	11.6	72	27.0	53	19.9
Durham	35	13.4	34	13.0	21	8.0	62	23.7	55	21.0
Dyfed Powys	29	12.9	19	8.5	21	9.4	66	29.5	36	16.1
Essex	95	10.9	105	12.0	75	8.6	196	22.5	182	20.8
Gloucestershire	18	8.3	17	7.8	22	10.1	70	32.3	40	18.4
Greater Manchester	113	7.8	158	10.9	124	8.5	458	31.6	284	19.6
Gwent	38	9.7	64	16.3	35	8.9	91	23.2	61	15.6
Hampshire	101	14.8	72	10.6	51	7.5	161	23.6	131	19.2
Hertfordshire	42	8.3	81	16.0	34	6.7	149	29.5	81	16.0
Humberside	63	12.2	47	9.1	45	8.7	132	25.5	103	19.9
Kent	73	9.3	86	10.9	61	7.7	230	29.2	146	18.5
Lancashire	164	9.7	197	11.6	143	8.4	459	27.1	341	20.1
Leicestershire	32	9.2	44	12.6	29	8.3	100	28.7	69	19.8
Lincolnshire	39	9.6	45	11.1	30	7.4	107	26.4	92	22.7
Merseyside	130	6.3	238	11.6	199	9.7	713	34.7	400	19.5
Metropolitan	365	7.1	519	10.2	300	5.9	1562	30.6	1,201	23.5
Norfolk	16	5.5	42	14.4	23	7.9	68	23.4	57	19.6
North Wales	57	11.0	76	14.6	46	8.8	112	21.5	94	18.1
North Yorkshire	21	7.5	44	15.7	39	13.9	61	21.7	48	17.1
Northamptonshire	16	7.2	36	16.3	19	8.6	68	30.8	36	16.3
Northumbria	148	14.6	132	13.0	78	7.7	252	24.8	204	20.1
Nottinghamshire	25	8.3	29	9.7	23	7.7	93	31.0	56	18.7
South Wales	73	10.4	103	14.3	64	8.9	217	30.1	120	16.6
South Yorkshire	58	9.0	92	14.2	58	9.0	186	28.7	123	19.0
Staffordshire	35	3.5	102	10.1	96	9.5	365	36.1	221	21.8
Suffolk	12	8.1	13	8.8	9	6.1	54	36.5	24	16.2
Surrey	32	10.6	40	13.2	22	7.3	68	22.4	60	19.8
Sussex	59	8.4	87	12.3	67	9.5	155	22.0	143	20.3
Thames Valley	126	10.0	141	11.2	100	7.9	368	29.3	243	19.3
Warwickshire	16	8.2	24	12.4	14	7.2	53	27.3	44	22.7
West Mercia	44	9.6	64	14.0	29	6.3	125	27.4	71	15.5
West Midlands	132	9.8	166	12.3	104	7.7	361	26.8	243	18.0
West Yorkshire	140	10.5	162	12.2	99	7.4	348	26.1	278	20.9
Wiltshire	33	9.7	37	10.9	36	10.6	85	24.9	59	17.3
Total	2,720	8.9	3,553	11.7	2,449	8.0	8,706	28.6	6,097	20.0

	41-50		*51-60*		*Over 60*		*Unknown age*			
Profiles loaded to the NDNAD 1-22 January 2009—Force	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Total*	*% of all profiles which were loaded by this force*
Avon and Somerset	131	14.9	51	5.8	29	3.3	1	0.11	877	2.88
Bedfordshire	13	11.2	10	8.6	4	3.4	0	0.00	116	0.38
British Transport	45	15.6	16	5.6	3	1.0	0	0.00	288	0.94
Cambridgeshire	31	14.0	15	6.8	7	3.2	0	0.00	222	0.73
Cheshire	77	15.3	34	6.8	17	3.4	1	0.20	503	1.65
City of London	6	12.0	2	4.0	0	0.0	1	2.00	50	0.16
Cleveland	50	15.6	14	4.4	7	2.2	0	0.00	321	1.05
Cumbria	37	11.7	22	6.9	6	1.9	[illegible]	0.00	317	1.04
Derbyshire	93	15.9	33	5.6	17	2.9	[illegible]	0.51	586	1.92
Devon and Cornwall	38	11.7	21	6.4	6	1.8	0	0.00	326	1.07
Dorset	33	12.4	17	6.4	12	4.5	0	0.00	267	0.88
Durham	34	13.0	17	6.5	4	1.5	0	0.00	262	0.86
Dyfed Powys	30	13.4	17	7.6	6	2.7	0	0.00	224	0.73
Essex	127	14.5	67	7.7	26	3.0	0	0.00	873	2.86
Gloucestershire	32	14.7	13	6.0	4	1.8	1	0.46	217	0.71
Greater Manchester	186	12.8	79	5.4	49	3.4	0	0.00	1,451	4.76
Gwent	64	16.3	25	6.4	14	3.6	0	0.00	392	1.29
Hampshire	91	13.4	48	7.0	26	3.8	0	0.00	681	2.23
Hertfordshire	71	14.1	32	6.3	15	3.0	0	0.00	505	1.66
Humberside	87	16.8	27	5.2	12	2.3	1	0.19	517	1.70
Kent	122	15.5	38	4.8	32	4.1	0	0.00	788	2.58
Lancashire	256	15.1	101	6.0	34	2.0	0	0.00	1,695	5.56
Leicestershire	46	13.2	20	5.7	7	2.0	1	0.29	348	1.14
Lincolnshire	55	13.6	26	6.4	11	2.7	0	0.00	405	1.33
Merseyside	254	12.4	77	3.8	41	2.0	0	0.00	2,052	6.73
Metropolitan	753	14.7	284	5.6	122	2.4	5	0.10	5,111	16.76
Norfolk	44	15.1	26	8.9	15	5.2	0	0.00	291	0.95
North Wales	85	16.3	38	7.3	12	2.3	0	0.00	520	1.71
North Yorkshire	44	15.7	16	5.7	8	2.8	0	0.00	281	0.92
Northamptonshire	29	13.1	12	5.4	5	2.3	0	0.00	221	0.72
Northumbria	135	13.3	44	4.3	23	2.3	0	0.00	1,016	3.33
Nottinghamshire	44	14.7	20	6.7	8	2.7	2	0.67	300	0.98
South Wales	81	11.2	43	6.0	19	2.6	0	0.00	722	2.37
South Yorkshire	89	13.7	28	4.3	14	2.2	0	0.00	648	2.13
Staffordshire	121	12.0	50	4.9	22	2.2	0	0.00	1,012	3.32
Suffolk	16	10.8	13	8.8	7	4.7	0	0.00	148	0.49
Surrey	45	14.9	25	8.3	11	3.6	0	0.00	303	0.99
Sussex	114	16.1	51	7.2	30	4.2	0	0.00	706	2.32
Thames Valley	186	14.8	61	4.8	29	2.3	4	0.32	1,258	4.13
Warwickshire	25	12.9	10	5.2	8	4.1	0	0.00	194	0.64
West Mercia	74	16.2	35	7.7	15	3.3	0	0.00	457	1.50
West Midlands	192	14.2	95	7.0	55	4.1	0	0.00	1,348	4.42
West Yorkshire	193	14.5	81	6.1	28	2.1	3	0.23	1,332	4.37
Wiltshire	55	16.1	23	6.7	13	3.8	0	0.00	341	1.12
Total	4,334	14.2	1,777	5.8	833	2.7	23	0.08	30,492	100.00

Table 2: Age on 22 January 2009

	Under 16		*16-18*		*19-20*		*21-30*		*31-40*	
Profiles loaded to the NDNAD 18 January to 31 December 2008—Force	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*
Avon and Somerset	1,170	9.6	1,654	13.5	990	8.1	3,330	27.3	2,192	17.9
Bedfordshire	462	9.4	571	11.6	444	9.0	1,486	30.2	975	19.8
British Transport	290	4.6	739	11.6	582	9.2	2,209	34.8	1,277	20.1
Cambridgeshire	600	11.3	659	12.4	416	7.8	1,474	27.6	976	18.3
Cheshire	781	9.4	1,098	13.2	764	9.2	2,208	26.6	1,573	18.9
City of London	22	1.3	58	3.4	94	5.6	658	38.9	481	28.5
Cleveland	644	12.2	714	13.5	483	9.1	1,331	25.2	926	17.5
Cumbria	562	9.5	717	12.2	509	8.6	1,696	28.7	1,110	18.8

Table 2: Age on 22 January 2009

	Under 16		*16-18*		*19-20*		*21-30*		*31-40*	
Profiles loaded to the NDNAD 18 January to 31 December 2008—Force	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*
Derbyshire	1,072	13.9	1,100	14.3	591	7.6	1,690	21.9	1,392	18.0
Devon and Cornwall	995	8.8	1,584	14.0	1,014	9.0	2,914	25.7	1,941	17.1
Dorset	440	8.6	636	12.4	486	9.4	1,395	27.1	894	17.4
Durham	659	14.2	662	14.3	378	8.2	1,066	23.0	783	16.9
Dyfed Powys	407	10.7	519	13.6	311	8.2	927	24.3	602	15.8
Essex	1,899	12.6	1,944	12.9	1,119	7.4	3,626	24.0	2,735	18.1
Gloucestershire	570	12.4	606	13.2	376	8.2	1,176	25.6	754	16.4
Greater Manchester	2,622	11.0	3,010	12.6	1,842	7.7	6,554	27.4	4,682	19.6
Gwent	466	10.4	690	15.5	422	9.5	1,122	25.1	725	16.2
Hampshire	1,710	10.7	2,028	12.7	1,292	8.1	4,046	25.4	2,884	18.1
Hertfordshire	876	10.8	1,095	13.5	657	8.1	2,070	24.9	1,484	18.3
Humberside	869	12.4	936	13.3	514	7.3	1,891	26.9	1,228	17.5
Kent	1,666	11.8	1,784	12.6	1,126	7.9	3,605	25.4	2,557	18.0
Lancashire	1,125	7.9	1,795	12.7	1,280	9.0	3,867	27.3	2,778	19.6
Leicestershire	458	7.9	701	12.1	500	8.6	1,683	29.1	1,095	18.9
Lincolnshire	521	8.9	731	12.5	552	9.4	1,695	28.9	1,019	17.4
Merseyside	1,517	9.0	2,275	13.5	1,569	9.3	4,715	28.1	2,954	17.6
Metropolitan	6,469	7.7	8,932	10.7	5,332	6.4	25,009	29.9	18,716	22.4
Norfolk	626	11.4	709	12.9	434	7.9	1,380	25.1	995	18.1
North Wales	645	10.8	821	13.7	541	9.1	1,508	25.3	1,019	17.1
North Yorkshire	713	11.8	797	13.2	518	8.6	1,486	24.6	1,034	17.1
Northamptonshire	318	6.7	657	13.8	411	8.6	1,497	31.4	891	18.7
Northumbria	2,273	14.0	1,963	12.1	1,419	8.7	4,321	26.5	2,765	17.0
Nottinghamshire	972	10.0	1,325	13.6	786	8.1	2,561	26.3	1,722	17.7
South Wales	1,008	9.4	1,430	13.4	972	9.1	2,949	27.6	1,935	18.1
South Yorkshire	1,232	10.5	1,565	13.3	1,064	9.0	3,224	27.4	2,155	18.3
Staffordshire	772	5.9	1,440	10.9	1,171	8.9	4,191	31.9	2,857	21.7
Suffolk	691	12.7	721	13.3	431	7.9	1,402	25.8	935	17.2
Surrey	550	8.9	880	14.2	514	8.3	1,528	24.7	1,119	18.1
Sussex	1,037	9.7	1,412	13.1	806	7.5	2,580	24.0	2,024	18.8
Thames Valley	1,737	9.3	2,537	13.5	1,484	7.9	5,145	27.4	3,662	19.5
Warwickshire	347	9.3	480	12.9	313	8.4	1,025	27.5	703	18.9
West Mercia	915	11.9	1,092	14.2	695	9.0	1,849	24.0	1,313	17.0
West Midlands	2,970	11.1	3,403	12.7	2,019	7.6	6,994	26.2	5,197	19.4
West Yorkshire	2,122	11.1	2,321	12.2	1,474	7.7	5,270	27.7	3,643	19.1
Wiltshire	552	11.0	690	13.8	404	8.1	1,264	25.2	954	19.0
Total	48,361	9.9	61,490	12.6	39,099	8.0	13,3576	27.3	93,656	19.1

	41-50		*51-60*		*Over 60*		*Unknown age*			
Profiles loaded to the NDNAD 18 January to 31 December 2008—Force	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Total*	*% of all profiles which were loaded by this force*
Avon and Somerset	1,776	14.5	752	6.2	354	2.9	0	0.00	12,227	2.50
Bedfordshire	640	13.0	247	5.0	101	2.1	0	0.00	4,926	1.01
British Transport	798	12.6	338	5.3	116	1.8	1	0.02	6,350	1.30
Cambridgeshire	715	13.4	350	6.6	141	2.6	1	0.02	5,332	1.09
Cheshire	1,144	13.8	507	6.1	235	2.8	0	0.00	8,310	1.70
City of London	240	14.2	93	5.5	44	2.6	0	0.00	1,690	0.35
Cleveland	725	13.7	330	6.2	131	2.5	0	0.00	5,294	1.08
Cumbria	816	13.8	345	5.8	146	2.5	0	0.00	5,901	1.21
Derbyshire	1,127	14.6	512	6.6	239	3.1	0	0.00	7,732	1.58
Devon and Cornwall	1,661	14.7	783	6.9	429	3.8	0	0.00	11,321	2.31
Dorset	737	14.3	345	6.7	211	4.1	0	0.00	5,144	1.05
Durham	663	14.3	280	6.0	143	3.1	0	0.00	4,634	0.95
Dyfed Powys	586	15.4	265	7.0	192	5.0	0	0.00	3,809	0.78
Essex	2,279	15.1	998	6.6	489	3.2	16	0.11	15,105	3.09
Gloucestershire	639	13.9	310	6.7	166	3.6	0	0.00	4,597	0.94
Greater Manchester	3,305	13.8	1,348	5.6	568	2.4	1	0.00	23,932	4.89

Profiles loaded to the NDNAD 18 January to 31 December 2008—Force	*41-50*		*51-60*		*Over 60*		*Unknown age*			
	Number of subject profiles	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Number of subject profiles*	*% of profiles loaded in this age group*	*Total*	*% of all profiles which were loaded by this force*
Gwent	622	13.9	289	6.5	129	2.9	0	0.00	4,463	0.91
Hampshire	2,372	14.9	1,053	6.6	554	3.5	0	0.00	15,939	3.26
Hertfordshire	1,183	14.6	533	6.6	251	3.1	0	0.00	8,099	1.65
Humberside	969	13.8	419	6.0	209	3.0	0	0.00	7,035	1.44
Kent	2,098	14.8	900	6.4	433	3.1	0	0.00	14,169	2.90
Lancashire	2,007	14.1	899	6.3	435	3.1	0	0.00	14,186	2.90
Leicestershire	854	14.8	360	6.2	132	2.3	3	0.05	5,786	1.18
Lincolnshire	774	13.2	385	6.6	184	3.1	1	0.02	5,862	1.20
Merseyside	2397	14.3	949	5.6	421	2.5	0	0.00	16,797	3.43
Metropolitan	12,510	15.0	4,626	5.5	1,924	2.3	8	0.01	83,526	17.07
Norfolk	763	13.9	358	6.5	228	4.1	2	0.04	5,495	1.12
North Wales	841	14.1	365	6.1	232	3.9	0	0.00	5,972	1.22
North Yorkshire	889	14.7	387	6.4	224	3.7	0	0.00	6,048	1.24
Northamptonshire	601	12.6	260	5.5	130	2.7	1	0.02	4,766	0.97
Northumbria	2,111	13.0	951	5.9	467	2.9	0	0.00	16,289	3.33
Nottinghamshire	1,387	14.2	678	7.0	309	3.2	3	0.03	9,743	1.99
South Wales	1,477	13.8	604	5.6	319	3.0	0	0.00	10,694	2.18
South Yorkshire	1,579	13.4	652	5.5	298	2.5	0	0.00	11769	2.40
Staffordshire	1,710	13.0	694	5.3	323	2.5	0	0.00	13,158	2.69
Suffolk	727	13.4	337	6.2	179	3.3	1	0.02	5,426	1.11
Surrey	964	15.6	418	6.8	212	3.4	5	0.08	6,190	1.26
Sussex	1,669	15.5	787	7.3	429	4.0	0	0.00	10,744	2.20
Thames Valley	2,581	13.7	1,098	5.8	529	2.8	10	0.05	18,774	3.84
Warwickshire	532	14.3	198	5.3	128	3.4	0	0.00	3,726	0.76
West Mercia	1,096	14.2	471	6.1	280	3.6	0	0.00	7,711	1.58
West Midlands	3,734	14.0	1,582	5.9	816	3.1	5	0.02	26,731	5.46
West Yorkshire	2,540	13.3	1,142	6.0	524	2.8	2	0.01	19,038	3.89
Wiltshire	749	15.0	260	5.2	135	2.7	0	0.00	5,008	1.02
Total	69,587	14.2	29,468	6.0	14,132	2.9	60	0.01	489,429	100.00

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent assessment is of the contribution made by the national DNA database to the detection of crime; and if she will make a statement. [252550]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA database is a key police information tool which contributes to the efficiency of crime detection. It has a key role to play in contributing to detection outcomes, eliminating the innocent from inquiries, focusing the direction of inquiries resulting in savings in police time and in building public confidence that elusive offenders may be detected and brought to justice.

It is estimated that over the period April 1998 to end September 2008, there have been approximately 290,000 detections in which a DNA match was available or played a part in solving the crime. A breakdown of this figure by year is given in the following table. It includes figures for quarters 1 and 2 of 2008-09 to 30 September 2008.

Number of detections in which a DNA match was available or played a part April 1998 to September 2008: England and Wales

	Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available	*Additional detections arising from DNA match*[1]	*Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part*
1998-99	6,151	n/a	6,151
1999-2000	9,612	n/a	9,612
2000-01	14,785	n/a	14,785
2001-02	15,894	6,509	22,403
2002-03	21,098	12,717	33,815
2003-04	20,489	15,899	36,388
2004-05	19,873	15,732	35,605
2005-06	20,349	19,960	40,309
2006-07	19,949	21,199	41,148
2-07-08	17,614	15,420	33,034
2008-09 Qtrs 1 and 2	8,975	8,168	17,143
Total April 1998 to September 2008	173,709	115,604	289,393

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[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.

Human Trafficking

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the decision to cease funding the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking unit; and if she will make a statement. [241802]

Jacqui Smith: Following discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service, we have decided to provide additional funding for the MPS trafficking team. This will enable the MPS to ensure the trafficking team continues during 2009-10.

Human trafficking is part of core police business. The funding, which is a one-off grant, is designed to enable the MPS to mainstream this work into its daily activities in a planned and organised fashion.

Identity Cards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of identity cards to be issued to *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* British and Irish citizens resident in the UK in each year to 2014-15. [250833]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: The UK Border Agency expects to issue in the region of 50,000 cards by the end of April 2009 to non-EEA foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control. Volumes will rise rapidly thereafter.

Under current plans over the next three years the scheme will be extended to other categories for non-EEA foreign nationals extending their stay in the UK and be widened to include those coming in to the UK on visas for more than six months. Within three years we expect to be issuing over one million identity cards a year to foreign nationals. All new entrants and those extending their stay will have a card within three years.

The following table summarises the estimated volumes published in the November 2008 National Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, combining the total volume of Identity Cards and Passports issued by IPS to British and Irish Citizens resident in the UK. The figures for issuing both products were combined as, in many cases, the same application would result in the issue of both a passport and an identity card.

Estimated passport and identity card products issued to British and Irish citizens resident in the UK

	(million)
2009-10	5.5
2010-11	5.4
2011-12	5.9
2012-13	7.9
2013-14	10.5
2014-15	12.5

This is the most recently published information on product volumes that is currently available. The Identity and Passport Service is currently developing the product choice offered to customers, as indicated in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published in March 2008. Figures for the projected product volumes will be published in due course.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what written instructions police from each police authority give to illegal immigrants who are found in or near a vehicle. [250276]

Mr. Coaker: No central information is kept on this matter.

Immigration Controls

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission an independent inquiry into the socio-economic effects of the *(a)* new points-based immigration system and *(b)* new civil penalties regime. [250599]

Jacqui Smith: Significant policy proposals, such as the statements of intent for the various tiers of the points-based system, are regularly referred to the migration impacts forum in order to obtain the forum's view on the likely impacts of those policies on the UK.

Immigration: Appeals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the number of appeals in immigration and asylum cases. [249923]

Jacqui Smith: We have recently consulted on a number of proposals in this area and will publish our plans in due course. Our ongoing Quality Initiative Project, in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, aims to improve the quality of decision making in asylum cases which should reduce the number of appeals. UNHCR have published reports over the last four years which illustrate both the work that has been done to improve quality and the progress UNHICR and UKBA have jointly made.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were waiting for a successful appeal against a UK Borders Agency determination to be reflected in their documented immigration status at 31 December *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006, *(e)* 2007 and *(f)* 2008. [249924]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of people who were waiting for a successful appeal against a UK Border Agency determination to be reflected in their documented immigration status at 31 December *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)*2005, *(d)* 2006, *(e)* 2007 and *(f)* 2008 is not available.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets the UK Border Agency has for the length of time it should take to regularise the paperwork of an immigration or asylum applicant following a successful appeal made by that applicant against one of the Agency's decisions. [250597]

Jacqui Smith: There are currently no targets in place governing the length of time that it should take to implement an applicant's status following an allowed appeal.

However, UKBA has recently undertaken a piece of work to review the processes involved in granting status following an allowed appeal. The review has identified potential process amendments to make the system more timely.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been provided by her Department to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since it was established. [252952]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has provided the following amounts towards the funding of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each year since it was established in 2004.

	£ million
2004-05	27.7
2005-06	29.8
2006-07	31.2
2007-08	32.2
2008-09	34.2

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Standards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) target is for the time to conclude investigation of a complaint against the police from the date of registration of the complaint; what the average time taken per case has been since the IPCC was established; and if she will make a statement. [253013]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold the information requested as this is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). A copy of the hon. Member's letter has been sent to the IPCC and they will respond to him direct.

Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* staff were employed on average in and *(b)* passports were issued by each of the passport offices in the UK in 2008. [253088]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The number of staff employed on average and the number of passports issued by regional offices are as follows:

Region	*Passports produced*	*Average FTEs*
London	235,873	262
Liverpool	1,050,389	380
Peterborough	991,319	458
Newport	765,821	306
Glasgow	232,268	202
Belfast	348,900	160
Durham	1,669,111	588
Total	5,293,681	2,355

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours per week each passport office is open; and if she will make a statement. [253670]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service's seven regional passport offices are open for the hours listed in the following table. The various days and individual opening hours of the 68 interview offices are given on our website at:

www.ips.gov.uk

Regional Passport Office	*Days*	*Opening times*	*Total hours open*
Belfast	Monday to Friday	8.30 am - 5.00pm	48 hours 30 minutes
	Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00pm	
Durham	Monday to Friday	8.30 am - 5.00pm	48 hours 30 minutes
	Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00pm	
Glasgow	Monday to Friday	8.15 am - 5.00pm	49 hours 45 minutes
	Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00pm	
Liverpool	Monday to Friday	[1]8.00 - 5.00pm	53 hours 30 minutes
	Saturday	9.00 - 3.00pm	
London	Monday to Friday	7.45 am - 7.00pm	62 hours 15 minutes
	Saturday	9.15 am - 3.15pm	
Newport	Monday to Friday	8.00 am - 5.00pm	51 hours
	Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00pm	
Peterborough	Monday to Friday	[1]8.00 am - 5.00pm	51 hours
	Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00pm	

[1] Liverpool and Peterborough are open until 6.00pm from March until September.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports were *(a)* issued and *(b)* reported (i) lost and (ii) stolen from each passport office in each of the last three years. [254134]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The figures in the following table set out the numbers of passport or supporting document deliveries that have been recorded as lost or stolen either during the delivery process, or due to being delivered incorrectly by the secure delivery courier.

		Number
2006	February 2006 to January 2007	727
2007	February 2007 to January 2008	716
2008	February 2008 to September 2008	[1]495

[1] Provisional

It is not possible, in the time given, to report these figures for each Passport Office or to differentiate between losses of passports and losses of supporting documents.

The majority of these losses (around 90 per cent.) are a consequence of items being incorrectly delivered. These figures are collated in line with the contractual arrangements with Secure Mail Services (SMS), the Secure Delivery provider, who commenced the secure delivery of passports in 2004.

Over five million items a year are delivered to IPS customers through the Secure Delivery service. IPS and SMS continue to work closely to improve upon losses while maintaining minimum inconvenience to customers. All passport losses are added to the database of lost or stolen passports, which is maintained by IPS.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a report from the Commissioner of Essex Police on the amount spent by *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend police on (i) own force investigations, (ii) supervised investigations, (iii) managed investigations and (iv) independent investigations in each of the last three years for which information is available. [253020]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held by the Home Office. This is a matter for the chief constable of Essex police.

Police: Forensic Science Service

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces do not employ the Forensic Science Service (FSS); and what the average duration of a FSS contract with the police was in each of the last five years. [253169]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* All police forces submit some work to the Forensic Science Service (FSS).

Most police forces have contracted on the basis of service level agreements which are between one and two years' duration. Other contracts have been awarded to FSS following a police tendering exercise and are usually three years' in duration with an option to extend the contract for a further two years.

Police: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid to police officers of each rank in each police force under the Chief Officers' Bonus Scheme in each year since its creation; for what reason each bonus was paid; how many officers refused to accept a bonus; what criteria are used in awarding such bonuses; what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers about the bonus scheme; and if she will make a statement. [252953]

Mr. Coaker: Data relating to the levels of bonuses, the reasons for payment and any refusals are not held centrally. Chief officers are eligible for bonuses as part of their performance pay arrangements; the bonus criteria are set out in Police Negotiating Board Circular 2005/03. I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the House Library. My right hon. Friend and I meet regularly with ACPO to discuss a range of issues.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid from the Chief Police Officers' bonus scheme in each of the last three years; and what individual payments were made to each recipient. [253205]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Decisions on chief officer bonus payments are a matter for the police authority. Data on the bonuses paid to chief officers are not held centrally.

Police: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of a criminal offence in each month since June 2006, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age and (iii) police force; and how many were (A) suspended from duty, (B) demoted, (C) dismissed and (D) cautioned. [253017]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been informed by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform that the data held centrally on court proceedings do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought.

It is therefore not possible to identify the occupation of a defendant who has been prosecuted or convicted of a criminal offence. As a result the information requested on court proceedings is not available.

Police: Resignations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many heads of police forces have been requested to resign by *(a)* her and her predecessors and *(b)* the relevant police authority in each year since 1997. [247111]

Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows:

(a) Following the fatal shooting of James Ashley in 1998 the then Home Secretary wrote to Sussex police in 2001 urging it to take action to restore public confidence. Paul Whitehouse, the chief constable, retired.

Michael Bichard's independent enquiry into child protection measures, record keeping, vetting and information sharing in Humberside police and Cambridgeshire constabulary reported in 2004. Subsequently the then Home Secretary required Humberside police authority to suspend chief constable David Westwood. David Westwood retired.

(b) The Home Office does not keep records of all discussions between police authorities and heads of police forces.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of a refusal to comply with a Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act section 49 notice were notified to her Department in 2008. [253781]

Mr. Coaker: I understand that there were seven notifications of refusal to comply with a section 49 notice in the calendar year ending December 2008.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Convictions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for refusal to comply with a Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 section 49 notice there were in 2008. [253771]

Mr. Coaker: I understand that there was one conviction in the calendar year ending December 2008.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Prosecutions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for refusal to comply with a Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 section 49 notice there were in 2008. [253782]

Mr. Coaker: I understand that there was one prosecution in the calendar year ending December 2008.

Right of Search: Computers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to introduce legislation to require the police and security forces to obtain a warrant before remotely accessing web users' hard drives. [252558]

Mr. Coaker: No. There is already legislation which governs this issue. Remote police interference with a computer would require authorisation under Part III of the Police Act 1997, from a chief constable. Any such authorisation must also be notified to a Commissioner from the independent Office of Surveillance Commissioners. The Intelligence and Security Agencies would require a warrant authorised by the Secretary of State under the Intelligence Services Act 1994.

Security: Illegal Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many of the 3,275 cases where persons were suspected of working in the security industry in breach of immigration laws after a false name or national insurance number had been given to the Security Industry Authority have resulted in the *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* deportation or removal of the person concerned from the United Kingdom. [244298]

Mr. Woolas: Premature release of information relating to the introduction of right to work checks within the security industry was likely to have forewarned potential targets of our investigation into illegal working and compromised the UK Border Agency's opportunity to mount targeted, intelligence led removal operations. Nevertheless the UK Border Agency carried out an extensive programme of visits to workplaces and home addresses during the course of its subsequent investigation.

UK Border Agency internal management information indicates that 13 cases have been proceeded against for criminal offences, mainly involving forgery or the use of false identities and at least 35 former Security Industry Authority licence holders have been removed so far. This information has not been quality assured under national statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

In February this year, we introduced a tough new system of heavy financial penalties for employers found to be employing illegal migrant workers, making it progressively more difficult for illegal immigrants to remain in the United Kingdom. As a result of this—and the publicity surrounding action taken to revoke these licences—we believe that many more individuals will have left the country voluntarily at no cost to the UK taxpayer.

Stop and Search

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1628-29W, on stop and search, how many of those searched in each year were subsequently arrested. [252585]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of persons stopped and searched under section 44 (sections 1 and 2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 and resultant arrests, from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 (latest available) are provided in the following table.

Searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants under sections 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[1] and resultant arrests, 1999-2000 to 2006-07—England and Wales

Number

	Stops and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism	
	Total searches	*Resultant arrests*
1999-2000	1,900	18
2000-01	6,400	45
2001-02	10,200	18[illegible]
2002-03	32,100	380
2003-04	33,800	491
2004-05[2]	37,000	468
2005-06	50,000	563
2006-07	41,900	480

[1] Formerly sections 13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 and repealed under the Terrorism Act 2000 (which came into force on 19 February 2001).

[2] Figures updated since publication of the 2004-05 Bulletin.

UK Border Agency: Appeals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she monitors the length of time taken by the UK Border Agency between a successful appeal against its decisions and the regularisation of the applicants' paperwork; and if she will make a statement. [249970]

Jacqui Smith: UKBA does not currently monitor the length of time taken between a successful appeal and the regularisation of the applicants' paperwork.

However, UKBA has recently reviewed the processes. The review has identified potential amendments to make the system more timely. We are currently working to finalise how these changes will be implemented. Arrangements have been made to monitor progress in this area.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effect of proposed job losses at Corus on the construction of the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers. [253477]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We do not anticipate this will have any effect on the construction of the aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales.

Armed Forces: Expenditure

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on *(a)* the armed forces and *(b)* military intelligence since January 2002; and if he will make a statement. [252107]

Mr. Hutton: Historic Defence outturn figures, as published in UK Defence Statistics 2008, are set out in Table 1 as follows. Due to the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting in 2003-04 there are no comparable outturn figures for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03. More detailed Defence expenditure information is available in the annual report and accounts, copies of which are placed in the Library of the House.

Table 1

	Defence outturn (£ million)
2003-04	30,861
2004-05	32,515
2005-06	33,164
2006-07	34,045
2007-08	37,407
Total	167,992

Military intelligence functions are spread across a broad range of Defence activities. To produce an accurate figure would involve collating data from various sources across the Department and armed forces at disproportionate cost. Nevertheless, the majority of intelligence business is conducted by the Defence intelligence staff (DIS). DIS outturn figures (based on direct resource DEL and capital DEL) are set out in Table 2 as follows.

Table 2

	DIS Outturn (£ million)
2001-02	162.5
2002-03	185.7
2003-04	216.0
2004-05	251.5
2005-06	269.1
2006-07	272.5
2007-08	257.0
Total	1,614.3

Outturn figures are not yet available for 2008-09.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reports have been made by residents of services accommodation to *(a)* Modern Housing Solutions and *(b)* Defence Estates on the presence of asbestos in their accommodation. [248659]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of inquiries specifically relating to asbestos cannot be separately identified.

However, the Ministry of Defence and its contractors take the health and safety of all occupants of service accommodation seriously and any reports concerning asbestos are fully investigated and appropriate action taken where necessary. Also occupants of service accommodation are made aware of the location of any asbestos known to be present in their accommodation and are given appropriate health and safety advice. The MOD's actions are in accordance with the control of asbestos regulations.

Armed Forces: Journalism

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report,* columns 82-3W, how many journalists have been embedded in the armed forces since 1997; and for how long in each case. [252651]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since April 2005, 537 media visits were facilitated to destinations worldwide. These figures exclude May to July 2005 for which no data are available. The number of journalists involved in each visit varies and exact figures are not available.

Most journalists will spend between one and two weeks in theatre.

Data representing the number of media visits prior to April 2005 are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Prosthetics

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the supply of prosthetic limbs for service personnel injured on operations *(a)* for the first fitting of the limb and *(b)* for second and subsequent replacement limbs; and what recent estimate he has made of the average waiting time between the submission of a request for a prosthetic limb and the fitting of the limb in such cases. [251699]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* Injured service personnel who require prosthetic limbs are supplied with tailor made prostheses with state of the art componentry which is matched to their clinical needs. Service patients requiring such prostheses are transferred to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court when they are medically stable. Within typically two days of arrival they are seen by a prosthetist in order to cast a bespoke socket that will cover the stump and allow attachment of the prosthetic limb itself. The limb is then typically supplied within five days of admission to Headley Court and fitted when it is clinically appropriate. The patient is also given a second limb as a spare and additional limbs or fittings as are required to improve functionality. In cases where a simple replacement of a component is appropriate, individual patient data held at DMRC enable the new item to be manufactured and supplied without necessarily requiring the patient to attend Headley Court in person.

For veterans, the standard of prosthetic limb provision to injured personnel by the Defence Medical Services will, as a minimum, be matched by the NHS in Great Britain as set out in the Service Personnel Command Paper.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252371]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Due to the increase in Ministers, following the last reshuffle, the Department has spent £131,000, excluding VAT, on works and refurbishments in the last 12 months.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251880]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff were attached to (i) the European Union Military Staff, (ii) the European Defence Agency, (iii) the European Union Military Committee and (iv) other EU institutions in each month since May 2008. [253369]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The staffing numbers for each month between May 2008 and January 2009 are as follows:

	Date period	*(a) Military personnel*	*(b) Civilian staff*
(i) EU Military Staff	May 2008 to January 2009	18	0
(ii) European Defence Agency	May 2008 to September 2008	2	4
	October 2008 to January 2009	3	4
(iii) EU Military Committee	May 2008 to January 2009	1	0
(iv) Other EU institutions	May 2008 to January 2009	0	3

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 754W, on the EU Rapid Reaction Force, what the UK contribution is to the 50,000 to 60,000 person military force. [253386]

Mr. Hutton: There is no EU Rapid Reaction Force.

However, the UK continues to support the Helsinki Headline Goal that all EU member states agreed to in 1999, which calls for EU member states to be able to:

> "deploy within 60 days and sustain for at least one year military forces of up to 50,000 to 60,000 persons capable of the full range of Petersberg tasks."

This represents an overarching target for member states' collective level of capability, from which the EU's capability development framework takes its lead. It does not imply the creation of a standing EU force of any kind. Any commitment to an EU-led operation is voluntary and is a decision for national Governments to make on a case by case basis.

Gurkhas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans for the future of the Gurkha regiments are. [254133]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Brigade of Gurkhas provides a key element of the British Army, fulfilling a number of roles, including infantry, engineers, signals and logistics. These roles were confirmed as part of the Future Army Structure review in 2004 and there are no plans to change them.

Military Aircraft

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of purchasing and converting three replacement United States Air Force KC-135R aircraft into RC-135V/W Rivet Joint aircraft and associated equipment and services to UK requirements; what assessment he has made of the additional capability such aircraft will provide; and if he will make a statement; [253332]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of supplying and modifying three replacement MRA4 aircraft platforms to fit UK requirements; what assessment he has made of the additional capability such platforms will provide; and if he will make a statement. [253331]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Helix programme is examining the future manned airborne electronic surveillance capability.

The costs of using the Nimrod MRA4 platform and the Rivet Joint system and the capabilities they provide are currently being assessed against this requirement, along with the Nimrod R1 platform, as part of the preparations for a main investment decision expected in 2009.

The Nimrod MRA4 production contract covers nine aircraft with an option to productionise the three trials aircraft. We continue to discuss this possible extra work with BAE Systems, but no decision has yet been reached.

Minesweepers: Research

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on research to combat the use of improvised explosive devices in each year of the last five years. [252873]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence undertakes a wide ranging research programme addressing and supporting many activities. In the last five years, research specifically targeted to counter the use of improvised explosive devices by adversaries has been undertaken to the values shown in the following:

	£ million
2004-05	2.6
2005-06	2.1
2006-07	5
2007-08	14
2008-09	15

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department undertook on protecting troops against use of improvised explosive devices by opposing forces before deploying troops to Afghanistan and Iraq. [252876]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Prior to the deployment of UK forces to Afghanistan and Iraq, the MOD was carrying out research on the development and enhancement of protective capability against a wide range of threat explosive devices. This research included the enhancement of personal and vehicle protection, and means of electronically countering the IED threat.

Navy: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 38W, on Navy: piracy, whether *(a)* CTF-150 and *(b)* CTF-151 will have operational priority for use of HMS Portland. [253371]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 721W.

Given the inherent flexibility of our Royal Navy assets, HMS Portland will be able to switch between CTF 150 and CTF 151 to exploit capability in the region and support international requirements.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* troops in contact incidents and *(b)* indirect fire events were recorded in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each month of the last three years. [243255]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete, and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Royal Navy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* requirement and *(b)* actual crew number for each ship type in the Royal Navy is. [253718]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I stated in my answer to the hon. Member on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 127W, manning levels of ships are adjusted according to their task. Thus ships undergoing maintenance, for example, would be expected to have a lower level of manning than those deployed on operations. Detailed statistics on these manning judgements are not held centrally.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on warships, what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual level of spare part availability has been for each (i) frigate, (ii) destroyer and (iii) submarine type in the Royal Navy in each year since 2001. [253787]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As I stated in my answer on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, there is no requirement to measure the availability of spare parts for Royal Navy vessels in the format requested as availability is measured at equipment rather than platform level. The new system currently being rolled out to record performance statistics for equipment demands only holds data from the last 12 months which I provided in my earlier response; information prior to this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247367]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department pays a variety of providers from the private, public, voluntary and charitable sectors for the provision of employment programmes.

The information requested, however, is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

The Department and its agencies work in close partnership with charities and voluntary sector organisations to help people access the services and benefits to which they are entitled.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241171]

Jonathan Shaw: In July 2008, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme published Adapting to Climate Change in England—a framework for action which set out the Government's strategy for adaptation and the work-plan for the cross-Government Programme for the next three years. This programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a coordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector, and overall responsibility for it rests with DEFRA. Information about the programme can be found at

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

This includes taking forward work flowing from the Climate Change Act 2008—including a national Climate Change Risk Assessment and cost benefit analysis which will inform future priorities for the statutory adaptation programme beginning in 2012.

The Government's longer term strategy on adapting to a changing climate will be set out in this statutory National Adaptation Programme, which will be reviewed and updated on a five year rolling basis in response to updated risk assessments, and reported to Parliament.

DWP recognises that the most vulnerable in society may be disproportionately affected by climate change. As such, we consider it important to take steps to adapt to the short, medium and long-term risks and impacts.

In 2003, DWP undertook some initial exploratory work, updated it late last year, and commissioned the Meteorological Office to undertake a review of the impacts of climate change on the Department's policies and operations. The Meteorological Office report was received earlier this year and its findings are now being taken into consideration in formulating the future programme of climate change adaptation work, based on the priorities identified. The Department's Planning Performance and Risk Committee is leading on this work and has endorsed the initial findings of the review. An update to the review will be commissioned once the revised UK Climate Projections are published in the new year.

The Department continues to build climate change into its contingency planning work, and works closely with colleagues from other Government Departments to develop a joint coordinated approach to adapting to climate change. We also sit on the pan-government Domestic Adaptation Programme Board.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244359]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a PFI contract with Land Securities Trillium for the provision of fully serviced accommodation, including the provision of furniture, and for which an all inclusive unitary charge is paid. It is not possible to provide separate details of expenditure which relates solely to furniture from within this amount. The information that is available is provided in the following table. The figures in the table relate solely to expenditure on furniture for projects (including the roll-out of the new Jobcentre Plus network and other departmental initiatives in the Pension Service and Debt Management, which is procured and paid for separately by the Department.

DWP expenditure on furniture (1 April 2000 to 31 March 2008)

£ million

Financial year	*Furniture made by British firms*	*Furniture made by Remploy*	*Furniture made by overseas firms*
2000-01	0.5	Nil	Nil
2001-02	2.2	Nil	Nil
2002-03	4.3	Nil	Nil
2003-04	12.6	Nil	0.4
2004-05	2.4	Nil	1.6
2005-06	6.5	Nil	1.5
2006-07	10.9	Nil	0.1
2007-08	4.7	Nil	0.3

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on advertising in the last 12 months. [243713]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr Evans) on24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 981W.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 552W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251325]

Jonathan Shaw: Other Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Action Learning Set: 1 Minister

Financial Management: 1 Minister

Governance and Public Accountability: 1 Minister.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251867]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Employment Schemes

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workshops had been held as part of his Department's Employ ability programme at the latest date for figures are available; how many people attended each such workshop; and how many employers in *(a)* Glasgow North West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Scotland attended an Employ ability workshop in 2008. [252562]

Mr. McNulty: 13 workshops have been held between 29 November 2007 and 28 January 2009.

Number of people attending each workshop:

	Number
Leeds	31
Manchester	32
Sheffield	20
Birmingham	60
Stoke	21
Newcastle	39
Penrith (Reghed)	22
Nottingham	21

	Number
Market Harborough	14
Edinburgh	23
Glasgow	27
Bristol	30
Cardiff	20

Number of employers attending workshops in 2008 from:

	Number
(a) Glasgow North West Constituency	0
(b) Glasgow	16
(c) Scotland	26

Employment Schemes: Contracts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment rates were achieved in each region by *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary sector employment service contractors under each (i) New Deal, (ii) Employment Zone and (iii) Pathways to Work programme in each of the last eight years; and if he will make a statement. [246570]

Mr. McNulty: The cost of complying with the request is disproportionate.

Employment Schemes: Finance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much had been spent on his Department's Employ ability programme at the latest date for which figures are available; and how much of the expenditure had been used for the purposes of advertising the programme. [252563]

Mr. McNulty: Employ ability is a communications campaign that aims to challenge attitudes among SME employers towards recruiting and retaining disabled people and those with long term health conditions. The campaign was piloted in four cities from September to December 2007 and rolled out to 10 UK areas between March 2008 and the present day.

The campaign is delivered through the following activity:

Advertising and advertorials in trade and regional press;
Billboard posters;
Media liaison and PR;
How to Employ ability workshops;
Web pages on DWP website;
E-marketing;
Direct mail and telemarketing;
Stakeholder engagement.

The total amount spent on the campaign to date is £3,892,180.

The amount spent on advertising to date is: £2,237,279.

Invest To Save Budget

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which organisation led each Invest To Save project which has been sponsored by his Department since 1998; and if he will make a statement; [247057]

(2) how many of the Invest To Save projects sponsored by his Department in each year since 1998 *(a)* have completed their initial stage and have been continued, *(b)* have completed their initial stage and been discontinued and *(c)* are in progress; and if he will make a statement; [247058]

(3) how many Invest To Save projects have been sponsored by his Department in each region in each year since 1998; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [247059]

Jonathan Shaw: The Invest to Save Budget (ISB) was a cross-Government funding stream that was launched by HM Treasury in 1998 to foster innovation within the public sector and promote the joined-up delivery of public services through greater partnership working.

Many lessons were learnt from the DWP-sponsored projects and the outcomes of the initial stages informed the effective delivery of services and products to DWP's customers. A 2007 review of the ISB drew particular attention to the success of the ONE project. This piloted the requirement of benefit claimants to consider their work potential before making a claim and heavily influenced the design and roll-out of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table. The table shows the 'Invest to Save' funding allocated to each project. Information on costs is not readily available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Name	*Lead organisation*	*Status*	*Region*	*ISB Funding (£000)*
Round 1 (announced 1999)				
ONE: Single Work focused interview	Employment Service	Completed: Discontinued	National	79,540
Employment Service regional call centre	Employment Service	Completed: Discontinued	National	2,912
Better govt prototypes for Older people	Benefits Agency	Completed: Discontinued	National	804
Round 2 (announced 2000)				
Call centre for Health and Safety Communication	HSE	Completed: Continued	National	448
Claims checking and completion Service	Benefits Agency	Completed: Discontinued	North West	142
Better govt for older people (Integrated Advice and Support Services for Pensioners)	Benefits Agency	Completed: Discontinued	National	76
Prisoners Passport service	Benefits Agency	Completed: Continued	North East	18

Name	*Lead organisation*	*Status*	*Region*	*ISB Funding (£000)*
Round 3 (announced2001)				
Net based Control of Hazards	HSE	Completed: Discontinued	National	200
National Height Model	HSE	Completed: Continued	National	100
Chemical Control for Health and Safety	HSE	Completed: Discontinued	National	250
Document Scanning and e-mail	DSS	Completed: Discontinued	North East	95
Internet benefit advice and digital TV/e-mail	Benefits Agency	Completed: Discontinued	National	514
Internet benefit advice and digital TV/e-mail	Benefits Agency	Completed: Discontinued	National	1,875
Round 4 (announced 2002)				
Electronic Health and Safety tools for Business Support Network	HSE	Completed: Discontinued	National	535
Electronic Risk Assessment	HSE	Completed: Continued	National	90
Performance Framework for administering HB/CTB	Benefit Fraud Inspectorate	Completed: Continued	National	187
Performance Improvement Action Teams for LA administering	Benefit Fraud Inspectorate	Completed: Discontinued	National	1,003
Flexible Employment Service Delivery: Prisons	Employment Service	Completed: Continued	National	1,000
Encouraging older people into NHS employment	DWP	Completed: Discontinued	National	99
Assisting in processing claims and backlogs of work	DWP	Completed: Discontinued	National	2,750
Sharing data between social landlords and Welfare advice agencies	Southampton City Council	Completed: Discontinued	South East	305
Round 5 (announced 2003)				
None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Round 6 (announced 2004)				
None	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Round 7 (announced 2005)				
Rural Challenge	SERVE (Care in the Community)	Completed: Discontinued	East Midlands	99
Link Age Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire CC	Completed: Discontinued	East Midlands	478
Trellis	The Employability Forum	Completed: Discontinued	West Midlands	645
Building Future Jobs Eco-system (BTEG)	Black Training and Enterprise Group	Completed: Discontinued	London	3,926
Narrowing the Gap	QED-UK	Completed: Discontinued	Yorkshire and Humber	1,500
Workout PECAN	PECAN Ltd.	In Progress	London	1,773
Supporting Refugee Professionals	Refugees into jobs	In Progress	London	934
Round 8 (announced 2006)				
Choices and well-being	SAFE (Southampton Action For Employment)	In Progress	South East	240
Round 9 (announced 2007)				
Single Homelessness Enterprise Project	LB Camden	In Progress	London	595
Aspire	Welwyn Hatfield Council	In Progress	East of England	150

Notes:
1. Information has been taken from local records held by DWP and HM Treasury officials.
2. 'Region' information refers to the Government office region.
3. ISB funding shown is rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.
4. The information in respect of name, lead organisation and ISB funding is consistent with documents published on the ISB website at: www.isb.gov.uk

Further information on the projects can be found on the Invest to Save website at: www.isb.gov.uk (including "A Review of the Invest to Save Budget: An innovation fund for public services").

Jobcentre Plus: Crimes Against Property

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times criminal damage has taken place in Jobcentre Plus premises in each Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the creation of Jobcentre Plus; and what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from such criminal damage. [249421]

Mr. McNulty: Under the terms of the Department's estate PFI (private finance initiative) prime contract, responsibility for meeting the costs of repairing damage to Jobcentre Plus buildings falls to our estates partner, Trillium. No central records are kept of instances of criminal damage, and the associated costs of repair, and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Glasgow

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* used services provided by and *(b)* found employment through Jobcentre Plus offices in Glasgow North West constituency in 2008. [251704]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average distance from a benefit claimant's house to a Jobcentre Plus office was *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each of the last five years. [251470]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people worked at Nairn Jobcentre Plus in each of the 60 months before it was closed. [251473]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people worked at Inverness Jobcentre Plus office in each of the last 60 months. [251474]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many peopled worked at Inverness Jobcentre Plus office in each of the last 60 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information is only available for the last sixteen months. Details prior to this date have been destroyed in line with our document retention policy.

The available information is detailed below.

Number of staff employed at Inverness Jobcentre Plus office (full time equivalents)

Month	*Staff in post*
September 2007	58
October 2007	57
November 2007	57
December 2007	58
January 2008	57
February 2008	57
March 2008	57
April 2008	54
May 2008	59
June 2008	60
July 2008	61
August 2008	64
September 2008	62
October 2008	61
November 2008	61
December 2008	61

Number of staff employed at Inverness Jobcentre Plus office (full time equivalents)

Source:
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian District Jobcentre Plus

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* employment vacancies and *(b)* persons claiming jobseeker's allowance in each parliamentary constituency. [251975]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of employment vacancies and persons claiming jobseeker's allowance in each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

Mentally Ill: Discrimination

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to reduce levels of discrimination on grounds of mental health; and if he will make a statement. [252447]

Jonathan Shaw: The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, which this Government have improved and strengthened, particularly through the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, provides a comprehensive set of enforceable rights for disabled people, including those with mental health conditions (who meet the DDA's definition of a disabled person.)

To improve our support for disabled people we have recently been working with MIND (the mental health charity) to pilot flexible Access to Work support for people with fluctuating mental health conditions. Our Employ ability campaign challenges preconceptions and offers practical information and support to help make employing disabled people (including people with poor mental health) as easy as possible.

In addition to this, 'Improving health and work: changing lives', the Government's response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population, set out a number of measures the Government intend to take to help reduce the stigma and discrimination often associated with poor mental health.

The most prominent current initiative is the development of the first ever cross-Government National Mental Health and Employment Strategy which will specifically focus on issues such as stigma and discrimination. We expect that this strategy will be published in the spring.

Pensioners: Poverty

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of pensioners in *(a)* Glasgow North West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* the UK who are living in poverty. [248536]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

Latest information for Scotland and the UK on the percentage of pensioners below each of these thresholds is given in the following table. The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Scotland as a whole.

Percentage of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income: after housing costs, Scotland and the UK, 2006-07

	Scotland	*UK*
Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	15	19
Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income	7	10
Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices	7	10

Notes:
1. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
3. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.

Source:
Scottish Households Below Average Income 2006-07, Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245724]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department considers it vitally important that we respect all people by ensuring that our communications are inclusive, legible and accessible. Our corporate branding guidelines have been carefully designed to consider the language, colours and imagery we use, as well as the way we lay out our communications.

The most common form of colour blindness is red/green followed by yellow/blue. Our core colours are green, purple and grey with a palette of secondary colours. These colours help anchor our visual identity, give consistency to our communications and are accessible.

Social Security Benefits: Advisory Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department is making available for *(a)* voluntary sector organisations and *(b)* local authorities to provide advice on the availability of and eligibility for benefits in 2008-09. [244368]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department provides local authorities with housing benefit/council tax benefit (HB/CTB) administration subsidy. It is a targeted DWP specific grant paid to all 408 local authorities in Great Britain which helps meet the cost of administering HB/CTB. The overall administration subsidy allocation is £541 million for 2008-09. This subsidy covers the provision of advice on eligibility for benefits to potential claimants.

The Department and its agencies work in close partnership with voluntary sector organisations and local authorities to help people access the services and benefits to which they are entitled.

The Department itself does not provide any other regular sources of funding to either voluntary sector organisations or local authorities to provide advice on the availability of and eligibility for benefits.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive on the introduction of a legal maximum workplace temperature. [249055]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The Secretary of State has written recently to the chair of the Health and Safety Executive, asking them to revisit the reasons for and against a maximum workplace temperature. He has asked the Executive to ensure that trade unions, and other key stakeholders, are fully engaged in this exercise.

TREASURY

Banks: Fees and Charges

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Financial Investments holds on revenue generated in unauthorised overdraft charges by banks which are (i) wholly and (ii) partly in temporary public ownership in each month since June 2008. [251028]

Ian Pearson: Neither the HM Treasury nor UKFI collect or hold such information.

Banks: Housing Associations

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage banks to lend to housing associations. [244912]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of its investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Services Compensation Scheme will compensate Mr. Simon Dunne Barker of Marlborough, Devon for the losses he incurred following the collapse of the Icelandic banking sector. [250421]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2009]:* The FSCS is an independent organisation set up under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

The FSCS confirmed on 25 November that it is has sent out compensation claim forms to all the savers that they have records for at Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF) who did not transfer to ING Direct. On 12 December the FSCS announced that their claims teams have been processing the application forms received back from savers.

The FSCS's priority is to pay eligible retail depositors their compensation as quickly as possible. Claimants can contact the FSCS directly if they would like more information about their claim.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254094]

Angela Eagle: In each of the last three years fewer than five staff have been disciplined for both *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was spent by his Department and bodies for which it is responsible on external public relations consultants and companies in each year from 2001-02; [250432]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies have spent on external public relations firms outside the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months. [250477]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. and learned hon. Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 26 Nov 2008, *Official Report*, column 1894W and the answer given by the former Financial Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 11 Jun 2007, *Official Report*, column 828W.

Equitable Life

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken in respect of the officials in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Financial Services Authority and *(c)* the Government Actuary's Department criticised by the parliamentary ombudsman for maladministration over Equitable Life. [252139]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* The parliamentary ombudsman, who considered events in the period preceding 1 December 2001, did not direct any criticisms at individual officials.

EU Budget

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value in sterling of the reduction in the UK's rebate to its contribution to the EU budget negotiated in December 2005. [251283]

Ian Pearson: The December 2005 Budget agreement sets a cap on the disapplication of the UK abatement in 2004 prices in the current Budget period. The sterling value of this cap will depend upon changes in the exchange rate against the Euro within the Budget period.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253602]

Angela Eagle: No financial penalties are levied by the Treasury or any of its agencies.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to lift the administration order on Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander UK; and if he will make a statement. [251618]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* On 8 October Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF UK) was, following due legal process, put into administration. The application for an administration order was made by the Financial Services Authority. The order was made by the court. The administration process of KSF UK is a matter for the administrators of KSF UK.

Landsbanki: Guernsey

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1636, on Landsbanki Guernsey, what estimate he has made of the cost incurred by depositors in the UK as a consequence of the collapse of Landsbanki Guernsey. [252508]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* The UK Government and the Financial Services Authority do not hold such information.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in Guernsey are a matter for the Government of Guernsey.

Licensed Premises: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when *(a)* Section 720 (night clubs and discotheques), *(b)* Section 210 (casinos and gambling clubs) and *(c)* Section 825 (public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars), including their appendices and associated documents, of the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Manual, were last updated. [252731]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Section 720 (night clubs and discotheques)—all parts last updated October 2002.

(b) Section 210 (casinos and gambling/clubs)—main section last updated January 2007, Practice Note for 2010 Revaluation added December 2008.

(c) Section 825 (public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars)—main section lest updated January 2000, Practice Notes for 2010 Revaluation including Approved Guide to Valuation added October 2003.

Members: Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 October 2008 from the hon. Member for Romsey on provisions for the banking sector. [253511]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 15 October 2008 on savings in Isle of Man banks on behalf of a constituent, Mr Harris. [254295]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses in each local authority area occupy premises with rateable values between £10,000 and £14,999; and if he will make a statement; [253628]

(2) how many businesses occupy premises with rateable values below £10,000 are receiving small business rate relief; and if he will make a statement. [253629]

Mark Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many businesses there are on the ratings list in each local authority area with rateable values below £10,000; and if he will make a statement. [253631]

Mr. Timms: Local authorities reported that there were 392,000 businesses in England in receipt of small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available.

Information on the rateable value of properties owned by businesses in receipt of the relief is not available.

Responsibility for policy on business rates in other parts of the United Kingdom lies with the devolved Administrations.

Revenue and Customs: Labour Turnover

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff turnover rate in HM Revenue and Customs is in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region in England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland. [250845]

Mr. Timms: Answers are for 2007-8 and are given as percentage of the average headcount staff in post, and show all people leaving the Department, including retirements.

Staff headcount

	Percentage
(a) England	8.7
(b) Eastern England	7.8
East Midlands	11.6
London	7.7
North East	8.2
North West	7.6
South East	10.2
South West	11.3
West Midlands	8.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	9.3
(c) Scotland	12.9
(d) Wales	9.7
(e) Northern Ireland	6.4

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Protestant, *(b)* Roman Catholic and *(c)* non-declared appointees there were in HM Revenue and Customs offices in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [251270]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The numbers of appointees to HM Revenue and Customs in the last two years, broken down by Protestant, Roman Catholic and non-determined is set out in the following table.

	Protestant	*Roman Catholic*	*Non-determined*
2007	26	33	4
2008	16	26	7
Total	42	59	11

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the full-time equivalent median pay for HM Revenue and Customs employees is in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region in England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland. [250846]

Mr. Timms: The full-time equivalent median pay of HMRC employees in each Government Region at 1 February 2009 is in the following table:

Government region	£ Median annual salary
East	23,540
East Midlands	22,605
London	29,734
North East	19,090
North West	19,090
Northern Ireland	19,090
Scotland	18,716
South East	23,540
South West	19,090
Wales	19,090
West Midlands	22,605
Yorks and Humber	19,090
All England	20,735

Revenue and Customs: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to outsource the provision of security at offices and operations of HM Revenue and Customs. [253464]

Mr. Timms: Guarding services in HMRC are currently provided through a mixture of in-house and outsourced security guards. Over 60 per cent. of the security guards at HMRC sites are already provided by external suppliers, primarily Mapeley under the terms of its PFI contract with HMRC which commenced in April 2001.

HMRC are currently exploring the potential to outsource its remaining in-house manned guarding services and in August 2008 commenced a fully competitive procurement exercise by publishing a contract notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU). A decision on any further outsourcing will depend on the comparative business cases that are constructed as a result of this exercise, including the provision of in-house security guards.

Seized Articles: Appeals

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of appeals to magistrates' courts against seizure of excise goods by HM Revenue and Customs were successful in the last two years. [250780]

Angela Eagle: During the financial year 2007-08 there were 423 condemnation cases concluded in the courts in the United Kingdom, in relation to excise goods. Approximately 8 per cent. of these appeals by the claimant were successful.

For the current financial year 2008-09 until 16 January 2009 there have been 738 condemnation cases initiated. Of these, 426 cases have been concluded and the claimants were successful in 5 per cent. of these cases.

Smuggling

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take to *(a)* reduce levels of alcohol and tobacco smuggling and *(b)* implement Article 15 of the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on illicit trade in tobacco products; and if he will make a statement; [253581]

(2) what steps the UK has taken at EU level to reduce the smuggling of alcohol and tobacco products; and if he will make a statement; [253667]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs in tackling the smuggling of alcohol and tobacco products; and if he will make a statement; [253664]

(4) what evaluation he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol industries' responses to smuggling of their products; and if he will make a statement; [253665]

(5) what recent discussions he has had with EU counterparts on the smuggling of alcohol and tobacco products; and if he will make a statement; [253668]

(6) what assessment he has made of recent trends in the level of smuggling of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* tobacco products; [253675]

(7) what the estimated losses to the Exchequer from *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol smuggling were in each of the last five years. [253676]

Mr. Timms: At the time of the 2008 pre-Budget-report, the Government published a new integrated strategy for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA); 'Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Together'. The strategy document is available in the Commons Library. This sets out the Government's plans to build on the considerable progress that has already been made in driving down tobacco smuggling and reducing revenue losses. The strategy takes full account of work being done at EU level and at international level through the World Health Organisation's framework convention on tobacco control. As a party to the convention, the UK is committed to seeking an agreement on an illicit trade protocol under article 15 by 2010. The strategy also sets out a clear framework for co-operation between law enforcement bodies, regulatory authorities and the public health sector. It also reinforces co-operation with the tobacco industry, which remains crucial to tackling smuggled and counterfeit tobacco.

The respective roles of HMRC and the UKBA, details of how UKBA performance will be monitored and objectives for tobacco seizures in 2008-09, are set out in the UKBA Partnership Agreement with HMRC, which is published on the UKBA website.

At PBR 2008, the Government also announced a review of HMRC's alcohol fraud strategy. The review will look to strengthen work to tackle spirits fraud and extend this approach to other products affected by fraud. A further announcement on this will be made at Budget 2009.

The most recent estimates of the losses attributable to alcohol and tobacco fraud and smuggling were published by HMRC in November 2008 in a report 'Measuring Indirect Tax Gaps—2008', which is also available in the Commons Library.

Tax Evasion

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to reduce levels of tax evasion; and if he will make a statement. [250437]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to ensuring that everyone pays their fair share of tax and combating tax evasion is important to deliver that commitment.

A number of steps have been taken to enhance HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) approach to tackling evasion including improvements in HMRC's capability to identify evasion, stronger operational practices to tackle that evasion more quickly and effectively, and a new penalty regime to help deter evasion.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what area of land in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region of England was used as allotments in each of the last three years. [254112]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not have centrally held figures on the area of land used as allotments in England. Local authorities are responsible for keeping figures on the amount of land used as allotments and we do not require them to provide central Government with these figures.

Arts Club

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on departmental procurement, who attended the dinner at the Arts Club organised by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [251807]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission held a business dinner for its Commissioners at the Arts Club on 12 February 2007. The attendees were 12 EHRC Commissioners, an EHRC official member of staff and a personal assistant to one of the Commissioners. The dinner was an opportunity for Commissioners to meet with each other and discuss the Commission's agenda, including the identification of priorities, during the transition period. It was also the first opportunity for Commissioners to meet together in a less formal setting than the monthly board meetings.

Building Regulations: Fire Prevention

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend building regulations to reduce *(a)* the risk of fires in buildings spreading and *(b)* the speed at which such fires spread. [252696]

Mr. Iain Wright: The last major revision of Part B (Fire safety) of the Building Regulations and the supporting guidance took effect in April 2007. This included the provision of sprinkler protection in large warehouses and high rise blocks of flats. Improved guidance was also provided on the design and specification of measures such as compartment walls, cavity barriers and fire dampers which all service to restrict the spread of fire. We do not intend to revisit the provisions of Part B (Fire safety) until 2013 at the earliest.

Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of levels of migration of young people out of coastal towns; and what steps her Department has taken to mitigate the effects of this migration. [252931]

John Healey: "England's Seaside Towns: a benchmarking study", published by the Department in November 2008, includes an assessment of the demographic profile of the principal seaside towns. The report notes that the population of seaside towns is skewed towards older age groups, with a correspondingly lower proportion of working age and young people, although there are some exceptions. Most seaside towns have attracted fewer international migrant workers than the national average. No specific assessment has been made of the levels of migration of young people from coastal towns.

The Government's local area agreement framework is enabling local authorities in coastal towns and other areas, alongside key partners, to develop local solutions to the social and demographic challenges they face. This can include responding to the effects of outward migration of young people, where there are local concerns. In addition, the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration proposals for a new statutory duty on local authorities to carry out a statutory local economic assessment of their area, and to form sub regional partnerships, will empower coastal and other local authorities to drive local prosperity, regeneration and economic growth for the benefit of the local population, including young people.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards implementing the recommendations of the Communities and Local Government Committee in its report on coastal towns, that the Government undertakes further research into the challenges facing coastal communities; and what timetable she has set for undertaking research in each policy area. [253613]

Mr. Iain Wright: In response to the conclusions and recommendations made in Communities and Local Government Select Committee on coastal towns, the Department commissioned a comprehensive benchmarking study to determine the socio-economic conditions in the 37 largest seaside towns in England. This research was specifically carried out to fill the evidence gap that existed on seaside towns and will help inform future policy development in these areas.

The report was published in November 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/englishseasidetowns

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the additional £5 million in funding for local authorities, Government offices and police in support of work in schools, colleges and universities which she announced on 10 December 2008 will be allocated between the three groups in 2009-10 and 2010-11; on what basis the allocations will be made; how the effectiveness of the funding will be evaluated; and if she will make a statement. [249589]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The additional £5 million was announced in the Home Secretary's speech of 10 December at the national Prevent conference and supports activity this financial year (2008-09). The announcement relates to a joint funding package from the Home Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The funding is allocated as follows:

£1.68 million to all local authorities to help with the local roll-out of the published schools toolkit "Learning Together to be Safe". Funding levels reflect the number of schools and include a boost for those areas that receive Prevent funding to reflect the scale of the challenge.

£3 million for 24 priority police forces to work with Government offices and other partners to support Prevent work in schools and education institutions including higher and further education. The distribution of this allocation was based on the Association of Chief Police Officers guidance criteria which included an assessment of population vulnerability and evaluated intelligence.

£480,000 to buy the copyright to provide free access for schools and colleges to the Kids Taskforce's "Watch Over Me" DVD for three years supplemented by 60 training days on the product for teachers and local partners.

Any additional allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are yet to be finalised.

Government offices are providing monthly updates to the Home Office through the Government Prevent Progress tracker and the police are submitting six weekly returns to the Association of Chief Police Officers. In addition, we will conduct a 'lessons learned' exercise at the end of 2008-09 to produce a document for partners outlining the hallmarks for effective police prevent activity in the education world.

Compulsory Purchase: Travelling People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the compulsory purchase of land to provide for Traveller encampments; and what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the matter. [252751]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance on the compulsory purchase of land is contained in ODPM Circular 06/04 "Compulsory Purchase and the Crichel Down Rules". The use of compulsory purchase powers is entirely a matter for the local authority. If a local authority wished to compulsorily purchase any land, it would have to demonstrate that there is a compelling case in the public interest before any compulsory purchase order could be confirmed. This is true for the purchase of land to provide Traveller sites as in any other circumstance. Planning advice for Gypsies and Travellers is contained in ODPM Circular 1/06 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites".

Council Housing: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-decent council homes there are in Crosby constituency; and how many there were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005. [253409]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on levels of non-decency are collected at local authority level and was not collected prior to 2001. In 2001 Sefton borough council reported that 9,715 of the homes they managed failed the decent homes standard, in 2005 it was 7,500.

Council Housing: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each category of housing need were on local authority waiting lists in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [253861]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Council Tax

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to issue guidance to local authorities to prevent the incorrect issuing of court summonses for non-payment of council tax; and if she will make a statement. [251332]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 946W.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to enable people incorrectly issued with a court summons for non-payment of council tax to make a claim for compensation against the local authority which issued that summons; and if will make a statement. [252618]

John Healey: No.

Councillors: Allowances

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* other changes have been made to the rules relating to allowances and pensions for councillors since May 199 ; and what the date of each change was. [252633]

John Healey: From 1 May 2003, changes were introduced to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations which allow authorities to permit their elected members to access the local government pension scheme. The provisions were subsequently amended as follows: on 1 October 2003 by SI 2003/2240; 1 April 2004 by SI 2004/573; 10 June 2004 by SI 2004/928; 5 December 2005 by SI 2005/3069; 6 April 2006 by SI 2006/966; and 1 October 2006 by SI 2006/2008. These changes are available in a composite form at:

www.timeline.lge.gov.uk

Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that the Secretary of State may by regulation authorise or require a local authority to make a scheme of allowances for councillors. The above provision was amended by section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000, which requires local authorities to establish and have regard to the recommendations of an independent remuneration panel before making or amending their schemes of allowances. Since May 1997, the rules relating to the payment of allowances to councillors in England has been amended as follows: on 1 April 1998 by SI 1998/556; on 30 April 1999 by SI 1999/1086; on 1 April 2000 by SI 2000/622 and SI 2000/623; on 1 May 2003 by SI 2003/1021; on 31 July 2003 by SI 2003/1692 and on 3 November 2004 by SI 2004/2596.

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on departmental procurement, what the purpose of the expenditure on Info Terra Ltd was; and what goods or services were purchased. [251954]

Mr. Khan: Of the £125,409.81 paid to Info Terra Ltd in 2007-2008, £85,410.16 was made in connection with a series of contracts let by the Department to provide a digital mapping service. The remainder, £39,999.65 was paid for Phase 2 of the Green Spaces Database, which comprised web mapping, data migration and green space quality indicators.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste was produced by her Department in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such waste was recycled. [252697]

Mr. Khan: The quantity of paper, plastic and other waste, and the proportion recycled by Communities and Local Government in each of the last three years is shown in the following table:

	Central Department			*Executive Agencies*		
Tonnes of material						
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Paper[1]	132	127	263	104	104	125
Plastic	7	8	8	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other Recycled Waste	185	128	153	279	266	375
Total Recycled Waste[2]	324	264	425	383	370	500
General Waste	203	197	200	338	310	178
Total Waste	527	461	624	721	680	679
Recycled rate (percentage)	61	57	68	53	54	74

[1] The data for paper include cardboard as these materials are often mixed for recycling

[2] These data include composted material and materials separated and sent for external reuse by other organisations

Note:

These figures do not include data from the Government Offices for the Regions

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which external organisations her Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in her Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252230]

Mr. Khan: Over the last three years CLG have engaged with 13 different training providers for the Fast Stream. The full list is as follows:

Alpha, Atkins, Birkbeck University, Brunel University, Capital, Hemsley Fraser, Illumine Training, Indigo, National School of Government, Scope IXL Group, Southampton University, UCL, and Westminster Explained.

We do not centrally hold details of civil servants within the Department that have participated in provision of training for external organisations during this period. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Derelict Land

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* timetable are for the review of the brownfield designation of garden land; and if she will make a statement. [253900]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are committed to a review of the evidence on the extent of development on back gardens to establish whether or not there is a clear and genuine problem. If there is a problem, we will consider action to remedy the situation. The terms of reference for the review are due to be decided shortly and will be published.

Eco-Towns: Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* written to her Department and *(b)* used her Department's online consultation to express their views about eco-towns; and how many representations by each method have been (i) favourable and (ii) not favourable to the Government's proposals. [254129]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the first stage of consultation on "Eco-towns—living a greener future", we received over 12,000 responses, providing a wide range of views on the principles of eco-towns and the shortlisted locations. A summary report of the responses received, is available on my Department's website.

The online consultation is part of our second stage consultation, covering the draft eco-towns planning policy statement and sustainability appraisal. This began in November 2008 and runs to March 2009. A summary report of the responses and comments received will be published following the end of consultation in the usual way.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether additional funding will be provided to local authorities under the new burdens principle to meet the new statutory requirements to provide *(a)* energy performance certificates and *(b)* display energy certificates. [252786]

John Healey: Additional funding is being provided to local authorities under the new burdens principle to meet the new statutory requirements to provide energy performance certificates for their social housing only. No funding is provided for energy performance certificates for their other properties or for display of energy certificates since the new statutory requirement impacts on all sectors of the economy.

Equality: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Offices for the Regions have allocated to regional equality and diversity partnerships in 2008-09 to date. [252460]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 969W.

Fire Services: Safety

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the Fire Brigades Union on the safety of firefighters. [253557]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Member for Lientworth (John Healey) and I met with the FBU Parliamentary Group on 17 December 2008 and firefighter safety was discussed with FBU representatives. Since then I have written to the FBU General Secretary following up the publication of their report 'In the Line of Duty', which focused on this issue.

Furthermore, my officials have held positive discussions with the FBU on this issue and I will discuss the matter further with the FBU when we next routinely meet.

Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 603W, on geographical information systems, what the timetableis for a decision on implementation of a national geo-portal; and whether cadastral information will be included on it. [252742]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 603W, that a national geo-portal is being considered among the implementation options for the INSPIRE Directive. Decisions on implementation will be taken through the governance arrangements that are being established to oversee implementation of INSPIRE and the closely related UK Location Strategy[1] i.e. the Location Council. As 'cadastral parcels or equivalent' is one of the data themes in scope of INSPIRE, we are obliged to include it in the preferred option for INSPIRE implementation.

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[1] Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom was published by Communities and Location Government on the 25 November 2008. (http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1072942)

HomeBuy Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1271W, on housing: low incomes, how much of the funding for the Homebuy Direct programme will be allocated to each region of England. [252739]

Mr. Iain Wright: HomeBuy Direct is a shared equity scheme that is offered on specific new build properties bought forward by developers. These properties were selected through a competitive bidding process that concluded in December 2008. On 15 December, we announced the outcomes of this competition, including the number of properties selected for the scheme in each region and the maximum Government investment that these properties represent.

The following table sets out the maximum Government investment figures for each region. These figures are based on the Homes and Communities Agency providing a 15 per cent. equity loan on every HomeBuy Direct property in each region (not all purchasers will necessarily qualify for the maximum equity loan—this will depend on what they are able to afford). The figures are also based on current estimated open market property values.

Region	*Maximum government investment (£ million)*
East Midlands	55.1
Eastern	55.0
London	45.5
North East	39.9
North West	51.8
South East	79.2
South West	46.6
West Midlands	50.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	61.7

The division of funding shown in the table reflects the pattern of approved bids bought forward by developers. It is important to note that the actual level of Government investment in each region will depend on take-up by first time buyers, and that Government investment will be matched 'pound for pound' by the participating developers.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were sold under the social HomeBuy scheme in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each London borough in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [253569]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following tables show the number of social HomeBuy sales broken down by regions and London boroughs for each year from 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Social HomeBuy sales by regions in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

	Sales			
Region	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*Total to date*
London[2]	23	79	36	138
South Eastern	2	20	9	31

Social HomeBuy sales by regions in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

	Sales			
Region	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*Total to date*
South Western	0	2	0	2
Eastern	1	4	2	7
East Midlands	3	2	0	5
West Midlands	0	6	11	17
North East	2	7	7	16
North West	4	34	21	59
York and Humber	12	6	0	18
Total RSL sale	47	160	86	293

[1] To the end of December 2008.

[2] Figures includes seven sales in local authority sector (i.e. three sales by London borough of Southwark in 2007-08 and four sales in 2008-09, two by London borough of Southwark and two by London borough of Croydon).

Social HomeBuy sales by London boroughs in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

	Sales			
London borough	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*Total to date*
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	1	1
Barnet	0	1	0	1
Bexley	0	2	2	4
Brent	0	5	1	6
Bromley	0	5	2	7
Camden	0	0	1	1
Croydon[2]	6	4	6	16
Ealing	0	4	0	4
Enfield	0	3	0	3
Greenwich	0	5	0	5
Hackney	2	9	1	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	4	1	15
Haringey	0	2	2	4
Hillingdon	2	0	0	2
Hounslow	0	5	0	5
Islington	0	0	1	1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	8	2	13
Lambeth	0	3	1	4
Lewisham	0	2	0	2
Merton	0	1	0	1
Newham	0	3	7	10
Richmond upon Thames	0	2	0	2
Southwark[1]	0	6	4	10
Tower Hamlets	0	1	2	3
Waltham Forest	0	1	2	3
Westminster	0	3	0	3
Total	23	79	36	138

[1] To the end of December 2008.

[2] Croydon sales figure in 2008-09 include two sales by the local authority.

[1] Southwark sales figures include five sales by the authority, three in 2007-08 and two in 2008-09.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* landlords, *(b)* housing associations and *(c)* local authorities participated in the social HomeBuy scheme in (i) each region in England and (ii) each London borough in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08 and (C) 2008-09. [253570]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables have been deposited in the Library that show participating landlords in each region in England and each London borough in each year from 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed social HomeBuy sales there have been to date. [254023]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1141W.

Homelessness

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what support services are offered by her Department to help homeless people find housing; and if she will make a statement; [253405]

(2) whether the Government plan to change levels of funding for services to and support for homeless people; and if will make a statement; [253406]

(3) what steps her Department is taking to provide accommodation for homeless people. [253407]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government take all aspects of homelessness very seriously. We have allocated over £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over the next three years (2008-11) to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

Over recent months Government have announced a series of measures and new funding that will help homeowners remain in their home wherever possible. This help includes the £200 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme which should enable up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households to avoid repossession; the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme which will allow households to defer payment on their mortgage for up to two years; and substantial changes to Support for Mortgage Interest by reducing the waiting time from 39 weeks to 13 weeks, and increasing the capital limit to £200,000.

In addition, my Department has provided £2.5 million funding to the National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS) which is a partnership between Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABx) providing high quality advice on homelessness prevention through the network of participating CABx and other voluntary agencies across England. The funding will also help to strengthen NHAS responses to support those people facing repossession. This will involve training 1,000 front line advice workers in Shelter and CABx which NHAS will also roll out to local authorities.

In November 2008 we launched "No One Left Out: communities ending rough sleeping", an action plan developed with leading rough sleeping charities which uses action, advice and assistance across England to prevent the flow of people onto the streets, as well as to support those already there to get off the streets into stability. This is supported by our "Places of Change" programme which is transforming services for rough sleepers. £80 million has been provided for the period 2008-11.

The Supporting People programme provides housing-related support to the most vulnerable in society. In December 2007 we announced a further £4.9 billion funding up to 31 March 2011

Government have also provided additional funding for advice services. Last year CLG funded 40 court desks that provide free legal representation at repossession hearings and are successful in 85 per cent. of cases where people attend court. We continue to review court desk funding.

The Department also monitors local authorities' activities under the homelessness legislation.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the consistency of provision for homeless people across England. [253408]

Mr. Iain Wright: Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 provides one of the strongest safety nets in the world for families with children and vulnerable people who become homeless through no fault of their own. It provides a consistent, national statutory framework for the provision of homelessness assistance across England. The Secretary of State has issued guidance to which all local authorities in England must have regard to when exercising their functions relating to homelessness and the prevention of homelessness. Extensive data about local housing authorities' activities under the relevant legislation are collected and published quarterly. These data are monitored by a team of homelessness specialist advisers, located within the Department of Communities and Local Government, who work closely with local authorities to help them tackle and prevent homelessness effectively.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who were homeless in *(a)* the City of Southampton, *(b)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire, *(c)* Test Valley borough and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [254018]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough. Mid-year rough sleeping estimates have been published annually since 1998, and give a snapshot of the number of people sleeping rough on a single night, based on local authority street counts in those areas where there is a known or suspected rough sleeping problem.

Summary tables showing the total number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and in temporary accommodation for each year since 1997-98, and rough sleeper estimates for each year since 1998, for each local authority, were provided in the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1499-1500W, and are available in the Library.

An extract showing data for each local authority within the ceremonial county of Hampshire (which includes both Test Valley borough and Southampton city council), and England, is shown as follows:

Table A: Number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, Hampshire and England, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Basingstoke and Deane	121	126	105	77	25
East Hampshire	208	182	89	82	35
Eastleigh	119	73	70	57	63
Fareham	169	97	110	44	31
Gosport	242	258	218	173	89
Hart	53	76	[1]—	10	4
Havant	208	198	152	99	100
New Forest	161	75	86	91	80
Portsmouth	760	636	529	298	302
Rushmoor	159	98	25	25	24
Southampton	699	591	475	285	184
Test Valley	110	72	69	21	17
Winchester	54	37	[1]—	35	40
England[2]	135,430	120,860	93,980	73,360	63,170

Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of year, Hampshire and England, March 2004 to March 2008

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Basingstoke and Deane	230	137	163	134	87
East Hampshire	185	197	165	154	125
Eastleigh	54	37	43	32	26
Fareham	142	136	115	52	41
Gosport	274	391	362	317	221
Hart	52	50	19	8	5
Havant	426	395	369	278	180
New Forest	423	423	327	264	186
Portsmouth	121	134	130	109	117
Rushmoor	51	57	27	19	14
Southampton	223	232	232	189	157
Test Valley	100	93	131	83	53
Winchester	70	51	46	39	44
England[2]	97,680	101,070	96,370	87,120	77,510

[1] Data not reported by local authority

[2] National figures include estimates of missing data.

Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), Hampshire and England, 2004 to 2008

	Mid-year estimate, based on count, or zero if no problem is known or suspected				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Basingstoke and Deane	2	0	0	0	0
East Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0
Eastleigh	0	0	0	0	0
Fareham	0	0	0	0	0
Gosport	0	0	0	0	0
Hart	0	0	0	0	0
Havant	0	0	0	0	0

Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), Hampshire and England, 2004 to 2008

Mid-year estimate, based on count, or zero if no problem is known or suspected					
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
New Forest	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	0	6	0	0	0
Rushmoor	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	0	0	0	6	0
Test Valley	0	0	0	0	0
Winchester	1	0	0	0	0
England	508	459	502	498	483

Figures for acceptances and temporary accommodation at national, regional and local authority level can be found in the supplementary tables of our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter at:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

English rough sleeper estimates, by local authority, and the count guidance are published and can be found at the following web address:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/roughsleeping/

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government has spent on organisations to help the homeless in *(a)* the City of Southampton, *(b)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire, *(c)* Test Valley borough and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [254019]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two grant programmes that specifically support organisations to help the homeless. The Homelessness Grant supports all local authority homelessness strategies enabling them to tackle and prevent homelessness effectively. The Supporting People programme supports the provision of housing-related support to the most vulnerable in society.

Southampton—homelessness grant

						£
Local authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Southampton	340,000	390,000	461,000	365,000	365,000	1,921,000

Hampshire county (including Test Valley)—homelessness grant

						£
Local authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Basingstoke and Deane	40,000	40,000	65,000	86,000	31,000	262,000
East Hampshire	21,000	21,000	56,000	66,000	56,000	220,000
Eastleigh	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000	155,000
Fareham	40,000	40,000	40,000	55,000	40,000	215,000
Gosport	46,000	46,000	66,000	46,000	46,000	250,000
Hart	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000
Havant	56,000	56,000	86,000	71,000	71,000	340,000
New Forest	27,000	27,000	57,000	37,000	55,000	203,000
Rushmoor	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
Test Valley	22,000	22,000	42,000	42,000	42,000	170,000
Winchester	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	120,000
Total	393,000	393,000	553,000	554,000	492,000	2,385,000

England—Homelessness Grant

						£
	2004-05	*200-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
England (LAS only)	45,390,000	44,719,000	49,541,000	52,869,000	51,641,000	244,160,000
England (Voluntary Orgs)	14,800,000	15,000,000	18,000,000	19,500,000	17,232,000	84,532,000

Supporting People programme data is not available at a district level. The Southampton spend is for the county. Supporting People programme funding cannot be broken down prior to 2005-06 to show which funding went to which groups.

			£
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Southampton	3,964,585	3,409,052	3,009,881
Hampshire	3,867,948	3,617,572	3,629,983
England	635,006,022	299,831,816	287,878,780

Homes and Communities Agency: Costs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the cost of establishing the Homes and Communties Agency. [252493]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1265W. The estimate for the set-up costs remains at £20 million.

Homes and Communities Agency: Operating Costs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost of running the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is in its first year of operation; and which funding elements and streams are being incorporated into the HCA. [252486]

Margaret Beckett: In agreement with Her Majesty's Treasury, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) budgets for 2008-09 have been agreed on merger accounting principles. This means that the HCA is deemed to have existed since 1 April 2008 and full 2008-09 budgets have been set.

The planned full year running costs budget for the HCA in 2008-09 is £86 million, with an additional £4 million being provided to the HCA for transitional costs. This figure has been reduced from the £99 million that was quoted to the hon. Gentleman in an earlier written answer, *Official Report*, column 1265W on 30 October 2008. That response was during the set-up phase of the HCA and of necessity included best estimates of potential running costs which have been revised now that the HCA is in operation.

The elements and funding streams incorporated into the HCA are those that were formerly functions of English Partnerships, the investment function of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. In addition, a range of programmes that were formerly carried out by my Department have been transferred to the HCA for delivery, including the Growth Fund (excluding that element for the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation), the Community Infrastructure Fund, Housing Market Renewal pathfinders, the Gypsies and Travellers site-specific grant, the Places of Change programme, the Decent Homes initiative and the Thames Gateway.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1270W, on housing: low incomes, what the timetable for all social housing stock to be recorded on the National Register of Social Housing is; and whether it is mandatory for *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations to provide property information for the Register. [252212]

Mr. Iain Wright: The targets for provision of data to the National Register of Social Housing (NROSH) are phased. The first target is for those local authorities that still own social housing and large housing associations to provide a list of their social housing together with confirmation of ownership and manager by 31 March 2009.

The second target is to provide additional priority attribute data by 31 March 2010. Small housing associations have until 31 March 2010 to provide both the list of dwellings and the priority attributes.

Participation is not currently mandatory. Communities and Local Government and the Tenant Services Authority have a good relationship with local authorities and housing associations and are working closely with them to achieve the targets. NROSH will deliver a step change in the evidence base for social housing as well as reducing the burden of data provision. Data providers are encouraged to provide data as soon as they are able so that the benefits for all can begin to be realised.

Housing: Standards

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the progress made in meeting the targets for decent homes; whether she expects the 2010 target to be met in respect of *(a)* Waltham Forest and *(b)* Redbridge; and if she will make a statement. [247982]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 28 November 2008 the Department's autumn performance report was published which set out the progress on delivering decent homes. It recorded that the latest figures reported by landlords show that 22 per cent. of their stock was non decent as at 1 April 2007, compared with 26 per cent. in 2006.

Ascham Homes manages the London borough of Waltham Forest's housing stock.

Ascham Homes expect to complete their decent homes programme in 2011-12.

Redbridge Homes manages the London borough of Redbridge's housing stock once it passes an inspection currently scheduled for February 2009 it will be able to access funding to deliver decent homes. If successful, Redbridge Homes expects to complete its decent homes programme by 2012-13 but 89 per cent. of their homes will be decent by 2010-11.

Local Government Finance: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of day visitors on levels of expenditure by local authorities containing coastal towns. [252930]

John Healey: A measure of the number of day visitors to an authority is taken into account in the relative needs formulae for both highways maintenance and environmental, protective and cultural services used in the distribution of formula grant to local authorities.

Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant which means that local authorities decide how they allocate this grant across the services that they provide.

Local Government Statistics Data Upload

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* statistics and *(b)* other data in respect of 2008-09 local authorities are required to submit to her Department using the Local Government Statistics Data Upload facility. [251912]

Mr. Khan: The contract referred to relates to an annual upload of performance only data onto the Best Value Performance Indicators website. Local authorities did not upload to the website directly. The BVPI website closed down last April but the data are publicly available on the Audit Commission website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance

Local Government: Bank Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her latest estimate is of the length of time which will elapse before local authorities with deposits in Icelandic banks will receive compensation; and what assessment has been made of the financial effects on those authorities of the lack of interest being received on those deposits; [252748]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect on local authority budgets of lower rates of return as a result of local authorities placing money in very low-risk deposits following the Icelandic banking crisis. [252749]

John Healey: HM Treasury is continuing to work closely with the Icelandic Authorities to ensure fair treatment for all UK depositors and creditors. The Local Government Association are co-ordinating activity on behalf of local authorities, and local authorities are representing themselves at creditors meetings.

Under the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions, and we have not made an assessment of the financial effect on local authorities of the loss of interest from Icelandic investments, or of lower rates of return from their investments. The Department's guidance on local government investments is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

The first-ever three-year settlement has given authorities the flexibility and stability they need to manage their budgets effectively.

Local Government: Conditions of Employment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to give time for local authority staff to undertake work for their trade union which is *(a)* unpaid and *(b)* paid for by the local authority. [252725]

John Healey: Local government employers are required to follow Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) guidance, under section 199 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

More information can be found at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/TradeUnions/DG_10027556

Local Government: Cornwall

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons local elections in Cornwall will take place in October 2009; what the estimated additional cost is of not holding them at the same time as the June 2009 elections; and who will pay that cost. [252793]

John Healey: Following the coming into force of the Local Elections (Ordinary Day of Elections in 2009) Order, the 2009 local elections in Cornwall are scheduled to be held on 4 June. However, as explained in my answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 November 2008, *Official Record*, column 771W, I was minded to defer the Cornwall local elections to the end of October 2009 as the Boundary Committee had failed to complete their review of electoral arrangements in Cornwall, and that before taking any decision to defer I would take soundings and consult those in Cornwall. That soundings exercise ended on 30 January and having regard to comments and representations received, I shall shortly decide whether to defer the Cornwall local elections.

Local Government: Mortgages

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities offer mortgage facilities for home buyers. [253221]

Margaret Beckett: We do not directly hold all such information. It is for local authorities to decide whether to exercise the power to provide mortgages.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the compatibility of the introduction of unitary local government without local referendums with Article 5 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. [252728]

John Healey: We are satisfied that the introduction of the new unitary councils, following proposals from locally accountable councils, stakeholder consultations, and parliamentary approval, is compatible with Article 5 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government which contains no requirements about local referendums.

Local Government: Translation Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with local authorities on the provision of local authority documents and other publications in translation. [253704]

Mr. Khan: Since publishing Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications, the Secretary of State has had no discussions with local authorities about the translation of their publications.

Lord Taylor of Blackburn

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have received any representations from Lord Taylor of Blackburn in the last 12 months. [253444]

Mr. Khan: After the Secretary of State issued her decision to refuse planning permission for development of a natural gas storage facility at Preesall Saltfield, Fleetwood, Lancashire on 16 October 2007, Lord Taylor of Blackburn asked my noble Friend Baroness Andrews whether representatives of Canatxx Ltd could meet officials. Representatives of Canatxx met policy officials on 6 December 2007 to discuss general policy on gas storage facilities.

In the summer of 2008 Lord Taylor of Blackburn requested information from my noble Friend Baroness Andrews about Newark as a growth point and related planning cases.

Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber: Lloyds TSB

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber had on *(a)* 4 November 2008 with the Chairman of Lloyds TSB and *(b)* 17 November 2008 with the Yorkshire and Humber Economic Delivery Group; [248890]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meetings between the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber of *(a)* 8 December 2008 with the Yorkshire and Humber Delivery Development Group and *(b)* 15 December 2008 with Lloyds TSB. [250410]

Mr. Khan *[holding answers 19 and 22 January 2009]*: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose minutes of such meetings.

Minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Economic Delivery Group can be found on the Government office website at:

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goy/ourregion/RegionalMinisters/776439/

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* average number of households which will receive support each year from the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in each of the next three years. [251772]

Margaret Beckett: The Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme is a consumer and lender-led scheme, supported by a Government guarantee. The Government want to see this scheme provide incentives for lenders to help as many struggling homeowners as possible. We will publish a full impact assessment when the scheme description has been finalised.

As part of a wider package of real help for homeowners, this scheme should enable ordinary hard-working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years.

Homeowners remain responsible for repaying the mortgage in the long term but the scheme will result in more affordable monthly payments. This will give them the breathing space they need to get their finances back on track, and help ensure they can stay in their homes.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which banks and building societies have agreed to participate in the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; and on what dates each agreed to do so. [253879]

Margaret Beckett: The country's eight largest lenders—HBOS, Nationwide, Abbey, Lloyds TSB, Northern Rock, Barclays, RBS and HSBC—representing 70 per cent. of mortgage lending, agreed in principle to support the new Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme prior to the Prime Minister's announcement on 3 December.

The scheme should enable ordinary hard-working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years.

Government are now working with a wider group of lenders to finalise the scheme design and agree implementation plans.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the new empty property business rates regime on rates of conversion of empty agricultural properties into business use. [252628]

John Healey: There has not been a specific assessment of the impact of empty property rates on the conversion of empty agricultural properties into business use. However, an impact assessment detailing the impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—Number: 386.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 949W, on empty property, which local authorities have sent back completed forms on empty property business rates; [252714]

(2) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1142-3W, on empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the responses to the requests for information made in June and September. [252796]

John Healey: The Government are compiling information on the possible avoidance of empty property rates over the course of the first year of the reforms, and we will set out in an appropriate form our general findings in due course.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of each response to Modernising Empty Property Relief—A Consultation Paper. [252726]

John Healey: I have placed a copy in the Library of the summary of the consultation responses to Modernising Empty Property Relief—A Consultation Paper.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether transitional relief will apply in cases of non-domestic dwellings for which empty property business rates are paid following the 2010 revaluation. [252733]

John Healey: There will be a consultation on the transitional relief scheme for the 2010 revaluation later this year. We have consulted on a transitional relief scheme for the previous ratings lists.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether supplementary business rates will apply to dwellings for which empty property business rates are paid. [252734]

John Healey: Business rates are not payable on domestic dwellings, unless they are occupied for both domestic and non-domestic purposes and have been assessed by the Valuation Office Agency for both council tax and business rates purposes.

Clause 11 of the Business Rate Supplements Bill, published in December 2008, provides that the decision to levy a BRS on empty non-domestic properties will be left to the discretion of the levying authority.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the responsibilities of local authorities are in respect of meeting the costs of hardship rate relief under section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. [252752]

John Healey: A local authority has to fund 25 per cent. of any hardship relief given.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on non-domestic rates: valuations, what the *(a)* description and *(b)* unique identifier given to each sub-location is in each billing authority area. [252736]

John Healey: Sub-location codes and associated descriptions are not maintained in available listings. The cost of extracting the requested data would be disproportionate.

Ordnance Survey: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on Ordnance Survey: databases, if she will place in the Library copies of the promotional brochures for each of the Ordnance Survey products listed. [251967]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have today arranged for promotional materials for Ordnance Survey products OS MasterMap® Topography Layer, OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2, OS MasterMap® Integrated Transport Layer, OS MasterMap® Imagery Layer, Land-Form PROFILE® Plus, Code-Point® with Polygons and Boundary-Line™ to be placed in the Library.

Ordnance Survey is not actively marketing ADDRESS-POINT® or OS MasterMap® Address Layer, and has therefore not issued promotional material for these products during 2007-08.

Ordnance Survey has not produced promotional material in the year 2007-08 for 1:10 000 Scale Raster, 1:50 000 Colour Raster or 1:250 000 Colour Raster. The current policy is to promote these products via the Ordnance Survey website:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Planning Permission: Hammersmith and Fulham

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the representation to her Department made by the hon. Member for Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush (Mr. Slaughter) in relation to the planning application for the Gate Hotel, Olympia. [252747]

Mr. Iain Wright: There has been no written representation from my hon. Friend. The Government Office for London had a telephone representation from my hon. Friend stating that he was concerned about the application. The deputy leader of the Hammersmith and Fulham labour group, Councillor Cartwright subsequently wrote requesting call-in, stating that this had the support of my hon. Friend.

Planning Permission: Inland Waterways

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue planning guidelines relating to residential moorings; and if she will make a statement. [253074]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no current plans to issue planning guidelines for residential moorings. Planning decisions on the provision of residential moorings are better taken locally after careful consideration of local circumstances, having regard to any relevant policies in the local development plan.

Property Development: Floods

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings have been built in areas designated as being at high flood risk in each Government Office region in each year since 1997. [252286]

Mr. Iain Wright: Between 1997 and 2007 an estimated 151,900 dwellings were built in areas of high flood risk, less than 10 per cent. of the total number of homes completed in England in that period. The following table gives a breakdown by year and region over that time. These figures have been estimated by applying the proportion of all new dwellings built in areas of high flood risk, as recorded by Land Use Change Statistics, to the published total number of house building completions. These estimates are not precise, and have therefore been rounded to the nearest 100 dwellings.

Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 251 gives a regional breakdown of the percentage of all new dwellings that were built in areas of high flood risk. The table can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Housing Live Table 217 gives the number of permanent dwellings started and completed, by region and quarter. The table can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

High flood risk areas account for about 10 per cent. of land in England.

Planning policy on development and flood risk was strengthened in 2006 with the publication of Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), reflecting the importance of avoiding and managing flood risk in the location of new development. The Government's policy is to avoid inappropriate development in areas of risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. However it is not always possible to find a location at low flood risk. In parts of the country where virtually all land is within high flood risk areas and there are few, if any, low risk sites for development PPS25 imposes new requirements on planners to show that the need for development outweighs the flood risk, and to ensure that homes that have to be built in higher risk areas are safe and less susceptible to flood damage.

Number of dwellings built in flood risk areas: 1997-2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*1997-2007*
North East	200	100	100	0	100	100	200	100	100	100	200	1,500
North West	1,000	1,200	800	1,100	1,400	1,100	1,400	1,000	900	1,200	1,100	12,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,700	800	1,300	1,700	1,500	1,400	2,000	1,300	1,600	2,300	3,200	19,100
East Midlands	1,600	900	1,200	1,500	1,500	2,100	1,900	1,700	1,700	2,300	2,400	18,700
West Midlands	600	800	800	400	500	900	400	700	600	600	500	6,900
East of England	1,500	1,100	1,300	1,100	900	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,900	2,100	1,700	15,800
London	3,400	3,500	3,200	3,000	2,900	3,200	4,700	6,600	3,100	3,600	4,100	41,300
South East	1,800	1,900	2,000	1,900	1,800	1,600	2,100	1,800	1,900	2,300	1,800	21,100
South West	1,700	1,000	1,400	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,500	1,300	1,400	1,600	1,200	15,500
England	13,500	11,400	12,300	12,000	12,100	13,400	15,600	15,900	13,300	16,400	16,200	151,900

Notes:

1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.
2. The data in the table are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2008, consistent with the October 2008 update of LUCS.
3. Figures may not add up due to rounding.
4. The definition of high flood risk areas used by Communities and Local Government is the high risk zone mapped by the Environment Agency as being at a probability of flooding, excluding the presence of flood defences, of at least one in one hundred each year for river flooding and at least one in 200 for coastal flooding. High flood risk areas account for about 10 per cent. of land in England: including parts of major cities such as London.

Public Buildings: Fire Prevention

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of public buildings, schools and social housing which have been equipped with a fire safety water sprinkler system; and if she will make a statement. [253746]

Mr. Khan: This information is not currently held centrally and thus could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regeneration: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which wards and programmes within Sefton have received funding from the Government Office for the North West programmes for *(a)* capital investment in housing, *(b)* major repairs allowance, *(c)* disabled facilities grants, *(d)* the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Community Empowerment Fund, *(e)* Community Learning Chest, *(f)* the Objective 1 Programme, *(g)* the Community Champions Fund, *(h)* UK Online, *(i)* Connexions, *(j)* Children and Young People, *(k)* drug and alcohol training, *(l)* Lifelong Learning Partnerships, *(m)* renewable energy, *(n)* Mersey Basin Campaign, *(o)* building safer communities, *(p)* Wardens Scheme, *(q)* small retailer in deprived areas, *(r)* Partnership Support Development, *(s)* CCTV, *(t)* Partnership Support Programme, *(u)* Target Policing Initiative, *(v)* prostitution and *(w)* violence against women. [253342]

Mr. Khan: Where Government funding is paid to the local authority decisions on how this funding is, or has been distributed within the authority in the past, are made locally. Information on expenditure at ward level is therefore not readily available. Some of the information requested relates to funding programmes which no longer exist, and for which information cannot readily be obtained.

A number of funding streams as follows now form part of the area based grant which has been paid to local authorities since April 2008. Local areas have discretion to use this funding as they see fit to support delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their area, including the achievement of LAA targets. Sefton has received the following funding in 2008-09:

(a) Capital investment in housing—£4,455,000.

(b) Major Repairs Allowance—nil.

(c) Disabled Facilities Grant—£964,000.

(d) Working Neighbourhoods Fund—£6,225,786—included within the area based grant. The Community Empowerment Fund is now discontinued.

(e) The Community Learning Chest is now discontinued.

(f) Information is not held on levels of European funding at ward level. As the objective 1 programme is Merseyside-wide in scope, a substantial amount of programme-funded activity will be delivered by organisations that have a pan-Merseyside remit. A project based on one particular area will therefore draw beneficiaries and spend money outside its immediate locality. However Sefton will benefit from the £920 million which has been invested through objective 1 since the programme's outset.

(g) The Community Champions Fund is now discontinued.

(h) UK Online is now discontinued.

(i) Connexions—£2,883,000—included within the area based grant.

(j) The Department for Children, Schools and Families administers a number of grants which are now paid as part of the area based grant as follows:

Grants administered by Department for Children, Schools and Families	*£*
School Development Grant	2,430,237
Extended Schools Start-Up Grants	523,887
Primary National Strategy—Central Co-ordination	138,565

Grants administered by Department for Children, Schools and Families	£
Secondary National Strategy—Central Co-ordination	182,536
Secondary National Strategy—Behaviour and Attendance	66,300
School Improvement Partners	126,280
Educational Health Partnerships	93,065
School Travel Advisors	35,000
Choice Advisors	33,418
School Intervention Grant	70,600
14-19 Flexible Funding Pot	88,694
Sustainable Travel—General Duty	21,402
Extended Rights to Free Transport	25,115
Childrens Fund	789,660
Childrens Trust Fund	4,883
Positive Activities for Young People	289,101
Teenage Pregnancy	130,000
Childrens Social Care Workforce	94,528
Care Matters White Paper	180,652
Child Death Review Processes	37,425
Young People's Substance Misuse	38,896
Preventing Violence and Extremism Toolkit	8,000

(k) The Drug and Alcohol Training Programme is now amalgamated within the Connexions Programme.

(l) Lifelong Learning Partnerships is now administered by the Learning and Skills Council.

(m) The Government office for the north-west administers no funding for renewable energy.

(n) Details on funding for Sefton are not held by the Mersey Basin Campaign.

(o) The Building Safer Communities Programme has now been amalgamated within the Safer Stronger Communities Fund for which Sefton has been allocated £681,316 as part of the area based grant.

(p) The Wardens Scheme is now discontinued.

(q) The Small Retailer in Deprived Areas Programme is now discontinued.

(r) Partnership Support Development is now discontinued.

(s) The CCTV Initiative is now discontinued.

(t) The Partnership Support Programme is now discontinued.

(u) The Target Policing Initiative is now discontinued.

(v) The Government office for the north-west administers no funds in respect of prostitution.

(w) The Violence Against Women programme is now discontinued, but Sefton has been allocated £20,000 this year in respect of independent domestic violence advisers.

Regional Planning and Development: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* sites and *(b)* hectares of land were (i) available and (ii) potentially suitable for development in Castle Point constituency at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [250053]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State for Communities does not hold information for how many sites and hectares of land were available and potentially suitable for development in the Castle Point constituency. This information would be available from the local authority.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister is responsible for overseeing the progress of the south-west regional spatial strategy. [253652]

Mr. Iain Wright: The decision-making Minister with responsibility for overseeing the progress of the south-west regional spatial strategy is Baroness Andrews.

Rented Housing: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families in Hampshire were tenants of *(a)* council, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* privately-owned accommodation allocated by local authorities (i) in 2006-07, (ii) in 2007-08 and (iii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [251094]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is collected at household level rather than by family. Local authorities in England report information for numbers of local authority owned (council) dwellings as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns.

Table 1 as follows provides estimates for numbers of local authority owned dwellings in Hampshire for (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. The most recent figures are fof 2008.

Table 1: Local authority stock by Hampshire district (at 1 April)

Local authority	*2007*	*2008*
Basingstoke and Deane	0	0
East Hampshire	0	0
Eastleigh	0	0
Fareham	2,309	2,377
Gosport	3,259	3,249
Hart	1	1
Havant	5,040	5,040
New Forest	4,982	4,971
Rushmoor	0	0
Test Valley	0	0
Winchester	5,114	5,269
Hampshire	20,705	20,907

Further information on the number of local authority owned (council) dwellings for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)". This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

This information is also published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116. Copies of the statistical release and live table have already been deposited in the Library.

Information for the number of dwellings owned by housing associations has been collected by the Tenants Service Authority (formerly the Housing Corporation), via their annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR). Table 2 as follows provides estimates for numbers of

Registered Social Landlord (RSL) owned dwellings in Hampshire for (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. The most recent figures are for 2008.

Table 2: Registered social landlord owned stock by Hampshire district (at 31 March)

Local authority	*2007*	*2008*
Basingstoke and Deane	12,128	12,041
East Hampshire	5,326	5,350
Eastleigh	6,110	6,151
Fareham	1,102	1,230
Gosport	2,371	2,401
Hart	2,731	2,728
Havant	4,841	4,901
New Forest	2,851	2,900
Rushmoor	5,800	5,855
Test Valley	6,637	6,724
Winchester	2,119	2,195
Hampshire	52,016	52,554

Information for households housed in privately owned accommodation allocated by local authorities is not collected centrally.

Lettings Market: South West

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of trends in the *(a)* residential and *(b)* business lettings market in South West England. [253433]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on residential and business lettings is not available. However, estimates of the total number of households in private rented accommodation in South West England from 2003 to 2008 are set out in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

Private rented households in the Government Office Region for the South West, 2003 to 2008

	Number of households (thousand)
2003	288
2004	283
2005	279
2006	278
2007	295
2008	305

Source:
ONS, Labour Force Survey

Rising to the Challenge

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response she plans to make to the Audit Commission's recent report Rising to the Challenge. [253475]

Mr. Khan: The Government welcomed the Audit Commission's report when it was published last month. We supported the Commission's main findings and agreed there was more to be done to achieve efficiency savings on top of the £197.3 million the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) made between 2004 and 2008 against a target of £105 million.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will work with the FRS and other stakeholders to address the performance issues identified by the Commission. The Fire and Rescue National Framework, published last year, already seeks delivery of a challenging efficiency target and improved performance on equality and diversity by the FRS and we are working with the service to deliver these objectives.

Of the points which the Commission addressed specifically to central Government, we are already taking action on its recommendations that we should:

actively publicise those FRSs delivering all elements of modernisation, including efficiency, and encourage those with furthest to travel;

implement agreed proposals for developing operational guidance with the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor and other stakeholders;

advocate the role the fire service can play in achieving community outcomes to other services;

publish data on efficiency savings by FRSs;

provide leadership and guidance on equality and diversity issues and the development of an organisational culture that embraces equality and diversity.

We are considering appropriate further action, including the Commission's recommendation that we should:

review the role of regional management boards and their place in the improvement infrastructure; then define and communicate its expectations of them and their potential value to FRAS.

Social Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vulnerable *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been placed out-of-area in each year since 2005; and which were the most common destinations for such placements in each year. [253614]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (i.e. including dependent children, an expectant mother, or someone who is vulnerable in some way), and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Data collected include the number of households living in temporary accommodation pursuant to a homelessness duty at the end of each quarter, and the number of these where the accommodation was located outside the district of the placing local authority. The figures reported by each authority over the last three years, as at the last day of each year, are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library. These data are available at household level only — the number of adults and children living in temporary accommodation located outside the placing district is not held centrally.

Information on the location of temporary accommodation provided outside the placing authority's district is also not held centrally.

Supporting People Programme

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received on the future of the Supporting People initiative. [250476]

Mr. Iain Wright: The decision about the future of the Supporting People programme that was announced on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 90WS, was made following the evaluation of a pilot process with fifteen Pathfinder local authorities and also took into account consultation with a range of partners. This consultation included discussions at the Supporting People Sounding Board and Expert Reference Group and specific conversations with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

In addition to discussions at conferences and stakeholder groups since the Pathfinder process was announced in 2007, the views of a small sample of service users were also submitted and those of more than 400 Supporting People provider organisations were captured in an independent survey and report. A summary of this report can be found on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/changingsupportingpeoplefunding

The Department also received and considered written submissions from:

Sitra (an umbrella body for providers of supported housing)

Homeless Link

The National Housing Federation

Special Needs Housing Association Group

Tenants Rights

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been made in the county courts in relation to tenancy deposit protection; and how many such applications resulted in fines in each of the last 12 months. [253280]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold any statistical information about county court applications relating specifically to tenancy deposit protection.

This is because the administrative computer systems used in the county courts do not presently identify this specific application type. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types of claims issued. Changing the administrative systems to create a specific case type for tenancy deposit protection cases would incur disproportionate cost.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the Thames Gateway implementation planning baselines for delivery partners for 2008-11. [252296]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1241W.

Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been *(a)* made and *(b)* approved relating to energy from waste infrastructure; how many structures have been built consequentially; and if she will make a statement. [253290]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government collects statistics for the number of planning applications which have been made and approved for 'incineration with energy recovery' waste facilities. However, the applications approved in any particular year are not necessarily the same facilities for which applications were made in that year. The information is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Applications made*	*Applications approved*
2000-01	11	11
2001-02	11	5
2002-03	7	6
2003-04	5	5
2004-05	5	5
2005-06	8	8
2006-07	13	12
2007-08	5	5

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns, CPS1/2

Communities and Local Government does not hold details on whether these facilities have been subsequently built or brought into operation.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many pupils from schools in Blackpool South constituency went on to higher education in years *(a)* 1992 to 1997, *(b)* 1997 to 2002 and *(c)* 2002 to 2007. [253968]

Mr. Lammy: The available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the following table. Figures on entrants for 2007/08 were released on 29th January 2009. The figures show the number of school pupils from the Blackpool South constituency who entered higher education aged 18 or 19 in 1997/98 to 2007/08.

Number of entrants[1 2 3] aged 18 or 19 to undergraduate courses in UK higher education institutions from the parliamentary constituency of Blackpool South, 1997/98 to 2007/08—figures as at 1 December (snapshot)

Academic year	*Number of children entering higher education aged 18 or 19*
2007-08	195
2006-07	210
2005-06	235
2004-05	210
2003-04	215
2002-03	230
2001-02	230
2000-01	210
1999-2000	200

Number of entrants[1,2,3] aged 18 or 19 to undergraduate courses in UK higher education institutions from the parliamentary constituency of Blackpool South, 1997/98 to 2007/08—figures as at 1 December (snapshot)

Academic year	*Number of children entering higher education aged 18 or 19*
1998-99	200
1997-98	190

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five. Includes full and part-time students.

[2] Excludes students at Open University.

[3] Students have been allocated to the Blackpool South constituency based on the home postcode reference recorded on the HESA student record. Some of these pupils may not have attended Blackpool South schools.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record

Students: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Government allocated to the student hardship fund in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [254121]

Mr. Lammy: The Access to Learning Fund (ALF) is a discretionary fund that provides additional support for higher education students in financial hardship. ALF is administered by higher education institutions following guidance issued by the Department. Individual institutions make their own decisions on how best to target their allocation, taking into account their student population and their knowledge of local circumstances.

The following table shows how much funding was allocated to ALF over the past four academic years.

Academic year	*Amount allocated to ALF (£ million)*
2005-06	64.8
2006-07	64.1
2007-08	56.1
2008-09	49.9

The reductions in the ALF budget should be viewed in the context of improved statutory support for students.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact of next generation broadband on the quality of broadband service available to *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban communities; and if he will make a statement. [246809]

Mr. McFadden: The Government fully recognise that next generation broadband could have a substantial beneficial impact on both rural and urban communities and economy. We will be examining the question of universality of broadband and options for maximising participation across the UK, as well as the importance of encouraging investment in next generation broadband as part of the Digital Britain Report. There will be an interim report in January, with the full report in late spring.

Ofcom is currently consulting on the appropriate regulatory environment to help support investment in super-fast broadband services, while still promoting competition. It is only by achieving both that consumers will truly benefit from the services these new networks can deliver.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's staff provided support to the Caio Review. [248896]

Mr. McFadden: This Department provided three permanent members of staff to support the review and one temporary member of staff.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the number of households which do not have access to broadband internet because *(a)* local exchanges have not been enabled and *(b)* shared line devices prevent a broadband connection. [249012]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no recent estimates, but BT has enabled exchanges that connect to over 99 per cent. of households. Satellite also provides nationwide geographical coverage.

A shared line device does not necessarily prevent a broadband service, but it is not possible to know this until an order for broadband has been placed and the line tested. BT is also currently working to reduce the number of shared line devices on their network.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households that do not have access to broadband internet in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249637]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has commissioned to compare the extent of broadband internet provision with that of other EU states. [249722]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not recently commissioned a comparison of broadband internet provision with that of other EU states. To avoid duplication and for reasons of efficiency the Department uses existing resources such as Ofcom's international market reports and other non paid for sources to make international comparisons.

Business for New Europe

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department or its predecessor have had discussions with Business for New Europe on European matters. [243106]

Mr. Thomas: BERR and its predecessor DTI Ministers and officials have cooperated and engaged with Business for New Europe (BNE), along with other organisations interested in the EU, on events related to EU policy. Similarly officials have had regular discussions with members of the BNE secretariat in preparation for these events. The attached list at Annex A gives further details of BERR events or ministerial meetings involving BNE since 1 January 2007.

ANNEX A

11 September 2007: the BERR Secretary of State (John Hutton) had an introductory meeting with BNE members

19 December 2007: John Hutton attended a BNE breakfast event on Europe

14 January 2008: The BERR/FCO "Business Priorities for a Global Europe" Conference was organised in cooperation with BNE, with Roland Rudd chairing the event and BERR Secretary of State John Hutton was one of the speakers.

7 May 2008: BERR Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Shriti Vadera spoke at BNE Enlargement Seminar

17 June 2008: John Hutton attended a dinner with BNE members

8 December 2008: The Global Europe Business Summit was attended by BERR Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Shriti Vadera and Roland Rudd was one of the business participants (representing BNE)

10 December 2008: Lord Mandelson had a breakfast meeting with Roland Rudd and several BNE company members to discuss EU economic reform issues

17 December 2008: Lord Mandelson had a second breakfast meeting with Roland Rudd and several other BNE company members to discuss EU economic reform issues

Business: Government Assistance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the merits of providing financial support to companies with an established record of operating in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [252567]

Ian Pearson: Government financial support is available to businesses in the UK irrespective of whether they are ultimately UK-owned or foreign-owned.

Conditions of Employment: Surrogate Parenthood

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to extend maternity leave and employment protection rights afforded to parents to surrogate parents. [250678]

Mr. McFadden: The rights to maternity leave and pay were introduced as a measure to enable women to take time off at the end of pregnancy and after birth to protect their health and safety and that of their children.

The Government have considered rights for surrogate parents from time to time. The need to keep the various leave and pay provisions as straightforward as possible for employers to manage, and ensure that the qualifying conditions reflect the policy rationale for the entitlement in the first place, inevitably mean that certain groups are not covered.

Parents who have a child through a surrogacy arrangement are able to benefit from many of the rights the Government have put in place to support working parents. This includes the right to parental leave, to time off for dependants and the right to request a flexible working pattern. The father of a child born through a surrogacy arrangement and who fulfils the normal eligibility criteria will be able to take two weeks' paid paternity leave.

Cox Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many staff from his Department have provided support for the Creative Britain Review; [248894]

(2) what expenditure his Department incurred in relation to the Creative Britain Review. [248895]

Mr. McFadden: The Creative Britain report was published in February 2008 by this Department and the Departments of Culture Media and Sport and Innovation Universities and Skills. In the year leading up to publication, the equivalent of one full time staff member was provided by this Department. BERR's contribution to the report's publication cost was £30,000.

Debts

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of individuals subject to and *(b)* failing to meet the terms of debt management plans in each of the last four years; [244420]

(2) what representations from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses his Department has received regarding the working and effectiveness of debt management plans in the last year; [244421]

(3) what recent representations his Department has received from individuals and organisations on the regulation of debt management plans; and if he will make a statement. [244422]

Mr. Thomas: As noted in my earlier written reply to the hon. Member on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column reference 425W; because a debt management plan (DMP) is an informal agreement between a debtor and his creditors there is no official estimate of their numbers. The only representations received regarding the working and effectiveness of DMPs have concentrated on whether some debtors would be better placed in individual voluntary arrangements rather than DMPs.

Departmental Billing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on paying supplier invoices within 10 days; and how many and what proportion of such invoices to his Department were settled within 10 days in the last 12 months. [250876]

Mr. McFadden: BERR's policy is to make all payments within 10 days, in line with the PM's commitment of 8 October 2008.

During November and December 2008, the first two months of formally recording performance against the new 10-day target and in advance of new guidance to suppliers being fully embedded, BERR paid 93.1 per cent. (2,205 invoices) and 96.9 per cent. (2,112 invoices) of invoices within 10 working days respectively.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each of those suppliers in each year. [248090]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 January 2009]*: Over the last three years this Department has a recorded spend of approximately £1.2 million each year on refreshments for official meetings and engagements. This spend was made through the Department's contracted service provider, Baxter Storey. It is not possible to separate food and drink spending.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the 10 highest payments made by his Department in settlement of property compensation cases brought against it in respect of which legal proceedings have been concluded were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by his Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [248873]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform settled five property compensation cases in the last 12 months, none of which were contested.

1. £110.78 cost of replacing a suitcase badly damaged during transit between official overseas visits.
2. £60.00 insurance excess paid as a result of damage to car being used on official business.
3. £50.00 cost of replacing clothing damage.
4. £43.27 cost of goods required for official stopover in excess of 24 hours when luggage had already been checked on to a flight to Houston.
5. £29.00 cost of replacing a rucksack badly damaged by excess weight and size of official papers on return from overseas posting.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on departmental personnel, how many staff without posts there were in his Department at the latest date for which figures are available; how many such staff were classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [250101]

Mr. McFadden: As at 1 January 2009, there were seven staff without posts; none was classified as such upon return from maternity leave. Fewer than five people fall into the remaining categories and precise numbers are not available for reasons of confidentiality.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to the public purse of hotel accommodation for *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* his special advisers was for the three day tour that was undertaken between 7 and 9 January 2009; and which hotels (i) he and (ii) his special advisers stayed in during the tour. [2479[illegible]]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State stayed overnight in Manchester on 7 January in order to host a business breakfast on 8 January. The hotel and accommodation costs were arranged by the agency which deals with overnight accommodation for BERR. My noble Friend, the Secretary of State was not accompanied by a special adviser.

Departmental Public Service Agreements

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of expenditure on CSR 2007 Public Service Agreement 1, Raising the Productivity of the UK Economy, in *(a)* the core Department and *(b)* those non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible. [242281]

Mr. McFadden: We do not hold this information centrally. In accordance with HM Treasury's financial reporting manual, Government Departments set out their accounts with departmental spend broken down by departmental strategic objectives (DSOs) rather than public service agreement (PSA) outcome.

As PSA 1 is cross-departmental—requiring the work of a number of Departments to contribute towards its achievement—the costs are spread across a variety of Government programmes. As our understanding of the drivers of productivity evolve alongside our understanding of the current global economic climate, the composition of the programmes involved in the PSA's delivery are subject to change. Consequently, Government expenditure is managed at DSO rather than PSA level.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department on temporary staff in each year since it was established. [251483]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 906W to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid work experience or internship placements and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each year since its establishment; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242125]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform participates annually in the Cabinet Office Diversity Internship Programme for undergraduates and graduates in education from ethnic minority backgrounds who are under represented in the civil service. The scheme provides an eight week paid placement scheme for students who are considering the civil service as future career.

Based on the information available from 2003 to 2008, a total of 30 students have been placed in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (and its predecessor the Department of Trade and Industry) as part of the scheme. Each student worked full-time on a variety of administrative tasks and all completed an eight week placement. On average, each person received £285.00 per week remuneration.

(b) This information for this section is not collected centrally and would involve disproportionate cost to provide.

EU Recovery Plan

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the provisions of the European Commission's EU Recovery Plan; and if he will make a statement. [241326]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government welcome the European Economic Recovery Plan published by the European Commission. The UK Government have announced measures to directly tackle the slowdown in the UK economy but it is important to have a co-ordinated response from all member states.

The provisions of the recovery plan, worth €200 billion (1.5 per cent. of EU GDP), should limit the scale of the economic downturn that is currently being experienced and avoid the downward spiral effect that may materialise from falling demand. The money will be used to target different priority areas, including job training, investment in research and technology and investment in energy infrastructure. The fiscal stimulus combined with proposals designed to speed up the structural reforms under the Lisbon Growth and Jobs Strategy will improve the long-term competitiveness of Europe. For instance, the importance of continuing to invest in research and development is recognised in the recovery plan, providing a platform for the long-term on which Europe can capitalise once the economy has emerged from the downturn.

Furniture: Credit

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will discuss with his French counterpart measures to support credit insurance arrangements for the furniture industry. [251171]

Ian Pearson: This Department is discussing these issues with industry. We have also had discussions with partners across Europe including those in the French Administration.

India

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Secretary of State's official engagements were during his visit to India in January 2009. [252356]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform undertook a number of official engagements during his visit in January 2009. These meetings are listed as follows by date and location.

19 January 2009—New Delhi

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit

Meeting with Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Power and Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State in the Departments of Commerce and Power accompanied by a UKTI nuclear delegation

Meeting with Mr. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Science and Technology

Lunch with Indian Economic Commentators

Meeting with Mr. P. C. Gupta, Minister for Corporate Affairs

Reception with UK India Business Council (UKIBC) Advisory and Executive Boards

Televised panel discussion with Mr. Kamal Nath and Indian business leaders

20 January 2009—New Delhi

Meeting with Mr. Ratan Tata, CEO Tata Group

Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) Ministerial meeting with Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry, followed by keynote speech to JETCO Plenary session

Meeting with Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

Meeting with Mr. Vineet Nayar, CEO of HCL Technologies Ltd.

Meeting with Indian inward investors

Drinks with leading members of the British Business community in Delhi

Dinner with Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce an Industry

21 January 2009-Pune

Symposium on International Automotive Technology

Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA)—lunch with board members and British Business Group Pune

Visit to Bajaj Group R and D centre with Rahul Bajaj, Chairman, Bajaj Group

22 January 2009—Mumbai

Breakfast hosted by the British Business Group, Mumbai

Meeting with Benoy Ltd.

Visit to Larsen and Toubro Ltd.

Opening of UKIBC Mumbai office

CII/UKIBC Business reception

23 January 2009—Mumbai

Meeting with Indian Minister of Law and Justice, Mr. Hansraj Bharadwaj

Launch of "Setting up in the UK for Indian Law Firms" Brochure

Meeting with Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)

Meeting with Mr. Ashok Chavan, Chief Minister of Maharastra

Dinner with MDs of Tata Group companies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations Ministers from his Department met during their visit to India in January 2009. [252357]

Mr. Thomas: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform visited India on 19-23 January 2009. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I have given him today to his question 252356 which gives a list of official engagements. During his visit Lord Mandelson met numerous individuals and organisations at various events. A full list could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

UK Trade and Investment: India

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the amount spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, *(b)* other Ministers from his Department, *(c)* special advisers and *(d)* civil servants for the UK Trade and Investment trip to India in January 2009. [252217]

Mr. Thomas: The following amounts were spent on hotel accommodation by my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform during his visit to India in January 2009:

(a) Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform: £336.

(b) Other Ministers from Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform: £0.

(c) Special adviser: £336

(d) Civil servants: £5,446.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State, his Private Secretary and Special Adviser stayed at the high commissioner's residence during the Delhi leg of the visit. There was insufficient space for the rest of the delegation to stay at the residence. The entire party stayed in a hotel during the Mumbai leg of the visit.

Internet

John Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the average internet speed available to business users in the UK and *(b)* the effect of available internet speed on the competitiveness of UK businesses. [248742]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has made no recent estimations on average internet speed and the effect of available internet speed on the competitiveness of UK businesses. However, I recognise the importance of internet for businesses and UK competitiveness and will be examining the question of universality of broadband and options for maximising participation across the UK as part of the Digital Britain Report. There will be an interim report in this month, with a full report in late spring.

Large businesses on the whole have the financial capacity to purchase sufficient bandwidth to match their needs. For smaller businesses service providers offer a range of packages to suit different business needs. Offers include speeds ranging from 500kbps—8Mbps at the lower end and up to 24Mbps at the upper end. There is also broadband provision to science parks across the UK.

ONS reported that over 90 per cent. of businesses have broadband connections. Ofcom publish data on take-up of broadband by small business in their Communications Market reports and the 2008 report indicated that the large majority of small businesses now have broadband.

Ofcom also recently published a study on actual consumer experience of broadband the results of which can be found at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/telecoms/reports/bbspeed_jan09/

Lord Taylor of Blackburn

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* the Secretary of State and his predecessor and *(b)* officials in his Department have received any (i) written and (ii) oral representations from Lord Taylor of Blackburn in the last 12 months. [253443]

Mr. McFadden [*holding answer 2 February 2009]:* No.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assistance his Department is providing to UK truck manufacturers; [247027]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to protect jobs in the vehicle manufacturing and component supply chain. [247028]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made in the House on 27 January 2009.

Political Levy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 9 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 66W, on the political levy, whether the Certification Officer has provided guidance on this issue. [250360]

Mr. McFadden: The Certification Officer has not provided guidance on this specific issue. However, in his "Guide to political fund review ballots" he states that

> "The Act is silent as to whether the ballot paper may be accompanied by an explanatory statement, a recommendation or other literature. However, unions should be aware of the requirement that members must be able to vote without interference or constraint."

Post Office

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Post Office has contributed to the Exchequer in external financing contributions to Government revenues *(a)* since its establishment as a public corporation and *(b)* in each of the last 30 years; and if he will express each figure in current prices. [249630]

Mr. McFadden: *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The External Financing Limit (EFL) regime, whereby the Post Office corporation was required to generate funds for the Exchequer, began in 1976-77. A total of £2,481 million was generated up to financial year 1998-99 and the amounts were retained on the company's balance sheet. These funds were not removed from the company and used for Government purposes. Instead the funds were used to support the Post Office Network and more recently the Royal Mail pension fund. The EFL regime no longer applied beyond this period.

The following table shows the value of the EFL outturns for financial years 1976-77 to 1998-99 in historic as well as current prices.

Post Office corporation EFL outturns from 1976-77 to 1998-99

		£ million
	EFL outturn	*Current Price*[1]
1976-77	1	4.7
1977-78	22	94.6
1978-79	17	64.5
1979-80	3	9.6
1980-81	8	23
1981-82	13	34.4
1982-83	60	151.7
1983-84	62	149.4
1984-85	100	227.1
1985-86	75	164.7
1986-87	93	196.1
1987-88	80	160.8
1988-89	102	190.2
1989-90	102	173.8
1990-91	—	—
1991-92	74	114.8
1992-93	80	122.1
1993-94	182	271.3
1994-95	235	338.6
1995-96	245	344.7
1996-97	268	365.6
1997-98	338	445.8
1998-99	321	416.9
Total	2,481	4,064.4

[1] Current price calculated with reference to the Retail Price Index data obtained from the Office for National Statistics.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government's proposals for the reform of the Post Office entail the assumption of responsibility by the Government for liability arising from underfunding; or whether the Government plan to assume such responsibility in return for the underwriting of future pension promises. [250504]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The details of how the Government will tackle Royal Mail's pension deficit are still being developed. My noble Friend the Secretary of State will be making a detailed policy statement on the Government's package of proposals for reform in the early part of this year.

Postal Services: EU Countries

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information he holds on the charge made for posting a standard-size letter of up to 50 grams in *(a)* the Netherlands and *(b)* other EU member states. [249599]

Mr. McFadden: Postcomm, the postal industry regulator, holds comparative data on European stamp prices. Listings of European stamp prices ordered by weight and by country, including the prices charged in the Netherlands, can be found on Postcomm's website:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/about-the-mail-market/international-market-reviews/european-comparisons-letter-prices.html

The recently published Hooper Report also provided a table on European stamp prices. Copies of the report can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/sectors/postalservices/Review/page45129.html

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information he holds on the number of EU member states where postal deliveries are made six days a week. [249605]

Mr. McFadden: Information concerning postal regimes in other European countries can be found in the 2008 Ecorys report on developments in the postal sector—a pan European study commissioned by the European Commission's postal unit. The website address is:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/post/doc/studies/2008-ecorys-final_en.pdf

Royal Mail: Pensions

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many pension contribution holidays Royal Mail and its predecessors have taken in each year since 1980; and if he will express in current prices the monetary value of each contribution not made. [249629]

Mr. McFadden: *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The Post Office (now Royal Mail Group Limited) suspended employer contributions to one of its schemes, Post Office Staff Superannuation Scheme (POSSS), with effect from 1 April 1990. Reasons for suspending included the impact of changes in tax law to the treatment of "excessive surplus". Contributions to the POSSS recommenced on 1 April 2003.

There is no single answer for the possible accumulated current value of the suspended contributions as it would involve the need to make complex assumptions over the period since 1990, based on decisions taken by a number of interested parties.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to my hon. Friend supplying further detail around the contribution holiday.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Security Industry: Competition

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State next plans to meet representatives of the security industry to discuss levels of competition in the sector. [242681]

Mr. Thomas: Ministers have no plans to meet industry representatives to discuss this matter. It is for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), as the UK's independent competition regulator, to promote competition in markets and enforce competition law. Anyone concerned that there are anti-competitive features of a market or that a market is not working well for consumers, should raise the matter with the OFT who have the relevant powers to take appropriate action where necessary.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effect on levels of competition in the security industry of the merger of Group 4 and Securicor. [242682]

Mr. Thomas: Group 4 Falck and Securicor merged to form G4S plc. in 2004. The merger fell for consideration by the European Commission under the EC Merger Regulation and was cleared subject to commitments, including the requirement on Group 4 to divest its cash-in-transit business in Scotland.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the level of competition in the security industry sector. [244679]

Mr. Thomas: None. It is for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), as the UK's independent competition regulator, to promote competition in markets and enforce competition law. Anyone concerned that there are anti-competitive features of a market or that a market is not working well for consumers, should raise the matter with the OFT who have the relevant powers to take appropriate action where necessary.

British Summertime

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission a review of the effects of the application of British Summertime over the next 12 months. [253278]

Mr. McFadden: The Government believe that the current Summertime arrangements are a satisfactory compromise between those who prefer lighter mornings and those who prefer lighter evenings.

There are no plans to commission a review of the arrangements or the effects but the Government will continue to listen to arguments for and against change.

Trade: International Cooperation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the Doha round of trade negotiations to resume in 2009; and whether he expects them to include negotiations on a general agreement on trade in services. [253504]

Mr. Thomas [*holding answer 2 February 2009*]: The Government remain fully committed to an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha round. We are working with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members on the importance of concluding the ongoing negotiations as early as possible, with a view to achieving an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the round in 2009. Negotiations to extend the existing general agreement on trade in services will be an integral part of the negotiations and of the final Doha deal.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board from each of its meetings in the last 24 months. [250469]

Mr. McFadden: There are no minutes of the UMF Supervisory Board for the last 24 months.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many expressions of interest in setting up an academy have been received by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [251046]

Jim Knight: The following numbers of expressions of interest were signed in each year: four in 2000; nine in 2001; 10 in 2002; 15 in 2003; 16 in 2004; 22 in 2005; 50 in 2006; 52 in 2007; 42 in 2008; and one in January 2009. This gives a total of 221 signed expressions of interest since 2000. Of these, six projects did not progress beyond this stage. This is usually due to a joint decision between the Department and the local authority not to proceed.

Association for Citizenship Teaching

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to the Association for Citizenship Teaching in each year since 2003. [252917]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following figures show how much the Department has funded the Association for Citizenship Teachers (ACT) in each year since 2003:

	Funding for ACT (£)
2003-04	0.00
2004-05	4,400.00
2005-06	39,506.00

	Funding for ACT (£)
2006-07	169,989.80
2007-08	80,000.00
2008-09	33,300.00

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of the Building Schools for the Future programme to educational transformation and learning attainment; and if will make a statement. [252589]

Jim Knight: In 2006, we commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to evaluate the impact of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) on educational attainment. This is in line with HM Treasury "Green Book" requirements for independent evaluation of major new programmes. PricewaterhouseCoopers has now delivered its second annual report on this evaluation, which we published on 20 January 2009. I will make this report available in the House Library.

Although 50 BSF schools are now open, the pupils have only been in the new schools for a short time. So it is still too early for pupils' results in tests and exams to tell us about the benefit the pupils are deriving from the new schools. The report therefore concentrates on management of the programme. It shows that BSF is gaining momentum, and that as schools and authorities progress through it, there is increasing sharpness of focus on achieving educational transformation. The majority of head teachers view BSF as educationally transformational and believe that it will allow their schools to deliver better outcomes for pupils, that teachers will be able to focus more on personalised teaching and learning, and that it will increase the range of services offered to support learners and their families.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to ensure that the operational performance of Building Schools for the Future schools meets the standards projected by the design team in each case. [252664]

Jim Knight: Within 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF), the strategic partnering agreement between a local authority and its private sector partner (PSP) requires the PSP to carry out a customer satisfaction evaluation of every school that is built one year after it has opened. The methodology is to capture customer views through use of the design quality indicator tool, DQI for Schools.

All major school projects, including those constructed within the BSF programme, are required to undergo an environmental assessment using the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). This method now includes a post-construction review which compares an assessment of the environmental impact of the school as constructed against impact as designed.

But BSF is much more than a building programme; it forms part of the Government's wider strategy to transform children and young people's experience of schooling. So in 2006 the Department commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to evaluate the impact of BSF on educational attainment. PwC has now delivered its second annual report on this evaluation, which was published on 20 January 2009.

Commercial Group

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of his Department's Commercial Group in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [247272]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Commercial Group's responsibilities fall under four main areas: Capability and Capacity of Procurement, Estates and Facilities Management, Enterprise Resource Planning and Sustainable Development. The Permanent Secretary and his Management Board keep under regular review the Department's performance, including that of Commercial Group.

In addition, a procurement capability review was carried out by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in 2007 which was reviewed again by OGC in 2008. Positive progress was noted as the Department implements its post-review action plan.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department provides for staff. [249066]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not directly operate any catering facilities. Catering in all of our buildings is provided by our contracted service provider, Aramark. This includes a staff restaurant and vending in all four buildings and a cafe area in Sanctuary Buildings, London.

There are no franchised catering outlets in any of our headquarter buildings.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of his Department's *(a)* voted and *(b)* non-voted capital departmental expenditure limit for 2008-09 remains unallocated. [250930]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not have any voted unallocated provision for capital departmental expenditure limit (DEL) in 2008-09. The Department currently has no non-voted capital DEL which will be reflected in the publication of the spring supplementary estimate 2008-09, provisional on 10 February 2009.

The last reported non-voted capital DEL figure of £63.7 million can be sourced from the Department's 2008-09 winter supplementary (page 33) as published on HM Treasury's website under "unallocated capital provision".

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which ICT projects his Department and its predecessors initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement; [251386]

(2) what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251375]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not hold a current comprehensive list of ICT projects at the level of detail requested. This could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [251024]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In accordance with paragraph 10.11 from the Ministerial Code, the Department does not provide Government cars to special advisers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251396]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children Schools and Families, together with its agencies and non-departmental public bodies have identified up to £800 million to be brought forward from the 2010-11 financial year to the 2009-10 financial year.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249133]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not recorded. We aim to publish as much information as possible and would consider providing an answer, despite it exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold, if it was deemed to be in the public interest.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what investigations he has undertaken into the circumstances surrounding the failure of the contract to deliver the education maintenance allowance in 2008; and what conclusions he has drawn from that investigation. [249611]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have operational responsibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and as such they contract for the help line, assessment and payment function for EMA. The management of that contract including its performance is a matter for the LSC. The LSC has instigated its own internal review of the contract failures by Liberata last year. The review has been commissioned by Chris Banks the LSC National Chair and Mark Haysom the LSC Chief Executive and is independent of the LSC executive. The review report will go to the LSC National Council in early March. The Department will consider lessons learnt in the light of the outcome of the LSC's review.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when Miss Emma Roberts of West Lancashire constituency will begin receiving education maintenance allowance payments; and whether those payments will be backdated to September 2008. [252783]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for West Lancashire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met the Examination Officers Association to discuss the effect on the conduct of examinations of recent problems with the marking and return of examinations and test scripts. [252578]

Jim Knight: I met Andrew Harland, the chief executive of the Examination Officers' Association (EOA), on 5 June 2008. This meeting was to discuss the work the EOA is doing to support examinations officers. My officials have had regular contacts with the EOA since then.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the timetable is for the introduction of single level tests after the conclusion of the pilots in July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [252777]

Jim Knight: No decisions have yet been made about any roll out of single level tests (SLTs) nationally. Any roll out will be subject to positive evaluation findings and to endorsement of the approach from Ofqual. We are therefore continuing to monitor progress closely and have asked the expert group on assessment to consider emerging evidence on single level tests from the making good progress pilot.

Education: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the levels of spending on *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* colleges in (i) England, (ii) the North East and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the next five years. [252551]

Jim Knight: The Department maintains records of allocations made, on a local authority basis, to local authorities and schools in England. It does not maintain separate records of primary and secondary schools, as expenditure on these is prioritised locally. It does not maintain records of further education college allocations. Actual expenditure within an authority will differ from allocations made. This is due to (a) timing differences between allocations and spend (b) local prioritisation (c) other local resources. Allocations are made on a three year basis, currently covering the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. Accordingly, no figures are maintained beyond 2010-11. Allocations made so far in respect of England, the North West, Middlesbrough and Cleveland, for the period 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out in the following table.

		£ million
	2008-09	*2010-11*
England	4,099	4,613
The North East	230.7	260.4
Middlesbrough	9.8	12.1
Cleveland	16.8	19.1

GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many maintained mainstream schools *(a)* 50 per cent. or more and *(b)* 75 per cent. or more of pupils did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in the latest period for which figures are available. [241872]

Jim Knight: In 38 maintained mainstream schools 50 per cent. or more of the pupils did not attain any GCSE and equivalent grades higher than a D in 2007/08.

No maintained mainstream schools have 75 per cent. or more of the pupils who did not attain any GCSE and equivalent grades higher than a D in 2007/08.

These figures relate to GCSE and equivalent and based on pupils at the end of KS4 in all maintained mainstream schools.

Only schools with 10 or more pupils are included in the answer.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools less than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in the last 12 months, broken down by decile of income deprivation affecting children indices. [251049]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number of schools[1, 2] where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils[3] achieved five or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics by IDACI decile[4], 2007/08[5, 6]*

IDACI Decile[4] (percentage)	*Number of schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and maths in 2007/08*
0-10—most deprived	78
10-20	86
20-30	74
30-40	50
40-50	45
50-60	25
60-70	36
70-80	25
80-90	11
90-100—least deprived	10
Total	440

[1] Including only those maintained mainstream schools with results published in the 2008 Achievement and Attainment tables.
[2] Including city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[4] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school.
[5] Figures are based on revised data.
[6] Includes attempts and achievements in previous academic years.

Health Education: Sex

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's reasons are for permitting the use of pornography in sex and relationship education classes as a teaching aid. [253106]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not advocate the use of pornographic material in schools. However, all schools are required to have an up-to-date sex and relationships education policy which, among other things, sets out how sex and relationships education will be provided and how it will be monitored and evaluated. The Department's 'Sex and Relationships Guidance (2000)' for schools outlines their responsibilities in this area.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many key stage 2 national curriculum test papers have been remarked in each of the last five years. [253137]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the administration of the Key Stage 2 (KS2) National Curriculum tests, including the external marking and review service to schools.

The QCA publishes data on review volumes as part of its annual Test statistics. The Test statistics can be found at:

www.naa.org.uk/naa_19205.aspx

The total number of reviews requested at key stage 2 for the 2004 to 2007 rounds are as follows:

	Reviews requested
2004	13,232
2005	21,533
2006	19,486
2007	11,530

The QCA has not yet published 2008 figures for key stage 2 reviews. These figures will be published over the coming weeks, and will comply with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice.

Outdoor Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto Partnership on the *(a)* number and *(b)* quality of school activities outside the classroom. [252916]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not made an assessment of the effects of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto Partnership on the quantity and quality of learning outside the classroom activities.

Prior to the launch of the manifesto in November 2006, the Department published an assessment of activity and practice in schools and local authorities. This found that provision had either increased over the last five years, or had remained broadly the same; and was predicted to remain steady or to increase, over the following academic year. The independent Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, which will take forward this work from April this year, is proposing a further study.

With our partners, the Department has brought together existing safety and quality badges into one easily recognisable Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge for provider organisations. From 30 January 2009, it will be awarded to providers who have demonstrated that they meet six quality indicators. To support schools in planning, organising and evaluating these experiences, the Department published the 'Out and About' guidance in October 2008.

Personal Social and Health Education Review

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the independent review of personal social and health education, led by Sir Alisdair MacDonald, will present its findings. [251466]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The independent review into making Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education statutory, being led by Sir Alasdair Macdonald, will report in April 2009. Proposals for the statutory implementation of PSHE education will be the subject of a full public consultation and the parliamentary process.

Primary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Qualifications and Curriculum Authority staff are undertaking support work for the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum. [248596]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Qualifications and Curriculum Authority staff from within its Curriculum Group are undertaking work in support of Sir Jim Rose's Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum.

Private Education: Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age pupils in (i) Reading and (ii) Wokingham attended independent schools in each of the last five years. [248871]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is given in the following table.

Independent schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils aged five to 10 and 11 to 15[2] (Position in January 2008)

	Pupils aged five to 10			*Pupils aged 11 to 15*		
	Number	*Percentage[3]*	*All pupils aged five to 10*	*Number*	*Percentage[3]*	*All pupils aged 11 to 15*
Reading	730	8.1	9,060	1,410	21.4	6,600
Wokingham	990	8.5	11,550	1,150	11.4	10,100
England	198,480	5.6	3,531,130	233,710	7.4	3,160,390

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Age as at 31 August in previous year (start of academic year).
[3] Number of pupils in independent schools expressed as a percentage of number of pupils in same age group across all schools (excludes dually registered pupils).
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools over 30 per cent. of pupils received a fixed period exclusion in the last year for which figures are available. [241880]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table:

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of schools by the percentage of pupils who receive a fixed period exclusion[4, 5] 2006-07[6], England

Percentage of pupils who receive one or more fixed period exclusions per school	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*
0	11,276	51.7
1 to 30	10,417	47.7
More than 30	127	0.6
Total[6]	21,823	—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Based on the number of pupils who receive one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion while attending a particular school at some point during 2006-07, expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils recorded at the same school in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
[5] Based on the number of schools open in January 2007.
[6] Includes three schools where all pupils in January 2007 were dual registrations.
Source:
School Census.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* fixed period and *(b)* permanent exclusions were of students at schools with (i) less than 10 per cent., (ii) between 10 and 30 per cent., (iii) between 30 and 50 per cent., and (iv) more than 50 per cent. of children eligible for free school meals in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [249111]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals were classed as persistent absentees in the last year for which figures are available. [251294]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Persistent absentees[1] in primary, secondary and special schools[2, 3] with free school meal (FSM) eligibility, 2006-07 - England

	Pupil enrolments in schools during 2006-07[4, 5]		*Percentage of half days missed[6]*		
	Number	*Percentage[7]*	*Authorised absence*	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*
Pupils known to be eligible for FSM	95,760	9.3	21.00	14.06	35.06
Other pupils[8]	177,190	3.2	23.46	11.62	35.07
Total[8]	272,950	4.1	22.59	12.48	35.07

[1] Persistent Absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent overall absence rate.
[2] Including maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools. Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[4] Number of enrolments in schools from start of the school year to 25 May, 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
[5] Enrolments for whom absence data are missing have been excluded.
[6] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions of Persistent Absentees.
[7] The number of Persistent Absentee enrolments expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments with same gender or year group or SEN etc.
[8] Includes pupil enrolments for whom characteristic data were unclassified or missing. Total rates may be higher than rates for each subgroup.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

and was also published in a Statistical First Release in February 2008 at:-

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml

Pupils: Food

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils are known to have food intolerance in each local authority area; [250706]

(2) how many children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each local authority area have been referred for food intolerance testing after having visited an educational psychiatrist or educational psychologist in the last 12 months. [250707]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is not collected by the Department.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Public Appointments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he requested the resignation of the Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Dr. Ken Boston; and if he will make a statement. [253417]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, made no such request.

Schools: Arson

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools closed for a period of two weeks or more as a result of an act of arson in the last 12 months; [251949]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of repair to school premises following acts of arson in each of the last three years; [251951]

(3) how many incidents of arson against schools have been recorded in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the number of such fires which were started externally. [251952]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have any figures for the numbers of schools closed as a result of an arson attack or for the cost of repairs to school premises following acts of arson in the last three years. The latest information we have on the costs of repairs is that according to estimates made by Communities and Local Government the average cost of school fires for 2000-04 was £58 million per year.

According to the latest available provisional figures for 2007, there were 348 deliberate fires in schools in England, of which 73 (21 per cent.) were started externally. Figures are partially based on sampled weighted data.

Arson is a legal term not used in the national fire statistics collection; deliberate fires are those as determined by the Fire and Rescue Service in attendance at the fire.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school buildings have sustained structural damage requiring repair following acts of arson in each of the last three years. [251950]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information.

Schools: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school buildings in Blackpool since the local authority became a unitary authority in 1998-99. [251315]

Jim Knight: The Department relies on local authorities to prioritise resources, and does not keep central records of the split of expenditure between primary and secondary schools. The Department has allocated £101.7 million to Blackpool between 1998-99 and the present, including the current year 2008-09.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school buildings in each local authority area in England in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [251839]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates funding to local authorities and schools to be prioritised locally in accordance with asset management plans. Local expenditure on schools will differ from allocations in any single year due to (a) timing differences between allocation and spend, (b) decisions taken locally by local authorities and (c) the amount of other resources available locally.

Figures on allocations regarding the total of the major school capital programmes to each local authority area in each of the last 10 years, 1998-99 to 2007-08 can be found in the following tables.

School capital allocations: major programmes

£ million

LEA No.	*LEA name*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
301	Barking and Dagenham	2.8	1.6	3.2	3.5	5.5	7.4	42.2	7.7
302	Barnet	3.1	1.8	5.6	3.9	12.0	8.9	18.1	14.9
370	Barnsley	9.0	7.2	7.2	5.1	7.6	8.2	11.1	63.1
800	Bath and North East Somerset	3.5	2.8	2.6	2.4	5.5	6.3	14.0	13.5
820	Bedfordshire	3.2	2.8	6.3	7.2	16.7	40.9	22.6	22.9
303	Bexley	1.8	4.3	6.4	6.6	9.2	9.5	49.5	26.4
330	Birmingham	7.5	0.1	62.7	15.5	38.3	39.4	59.0	119.1
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0.0	0.0	1.8	3.1	6.4	6.6	11.1	11.3
890	Blackpool	0.0	0.0	2.8	4.3	7.3	9.4	8.3	18.0
350	Bolton	2.1	3.6	5.1	8.9	12.0	14.6	18.4	18.2
837	Bournemouth	0.0	2.1	1.9	3.7	6.8	7.8	5.9	6.6
867	Bracknell Forest	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.0	3.0	2.7	4.0	10.0
380	Bradford	6.4	0.5	8.9	54.1	59.2	58.8	58.8	25.2
304	Brent	0.2	0.9	3.1	6.9	17.4	10.3	10.8	17.6
846	Brighton and Hove	0.0	1.7	4.5	6.1	8.5	30.1	8.5	12.6
801	Bristol, City of	3.5	1.2	5.8	7.0	14.4	19.4	17.7	76.8
305	Bromley	1.7	1.4	2.8	3.7	9.0	9.5	11.0	15.7
825	Buckinghamshire	12.0	5.5	9.3	13.1	21.1	18.3	25.6	33.4
351	Bury	0.8	0.8	2.7	3.7	5.6	6.5	8.6	9.2
381	Calderdale	1.4	1.3	3.1	3.2	8.2	61.2	10.6	12.0
873	Cambridgeshire	9.0	9.1	12.0	12.3	23.9	24.9	32.7	44.5
202	Camden	0.6	0.6	1.9	2.4	6.3	6.2	28.2	13.7
875	Cheshire	10.6	5.6	9.8	15.3	27.9	37.7	31.2	41.4
201	City of London	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	5.6	8.7	12.1
908	Cornwall	7.5	8.1	10.9	11.6	81.5	19.0	28.1	99.3
331	Coventry	4.4	7.0	10.2	4.4	9.7	11.9	37.8	16.1
306	Croydon	2.6	2.7	5.6	7.0	11.5	9.0	33.3	17.7
909	Cumbria	6.3	4.9	7.8	10.4	19.7	19.6	28.7	27.5
841	Darlington	0.0	0.7	0.9	2.2	4.0	5.8	6.2	46.6
831	Derby	0.0	2.9	4.4	4.7	8.3	12.1	11.8	55.8
830	Derbyshire	5.2	4.0	13.0	13.9	27.4	54.7	44.6	86.6
878	Devon	14.2	13.8	13.2	16.8	27.3	30.3	53.1	130.1

School capital allocations: major programmes

£ million

LEA No.	*LEA name*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
371	Doncaster	6.4	1.5	2.3	5.1	10.7	11.5	15.8	16.8
835	Dorset	5.1	18.9	8.4	8.7	15.5	15.7	27.5	28.8
332	Dudley	3.0	1.2	36.2	10.7	16.3	41.0	20.2	23.1
840	Durham	3.0	9.2	11.5	12.3	19.8	20.3	31.9	38.3
307	Ealing	0.8	5.2	9.6	7.2	10.3	11.7	53.2	19.1
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	0.5	1.3	5.2	37.0	16.2	13.0	19.2	27.4
845	East Sussex	20.1	16.5	15.1	30.3	18.2	20.2	30.9	32.2
308	Enfield	7.4	8.8	23.2	8.1	10.2	12.3	26.5	75.4
881	Essex	12.2	11.5	15.5	21.9	59.2	51.4	97.4	78.7
390	Gateshead	5.0	2.5	6.2	6.7	11.0	9.9	10.2	24.5
916	Gloucestershire	12.2	7.9	7.0	12.9	26.9	27.2	33.1	34.6
203	Greenwich	1.7	4.4	5.5	4.5	7.3	13.4	13.0	11.5
204	Hackney	1.0	2.4	3.6	4.6	7.1	10.4	10.5	13.6
876	Halton	0.0	0.0	1.7	3.2	4.9	7.0	7.6	8.1
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1.1	1.4	3.3	3.8	4.2	4.7	6.1	6.1
850	Hampshire	19.7	14.7	22.1	19.2	43.1	43.7	64.2	81.8
309	Haringey	2.7	4.7	7.4	68.8	12.9	18.1	25.7	36.1
310	Harrow	3.6	1.7	2.3	3.9	6.1	5.6	27.3	9.5
805	Hartlepool	0.1	0.6	1.1	2.1	3.6	5.4	4.5	8.4
311	Havering	0.3	1.0	2.1	2.2	7.3	8.3	11.7	14.0
884	Herefordshire	6.0	6.6	4.1	5.4	8.5	6.9	10.2	29.5
919	Hertfordshire	7.1	12.0	14.9	15.2	36.7	32.1	56.7	53.6
312	Hillingdon	3.9	2.8	23.1	6.4	12.7	11.8	29.5	19.8
313	Hounslow	3.1	3.8	4.6	4.0	7.1	6.2	9.7	38.5
921	Isle of Wight	3.1	2.9	3.8	4.6	7.8	6.8	11.0	12.2
420	Isles of Scilly	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
206	Islington	0.3	0.9	2.5	2.8	7.6	6.1	11.3	11.6
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.0	2.7	3.7	3.3	3.5
886	Kent	26.6	25.3	23.2	21.6	63.0	54.7	85.4	108.0
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	0.9	5.4	2.6	6.3	9.5	14.9	14.6	12.1
314	Kingston upon Thames	1.0	4.1	4.8	7.7	5.9	6.1	9.4	13.7
382	Kirklees	2.8	3.6	4.9	6.8	74.0	14.3	51.5	28.5
340	Knowsley	1.6	2.7	3.7	5.5	7.3	9.4	11.9	8.8
208	Lambeth	0.8	1.7	4.6	23.6	7.7	11.5	9.6	17.7
888	Lancashire	12.9	13.3	19.5	36.8	42.3	42.5	66.3	74.0
383	Leeds	8.7	9.2	10.4	17.3	74.1	26.4	39.2	37.6
856	Leicester	0.0	1.0	4.9	10.8	11.0	12.4	11.6	15.9
855	Leicestershire	3.6	2.9	6.5	9.2	21.0	18.8	30.8	34.3
209	Lewisham	2.8	8.9	6.8	10.4	9.1	9.9	83.6	19.3
925	Lincolnshire	8.1	7.0	6.3	9.7	27.0	42.7	34.2	37.9
341	Liverpool	5.8	15.3	20.2	14.8	113.2	28.5	29.2	30.4
821	Luton	0.0	0.6	1.4	3.4	8.2	6.4	9.0	13.4
352	Manchester	10.9	9.1	13.4	7.4	24.3	27.7	28.1	60.2
887	Medway	0.0	0.0	5.3	5.6	12.1	14.1	18.0	20.0
315	Merton	0.4	0.6	2.0	4.2	5.4	14.6	73.1	9.4
806	Middlesbrough	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	4.7	6.0	9.7	11.2
826	Milton Keynes	0.0	10.7	6.6	10.5	10.6	11.0	22.1	31.2
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	1.0	3.0	8.8	9.2	7.9	58.7	13.4	23.9
316	Newham	4.5	3.6	6.8	11.1	13.5	41.0	20.0	56.6
926	Norfolk	4.8	4.9	10.8	12.1	28.3	29.7	138.0	48.1
812	North East Lincolnshire	0.3	0.9	3.5	3.5	6.1	5.6	12.4	10.5
813	North Lincolnshire	0.4	1.0	2.8	2.4	6.4	11.9	12.8	7.9
802	North Somerset	2.6	4.3	5.1	3.3	7.9	6.9	8.6	19.8
392	North Tyneside	1.4	2.5	3.0	10.9	20.4	24.3	48.2	13.7
815	North Yorkshire	4.0	5.4	8.5	11.3	31.5	22.8	34.8	42.6
928	Northamptonshire	7.5	8.5	15.4	12.3	27.6	28.6	62.1	137.4
929	Northumberland	3.1	2.6	4.7	6.2	15.5	11.4	16.4	17.6
892	Nottingham	0.0	0.0	3.0	4.2	9.2	18.3	20.9	15.2
891	Nottinghamshire	3.9	8.2	10.1	16.4	45.4	32.9	40.6	167.8

School capital allocations: major programmes

£ million

LEA No	*LEA name*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
353	Oldham	2.0	4.6	7.5	6.9	9.1	10.4	29.3	15.9
931	Oxfordshire	8.7	7.4	11.8	13.8	25.0	30.6	38.9	39.8
874	Peterborough	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.4	10.6	10.1	9.1	14.9
879	Plymouth	0.0	0.0	3.1	5.7	7.9	8.0	14.6	18.8
836	Poole	0.0	1.7	2.8	2.4	3.4	6.9	7.4	7.2
851	Portsmouth	0.0	3.1	16.2	3.5	7.0	7.4	9.0	14.5
870	Reading	0.0	0.0	3.1	1.7	4.7	6.7	10.5	10.8
317	Redbridge	9.9	9.4	5.2	5.0	11.7	29.9	13.7	18.0
807	Redcar and Cleveland	1.8	0.8	3.5	10.7	4.9	6.8	6.9	61.2
318	Richmond upon Thames	0.3	0.6	3.0	4.4	4.2	22.3	5.7	7.2
354	Rochdale	1.0	2.9	5.1	3.2	6.5	9.3	10.7	14.0
372	Rotherham	2.6	2.9	6.6	6.8	12.3	14.6	87.4	20.8
857	Rutland	0.0	0.1	1.3	0.4	1.3	1.2	3.6	1.7
355	Salford	7.0	5.5	5.6	5.5	12.9	32.5	21.1	11.8
333	Sandwell	3.4	5.0	3.4	4.6	27.3	10.7	22.9	20.1
343	Sefton	1.9	1.6	2.4	5.4	10.3	13.8	20.0	18.9
373	Sheffield	5.0	7.5	14.8	69.3	18.3	31.4	34.1	72.2
893	Shropshire	7.1	5.1	7.4	5.1	9.4	12.2	15.7	14.1
871	Slough	0.0	0.0	0.8	2.1	3.6	4.0	7.8	8.6
334	Solihull	3.1	3.6	6.0	5.6	9.2	9.2	17.0	11.4
933	Somerset	3.6	3.8	8.8	9.2	18.1	20.7	24.8	25.0
803	South Gloucestershire	2.6	5.1	8.7	8.7	12.9	12.2	18.2	17.4
393	South Tyneside	1.6	1.5	2.5	3.4	5.7	5.7	10.4	8.0
852	Southampton	0.0	1.0	2.2	5.3	8.3	49.8	11.5	17.6
882	Southend-on-Sea	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.4	7.0	7.4	8.5	11.3
210	Southwark	0.6	2.5	2.3	7.6	8.1	9.3	15.8	15.3
342	St. Helens	2.3	1.8	3.9	4.3	7.2	7.3	12.8	8.5
860	Staffordshire	3.7	7.4	28.4	18.5	34.1	33.6	42.7	46.7
356	Stockport	1.6	2.4	5.6	5.7	11.8	13.1	15.4	14.6
808	Stockton-on-Tees	0.8	1.0	2.4	7.1	8.2	15.5	10.2	14.3
861	Stoke-on-Trent	0.0	1.4	5.1	98.8	13.1	21.7	24.1	23.3
935	Suffolk	7.9	7.1	10.2	12.4	27.4	26.0	36.2	42.4
394	Sunderland	8.9	7.9	7.0	8.6	14.2	32.4	20.6	18.2
936	Surrey	8.5	11.7	17.0	14.1	33.8	33.8	48.3	56.4
319	Sutton	4.2	5.7	5.5	4.7	9.4	8.3	10.6	13.2
866	Swindon	0.0	1.4	3.0	5.2	6.1	5.2	16.7	81.9
357	Tameside	3.2	3.3	6.0	4.7	30.7	10.7	11.6	13.6
894	Telford and Wrekin	0.0	0.0	2.5	6.7	10.3	10.5	13.9	80.1
883	Thurrock	0.0	0.0	2.1	3.4	6.5	6.7	7.3	12.3
880	Torbay	0.0	0.0	2.6	18.2	5.4	7.7	12.5	12.7
211	Tower Hamlets	11.2	8.0	5.9	110.3	7.4	10.1	19.8	19.1
358	Trafford	3.8	5.0	4.4	4.6	9.2	10.1	15.1	16.6
384	Wakefield	13.5	5.2	7.9	7.4	13.4	13.8	17.8	20.3
335	Walsall	0.5	2.2	3.7	11.8	9.3	8.9	13.5	24.3
320	Waltham Forest	2.5	1.8	2.8	23.2	8.1	12.0	70.0	15.3
212	Wandsworth	1.2	0.9	1.9	3.6	8.0	8.7	15.0	13.5
877	Warrington	0.0	0.0	3.7	4.7	8.7	10.0	11.7	10.5
937	Warwickshire	24.1	3.0	6.4	7.3	17.5	16.7	28.3	39.0
869	West Berkshire	6.1	3.8	1.7	5.7	8.6	5.1	8.0	9.4
938	West Sussex	5.3	8.1	10.9	10.0	21.6	22.3	92.4	37.2
213	Westminster	1.2	1.7	2.2	1.6	4.5	4.7	7.3	16.1
359	Wigan	4.5	6.5	10.0	11.5	13.9	11.3	20.2	21.8
865	Wiltshire	4.8	7.6	7.6	7.2	54.2	16.3	28.0	36.8
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.3	4.1	3.9	7.1	7.1
344	Wirral	3.3	2.4	5.3	7.2	69.0	11.8	15.2	24.4
872	Wokingham	0.0	0.0	2.7	3.1	7.3	9.1	9.5	10.5
336	Wolverhampton	2.7	1.3	2.5	5.2	8.9	8.1	14.2	14.1
885	Worcestershire	0.0	0.0	9.7	12.6	26.8	20.6	30.9	29.5
816	York	0.8	1.3	1.8	4.5	7.4	5.7	26.9	11.1

£ million

LEA No	LEA name	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
301	Barking and Dagenham	9.2	15.2	33.8	17.7	53.7	25.2	27.2
302	Barnet	21.7	18.6	72.1	15.5	26.2	25.1	31.2
370	Barnsley	12.7	9.9	11.7	15.5	16.9	19.1	22.3
800	Bath and North East Somerset	9.5	6.8	15.5	36.1	7.7	12.6	18.9
820	Bedfordshire	27.1	23.4	24.5	29.3	33.9	37.1	39.0
303	Bexley	19.2	18.3	58.3	20.4	15.4	20.0	26.3
330	Birmingham	74.2	61.9	62.6	75.8	81.1	88.4	90.4
889	Blackburn with Darwen	7.9	12.6	11.0	9.3	8.6	11.4	13.7
890	Blackpool	16.4	13.0	9.3	6.3	6.6	9.4	11.6
350	Bolton	17.8	14.3	27.9	17.8	15.5	21.0	27.2
837	Bournemouth	7.6	7.0	6.2	5.2	5.8	8.8	11.1
867	Bracknell Forest	5.2	5.4	4.6	30.5	6.2	11.3	17.6
380	Bradford	32.3	36.1	23.6	25.3	47.6	45.0	47.1
304	Brent	16.8	13.1	22.1	20.6	16.3	22.0	28.2
846	Brighton and Hove	19.0	11.0	10.2	11.1	12.0	17.3	23.6
801	Bristol, City of	17.5	21.5	27.2	32.1	61.9	47.2	49.3
305	Bromley	21.7	21.6	19.9	58.1	12.8	18.1	24.3
825	Buckinghamshire	33.9	20.7	24.1	50.7	19.4	29.4	35.3
351	Bury	13.0	8.0	10.3	8.5	8.9	13.5	19.7
381	Calderdale	19.4	16.6	16.7	17.7	18.9	23.8	30.1
873	Cambridgeshire	39.8	32.4	33.2	29.1	40.1	30.2	32.4
202	Camden	10.6	14.7	11.3	11.7	11.6	14.8	12.1
875	Cheshire	40.7	37.8	31.0	37.9	32.8	40.8	46.5
201	City of London	16.9	15.4	30.1	25.5	16.8	10.5	16.6
908	Cornwall	33.3	18.6	45.5	22.6	32.0	31.1	36.9
331	Coventry	18.7	17.5	23.6	21.1	21.7	25.3	27.5
306	Croydon	15.9	15.6	19.5	15.9	17.4	24.3	30.6
909	Cumbria	31.5	28.3	25.0	26.6	30.0	37.0	42.3
841	Darlington	6.3	6.0	30.1	10.2	16.3	14.4	20.7
831	Derby	17.5	19.3	28.5	33.0	18.1	20.9	23.1
830	Derbyshire	55.5	40.0	54.9	52.1	44.9	50.4	52.2
878	Devon	65.4	34.7	128.8	66.3	51.5	50.3	63.9
371	Doncaster	90.9	23.3	13.8	16.5	16.7	24.4	26.5
835	Dorset	23.7	24.1	100.2	23.6	21.1	25.7	31.7
332	Dudley	26.6	24.3	29.1	21.8	19.7	21.7	28.0
840	Durham	32.3	34.0	34.1	33.5	33.3	31.8	33.8
307	Ealing	83.6	20.6	27.9	23.4	34.4	32.6	35.0
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	30.0	25.9	32.1	24.2	19.8	26.4	30.4
845	East Sussex	32.7	27.2	26.4	62.8	25.2	31.4	37.4
308	Enfield	27.1	22.6	30.3	19.9	24.1	31.1	37.4
881	Essex	83.4	70.5	64.2	74.6	86.5	90.2	91.4
390	Gateshead	9.2	68.4	7.9	27.1	18.6	19.1	21.3
916	Gloucestershire	44.7	34.6	99.9	42.7	35.9	42.4	48.2
203	Greenwich	15.1	15.5	29.0	37.5	17.0	21.6	24.7
204	Hackney	15.2	10.6	11.8	18.2	15.3	19.7	21.9
876	Halton	6.5	7.2	11.5	7.4	6.2	8.9	11.2
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	12.2	6.2	12.6	8.1	6.3	5.4	11.7
850	Hampshire	77.1	67.3	64.9	74.3	65.6	60.3	69.7
309	Haringey	33.1	30.6	32.9	40.1	25.4	29.9	32.4
310	Harrow	9.0	10.7	20.5	43.7	12.5	17.9	24.1
805	Hartlepool	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.7	5.0	7.6	9.9
311	Havering	13.7	10.8	15.2	12.9	10.1	14.9	21.1
884	Herefordshire	11.1	11.9	11.0	33.4	11.5	10.1	22.3
919	Hertfordshire	74.3	78.2	75.7	65.9	65.2	67.8	67.0
312	Hillingdon	23.7	18.0	36.7	24.0	20.7	27.2	28.4
313	Hounslow	11.7	10.7	12.0	12.1	13.4	18.4	24.6
921	Isle of Wight	13.3	8.9	15.6	48.2	6.6	11.6	17.9
420	Isles of Scilly	0.4	0.3	0.2	9.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
206	Islington	12.9	8.8	2.1	18.3	21.8	11.1	15.4
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4.8	5.2	9.4	6.8	4.2	7.0	9.3
886	Kent	199.9	111.3	96.6	142.6	90.0	90.6	91.9
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	12.2	9.9	30.6	8.6	10.4	11.3	16.2
314	Kingston upon Thames	18.3	9.6	44.9	12.5	8.2	12.9	19.2
382	Kirklees	33.4	28.8	32.8	32.8	34.9	39.5	41.7

£ million

LEA No.	*LEA name*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
340	**Knowsley**	8.7	10.3	12.2	45.1	96.3	61.8	25.8
208	**Lambeth**	27.0	19.9	32.1	55.1	48.8	22.7	24.7
888	**Lancashire**	61.1	56.8	62.5	72.0	100.9	94.1	91.4
383	**Leeds**	77.5	150.2	37.9	81.4	101.8	76.8	79.9
856	**Leicester**	23.6	29.7	21.2	71.8	28.4	24.8	28.5
855	**Leicestershire**	41.2	44.0	69.0	32.6	31.1	38.1	42.4
209	**Lewisham**	22.8	19.1	25.6	47.8	62.4	43.8	38.6
925	**Lincolnshire**	46.7	44.0	50.0	45.5	38.8	44.1	49.6
341	**Liverpool**	38.8	33.4	32.7	42.6	39.9	42.6	44.7
821	**Luton**	12.3	8.6	11.0	7.0	14.0	17.7	20.9
352	**Manchester**	30.2	20.6	60.3	128.5	77.6	43.2	43.5
887	**Medway**	24.9	22.3	14.0	17.5	14.4	19.1	25.3
315	**Merton**	13.4	14.8	23.5	18.0	17.5	22.6	29.3
806	**Middlesbrough**	8.6	7.7	5.2	6.1	7.2	9.8	12.1
826	**Milton Keynes**	41.8	33.8	53.3	46.7	49.4	24.7	30.9
391	**Newcastle upon Tyne**	79.7	20.6	21.7	90.1	82.0	38.4	36.7
316	**Newham**	23.3	31.2	17.8	19.3	31.8	30.8	34.2
926	**Norfolk**	119.8	47.9	81.6	77.0	51.7	54.9	60.3
812	**North East Lincolnshire**	9.5	8.0	20.2	8.7	8.1	10.6	12.8
813	**North Lincolnshire**	12.6	8.0	7.1	6.3	6.9	9.7	12.9
802	**North Somerset**	29.3	19.3	8.9	44.5	8.3	13.1	19.3
392	**North Tyneside**	12.0	11.7	23.5	11.8	19.3	17.9	24.2
815	**North Yorkshire**	38.6	35.5	94.4	31.9	35.2	42.6	48.2
928	**Northamptonshire**	46.3	40.9	58.1	181.0	75.4	72.1	78.2
929	**Northumberland**	21.1	17.4	16.2	24.2	16.6	21.4	27.5
892	**Nottingham**	20.6	13.8	15.2	13.1	18.9	16.1	18.3
891	**Nottinghamshire**	42.7	38.7	38.3	49.7	54.3	60.6	62.3
353	**Oldham**	74.2	17.2	13.2	45.4	21.6	24.0	25.9
931	**Oxfordshire**	45.1	48.5	30.5	35.2	30.0	37.5	43.9
874	**Peterborough**	70.9	18.8	30.5	32.5	17.3	22.6	27.9
879	**Plymouth**	59.5	13.6	21.5	81.2	22.8	22.6	28.3
836	**Poole**	6.3	5.0	18.8	6.9	5.4	8.4	10.7
851	**Portsmouth**	11.0	12.9	8.7	9.0	9.7	12.7	15.0
870	**Reading**	6.5	8.0	10.7	7.0	8.6	13.1	18.4
317	**Redbridge**	21.6	26.2	20.7	63.9	18.5	24.3	30.5
807	**Redcar and Cleveland**	7.6	7.0	22.5	15.9	14.2	16.8	19.1
318	**Richmond upon Thames**	10.1	15.8	69.9	20.1	18.4	14.5	20.8
354	**Rochdale**	71.8	10.0	10.7	55.2	23.3	21.2	23.6
372	**Rotherham**	14.4	15.7	22.6	24.9	31.4	30.1	36.4
857	**Rutland**	2.3	2.6	6.2	20.9	1.8	6.8	13.2
355	**Salford**	60.6	14.8	16.3	37.2	23.3	21.8	24.0
333	**Sandwell**	20.5	19.9	21.4	17.5	16.6	21.2	23.5
343	**Sefton**	15.4	16.7	21.3	40.4	13.5	18.0	24.2
373	**Sheffield**	104.8	42.6	43.8	96.8	87.9	54.4	56.8
893	**Shropshire**	14.7	18.8	14.6	35.9	13.7	18.8	25.1
871	**Slough**	53.5	5.9	26.2	11.8	13.0	18.0	24.4
334	**Solihull**	12.4	17.3	9.0	50.4	56.1	27.9	23.5
933	**Somerset**	28.5	56.5	32.1	30.7	31.7	28.5	30.0
803	**South Gloucestershire**	22.3	13.0	15.3	45.4	15.7	19.4	25.5
393	**South Tyneside**	23.8	13.4	6.5	11.7	30.1	20.6	17.6
852	**Southampton**	14.2	18.3	16.0	14.1	14.3	19.6	26.0
882	**Southend-on-Sea**	15.6	9.7	11.8	42.0	11.7	12.6	18.9
210	**Southwark**	14.6	15.4	35.0	23.0	12.8	17.8	20.1
342	**St. Helens**	8.8	8.0	19.9	9.9	8.1	10.8	13.0
860	**Staffordshire**	53.3	42.9	47.4	45.1	40.4	48.2	53.8
356	**Stockport**	13.7	14.8	12.3	13.0	13.1	17.2	23.4
808	**Stockton-on-Tees**	15.6	11.7	13.8	11.0	12.1	14.3	16.6
861	**Stoke-on-Trent**	28.8	22.6	33.7	31.8	25.9	26.8	30.5
935	**Suffolk**	53.7	41.7	38.8	36.4	36.7	42.0	43.7
394	**Sunderland**	16.6	21.5	21.6	24.3	71.1	18.6	20.9
936	**Surrey**	57.5	60.1	48.4	44.5	50.4	58.9	64.5
319	**Sutton**	10.5	10.1	13.1	48.0	8.8	13.4	19.7
866	**Swindon**	14.2	10.9	13.4	24.2	30.4	29.4	36.0
357	**Tameside**	16.9	16.9	15.4	13.5	12.7	15.8	18.1

£ million

LEA No.	*LEA name*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
894	Telford and Wrekin	15.6	10.0	19.1	19.3	17.1	19.7	22.1
883	Thurrock	14.9	11.6	23.4	19.0	5.9	11.0	17.6
880	Torbay	13.9	11.5	56.9	13.0	15.5	13.6	19.3
211	Tower Hamlets	21.4	22.5	30.2	31.4	30.7	36.1	39.5
358	Trafford	16.1	11.0	12.3	35.4	10.8	15.6	21.8
384	Wakefield	19.4	21.2	25.7	15.7	14.6	20.6	26.8
335	Walsall	22.7	18.5	27.2	16.0	16.4	22.1	28.4
320	Waltham Forest	15.8	20.6	25.7	38.5	37.7	31.1	33.6
212	Wandsworth	12.4	12.6	23.9	18.6	11.9	14.7	16.0
877	Warrington	10.3	12.2	36.5	10.4	9.2	14.1	20.3
937	Warwickshire	32.0	26.5	36.6	25.7	26.1	31.6	37.5
869	West Berkshire	10.2	8.9	20.1	41.6	8.3	13.3	19.5
938	West Sussex	43.8	49.5	52.0	83.6	48.3	44.0	49.7
213	Westminster	11.5	9.2	11.6	17.8	35.9	9.1	11.9
359	Wigan	21.2	14.0	25.8	36.9	21.0	19.8	26.0
865	Wiltshire	32.3	24.5	76.5	27.1	30.8	36.2	41.9
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	7.0	6.2	6.2	32.4	7.7	12.6	18.9
344	Wirral	25.9	25.6	29.9	53.0	23.9	30.1	36.5
872	Wokingham	13.8	7.5	18.8	37.4	8.8	13.7	20.0
336	Wolverhampton	18.6	12.6	28.3	16.1	12.9	15.0	17.2
885	Worcestershire	95.7	27.2	24.5	65.7	37.1	40.2	46.2
816	York	11.3	11.1	31.3	39.8	9.0	13.8	20.1

Note:

The figures shown are allocation figures, i.e. commitments. These will differ in any year from actual spend by the Department. Allocations for the current years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are subject to adjustment, including upward revision as further allocations are made.

Schools: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans his Department has to increase the energy efficiency of the schools estate, with particular reference to schools constructed under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement; [252588]

(2) how many biomass boilers *(a)* have been and *(b)* are planned to be installed in new schools following calculation of such schools' carbon dioxide emissions using the Government's carbon calculator. [252663]

Jim Knight: In December 2007 we announced an ambition for all new school buildings, including all new schools within Building Schools for the Future, to be zero carbon by 2016. A task force has been appointed to advise on how to achieve this ambition. The task force will develop a strategy for moving the school system to zero carbon, setting targets and milestones to 2016. It will also scope the potential to reduce carbon emissions during school refurbishment projects.

It is already a requirement that newly constructed schools must meet a carbon emissions reduction of 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards in 2002 building regulations. My Department has provided additional funding for more than 200 schools in Building Schools for the Future and the academies programme to fund the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites to enable this requirement to be met.

The carbon calculator was developed to allow users to compare the likely effectiveness of various energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, and to demonstrate how they would achieve the 60 per cent. reduction. We have received completed carbon calculators for 53 school projects which are currently in design. Of these designs, 46 propose to include biomass boilers, two propose to include biomass combined heat and power (CHP) plant, and one proposes a combination of biomass and ground source heat pump. There may be more schools with plans to include biomass boilers; we do not impose a requirement on schools that they report such plans to us.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his assessment is of levels of energy efficiency in school buildings constructed under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what measures he has put in place to evaluate the energy efficiency of new school buildings proposed under the programme. [253141]

Jim Knight: The Department requires that newly constructed schools, including those within Building Schools for the Future, meet a carbon emissions reduction of 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards in 2002 building regulations. Additional funding has been provided for more than 200 schools in Building Schools for the Future and the Academies programme to fund the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites to enable this requirement to be met. We have developed a 'carbon calculator'—a software tool—which allows users to compare the likely effectiveness of various energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, and to demonstrate how they would achieve the 60 per cent. reduction. We have received completed carbon calculators for 53 school projects which are currently in design[1].

Partnerships for Schools monitors the compliance of the carbon ratings of school designs with Government targets and in PFI schools ensures that the payment mechanism during the contract period (normally 25 years) reflects the DCSF policy on energy use. A low carbon rating may be due to energy efficient design or the employment of low and zero carbon fuels, including renewables.

[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/carbontargets

Schools: Parents

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of variations in the quality and level of parental involvement in education according to *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* income. [253305]

Jim Knight: The Department has commissioned research to examine the level of parental involvement in children's education. This includes a national survey of parents and carers conducted in 2008 which examined variation in parental engagement in learning and education by gender, ethnicity and income. The quality of parental involvement was examined at a broad level, in terms of frequency of help with homework, attendance at parents' evenings and discussions about educational options.

The Department also undertook research in 2007 which examined the variation in parental involvement in their children's education according to gender and ethnicity. The quality of parental involvement was not examined in this research; however it did investigate the types of activities that parents were involved in and their confidence in helping their child with homework.

The finding of this research are informing the Department's new approach to supporting parental engagement and is outlined in the Children's Plan: One Year On report published in December 2008.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has evaluated on the relationship between parental choice and achievement; and if he will make a statement. [253307]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has evaluated the following research on the links between choice, diversity and standards:

Simon Burgess, Carol Propper and Deborah Wilson (2007): "The Impact of School Choice in England", Policy Studies, vol. 28, No. 2, 2007

Peterson, P., Howell, W., Wolf, P. and Campbell, D. (2003) "School vouchers: results from randomised experiments", The Economics of School Choice , ed. C. Hoxby, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Hoxby, C. (2003c) "School choice and school productivity: could school choice be a tide that lifts all boats?", The Economics of School Choice, ed. C. Hoxby, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press

Sandstrom, F. and Bergstrom, F. (2002) "School Vouchers in Practice—Competition Won't Hurt You", IUI Working Paper Series 578, The Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm.

Ladd, H and Fiske, E (2001) "The uneven playing field of school choice: evidence from New Zealand", Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, vol. 20, No.1, pp. 43-64

Cullen, J; Jacob, B; Levitt, S. (2000) "The Impact of School Choice on Student Outcomes: An Analysis of the Chicago Public School", NBER Working Paper 7888, Cambridge

There is no clear evidence that school choice directly affects pupil progress. However, evidence suggests that schools respond positively to competition by raising their standards.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made toward its targets of *(a)* the provision of funding for every local authority to renew at least the school in greatest need by 2011 and *(b)* major rebuilding and remodelling projects in at least three schools to be started in every local authority by 2016; and if he will make a statement. [252662]

Jim Knight: The Department has *(a)* allocated resources to all local authorities to renew at least one secondary school through its Building Schools for the Future programme, academies programme and One School Pathfinder programme; we are *(b)* looking to bring every local authority into the Building Schools for the Future programme, with at least a priority 3-5 school opening project, as soon as is practicable.

Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained secondary schools offer courses for *(a)* pre-U qualifications and *(b)* the international baccalaureate. [249226]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 80-81W.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average standard assessment test scores achieved by special educational needs pupils taught in mainstream schools were in each of the last 10 years. [248867]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data for the last 10 years can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Information on the levels obtained in key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests by pupils with special education needs (SEN) in mainstream schools in 2007 can be found in the following tables. These figures are based on final KS2 and KS3 data.

Similar information for all pupils with SEN (i.e. including those at maintained special schools as well as mainstream schools) for 2007 can be found in SFR38/2007, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

The KS2 and KS3 figures in this published SFR were based on provisional data.

Key stage 3 test results by each level[1] in 2007[2], by special education needs (mainstream schools only)

		Percentage of pupils achieving each level in English								
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*
No identified SEN	457,685	2	0	1	1	1	9	45	30	10

Key stage 3 test results by each level[1] in 2007[2], by special education needs (mainstream schools only)

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in English							
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*
SEN without a statement	101,669	7	0	8	11	8	28	32	5	1
School action	70,282	5	0	6	9	7	30	36	6	1
School action +	31,387	11	0	12	15	8	25	24	4	1
SEN with a statement	13,386	9	1	27	16	7	19	17	4	1
Unclassified[3]	4,219	6	1	6	7	4	15	38	18	5
All pupils	576,959	3	0	3	3	2	13	42	25	8

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in mathematics									
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*
No identified SEN	458,141	2	0	0	0	0	2	10	20	31	25	10
SEN without a statement	101,639	6	0	0	2	1	18	30	22	15	5	1
School action	70,264	4	0	0	1	1	17	31	24	16	6	1
School action +	31,375	9	0	1	2	2	23	27	18	12	5	1
SEN with a statement	13,345	8	0	5	6	4	28	23	13	9	4	1
Unclassified[3]	4,276	4	0	[illegible]	3	0	8	19	20	24	14	7
All pupils	577,401	3	0	0	1	0	6	14	20	28	21	8

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in science								
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*
No identified SEN	458,387	2	0	0	1	0	2	13	34	30	19
SEN without a statement	101,926	6	0	0	2	1	14	36	28	9	3
School action	70,433	4	0	0	2	1	13	37	30	10	3
School action +	31,493	10	0	1	3	2	17	33	23	8	2
SEN with a statement	13,426	7	0	4	5	3	20	30	20	8	2
Unclassified[3]	4,276	4	1	1	3	1	9	22	28	19	11
All pupils	578,015	3	0	0	1	0	4	17	33	26	15

[1] Includes T—unable to access test; B—not entered for test; N—failed to register a level;

[2] Final data.

[3] Includes information refused or not obtain

Key stage 2 test results by each level[1] in 2007[2], by special education needs (mainstream schools only)

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in English						
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
No identified SEN	432,655	0	0	1	0	0	7	50	42
SEN without a statement	118,180	1	0	8	4	2	39	41	5
School action	78,288	1	0	4	2	2	39	47	5
School action +	39,892	2	0	16	6	3	39	29	5
SEN with a statement	12,224	2	1	43	5	2	21	21	5
Unclassified[3]	2,336	2	4	16	2	1	18	39	19
All pupils	565,395	1	0	3	1	1	14	48	33

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in mathematics						
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
No identified SEN	432,769	1	0	0	0	0	11	48	40
SEN without a statement	118,219	1	0	6	6	3	37	39	7
School action	78,320	1	0	3	5	3	38	42	8
School action +	39,899	2	0	12	9	3	36	32	7
SEN with a statement	12,230	2	0	36	8	3	24	21	6
Unclassified [3]	2,333	2	4	12	3	2	22	40	16
All pupils	565,551	1	0	2	2	1	17	45	32

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in science						
	Eligible pupils	*Absent*	*T*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
No identified SEN	432,781	0	0	0	0	0	4	39	55
SEN without a statement	118,232	1	0	3	2	1	24	51	18
School action	78,322	1	0	1	1	1	23	55	18
School action +	39,910	2	0	6	3	2	27	45	17
SEN with a statement	12,235	2	0	24	4	2	23	33	13
Unclassified [3]	2,333	2	4	11	2	1	17	38	26
All pupils	565,581	1	0	1	0	0	9	42	46

[1] Includes T—unable to access test; B—not entered for test; N—failed to register a level;
[2] Final data
[3] Includes information refused or not obtained

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average administrative cost was of issuing a statement of special educational needs in each local authority in the last year for which figures are available. [252671]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs were given free transport to school in each of the last 10 years broken down by local authority. [253355]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information on the provision of free transport to children with special educational needs.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent under the Assessment for Learning programme for teacher training. [253299]

Jim Knight: From 2008-11, £50 million per year is being allocated to schools via local authorities through the Standards Fund for teachers' professional development in Assessment for Learning.

Information on expenditure is not collected centrally.

Truancy: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of truancy there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the London Borough of Hillingdon in each of the last three years. [250778]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not maintain records of "truancy". Information is collected on unauthorised absence.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

The latest available published information on absence is published as SFR30/2008

'Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn Term 2007 and Spring Term 2008' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/sQ00817/index.shtml

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 13 and *(g)* 12 years who had had an abortion in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007 had had (A) one, (B) two, (C) three, (D) four and (E) five or more previous abortions. [252976]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number of repeat abortions by age under 18, residents, England and Wales

	12	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
2006							
1	—	—	17	110	—	870	1,486
2	—	—	—	—	—	54	154
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2007							
1	—	—	—	95	374	890	1,650
2	—	—	—	—	—	57	131
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Due to previously released data, figures for 16 year olds in 2006 have been suppressed. Revealing the figure for 16 year olds will result in inadvertently disclosing small numbers for the younger ages.

Note:

"—"= suppressed value less than 10 (between 0-9) or where a presented figure would reveal a suppressed value. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the release of abortion statistics (2005)

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people undergoing NHS alcohol treatment courses in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire (i) have and (ii) have not completed the treatment successfully in each of the last five years. [253785]

Dawn Primarolo: On 1 April 2008, a National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NATMS) begun operation to collect and report local and national information on the provision of structured care-planned treatment for alcohol misuse in England. Prior to 1 April 2008 there was no routine collection of data on numbers receiving alcohol treatment in England.

The first year's data will be reported in October 2009 and will include data on the number of individuals who have completed their treatment.

Limited NATMS data are reported on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System website, at:

www.ndtms.net/alcohol.aspx

Ambulance Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 on the shift patterns used by ambulance services in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales. [253281]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such assessment has been made.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 219W, if he will provide the correct web link for his Department's statistical bulletin Ambulance Services, England 2007-08. [253934]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual statistical bulletin "Ambulance Services, England 2007-08", has already been placed in the Library and is available at the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2007-08

I regret the error in my pervious reply to the right hon. Member.

Autism

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what means his Department plans to ensure that the evaluation of the individual budgets' pilots will capture people with specific conditions; and if he will make a statement; [253678]

(2) how people with autism were classified in the recent individual budget pilots; [253679]

(3) whether data from the recent individual budgets pilots can be used to determine the effect of individual budgets on people with *(a)* autism and *(b)* sensory impairments. [253680]

Phil Hope: The independent individual budget evaluation was not designed to examine the outcomes for specific groups of service users, but for broad categories of people: older people, people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities and people with mental health problems. It was a randomised controlled trial, in which all those people potentially eligible for individual budgets within each pilot site were allocated at random to an individual budget or a comparison group. Sites varied in the groups of service users for whom they intended to pilot individual budgets.

The final report of the independent individual budget was published on 21 October 2008 and can be obtained via the Department's website. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The evaluation team was highly dependent on local authorities collecting the data and they allocated study participants to the broad user groups. These allocations to user groups would have reflected convention and practice within specific local authority teams. While some people with autism and sensory impairments are likely to have been included within the sample , it is not possible to identify people with specific conditions from the information the evaluation team collected.

Blood: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned target for blood donation was in each year since 1992; how many units of blood were collected in each year; and what percentage of demand the National Blood Service met in each year. [254150]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available for the entire time period requested. Figures for blood collection against planned targets and percentage of demand met for red blood cells is only available from the financial year 2000-01, as information was not collated centrally prior to this date.

Blood donation targets and the actual amount of blood donated

Thousand

	Donations target	*Donations actual*
1999-2000	[1]—	2,431
2000-01	2,451	2,358
2001-02	2,450	2,380

Blood donation targets and the actual amount of blood donated

Thousand

	Donations target	*Donations actual*
2002-03	2,325	2,332
2003-04	2,275	2,296
2004-05	2,175	2,155
2005-06	2,053	2,039
2006-07	2,018	1,971
2007-08	1,920	1,927

Data on the percentage of demand for red blood cells met by the National Blood Service are only available from 2000-01, as figures were not collated centrally prior to this date. Data for platelet demand met are only available from 2005-06.

Percentage demand met for red cells and platelets requested

	Red cells issued as percentage of red cells requested	*Platelets issued as percentage of platelets requested*
2000-01	99.96	[1]—
2001-02	99.95	[1]—
2002-03	99.98	[1]—
2003-04	99.98	[1]—
2004-05	99.99	[1]—
2005-06	99.98	99.66
2006-07	99.98	99.79
2007-08	99.97	99.86

[1] Figure unavailable.

Source:

The National Blood Service.

Brain Cancer

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has on the trends in numbers of cases of cancer metastases to the brain treated by the NHS over the last 20 years. [253171]

Ann Keen: These data are not collected centrally.

Cannabis: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to Cumbrian health services of addiction to and dependency on cannabis in the last five years. [253791]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Chlamydia: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trusts are taking part fully in the national screening programme for chlamydia; and if he will make a statement. [254021]

Dawn Primarolo: All primary care trusts are participating and reporting data to the Health Protection Agency for the national chlamydia screening programme.

Contraception

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on meeting the new targets for the provision of information on contraception in the Quality and Outcomes framework. [253457]

Mr. Bradshaw: Three new contraception indicators were agreed as part of the new general practitioners contract arrangements that will operate from 2009-10 negotiations. Practices will begin to work towards achievement of the new contraception indicator in the Quality and Outcomes Framework from 1 April 2009. Achievement data will be published in September 2010 by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many freedom of information officers are employed on *(a)* a full-time and *(b)* a part-time basis by his Department, its agencies, health authorities and trusts; and what recent estimate he has made of the overall annual cost of their employment. [253079]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of staff employed to deal with requests under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act on a full-time and a part-time basis by the Department, its agencies, and the overall estimated annual cost of their employment are set out in the following table.

The estimated overall annual cost of their employment is £360,000, based on the mid-range of salary per member of staff.

In addition, the Department and its agencies call on legal support as required.

Information for health authorities and trusts is not routinely collected. The cost of gathering such information would be disproportionate.

Staff employed to deal with requests under Freedom of Information Act: Department of Health (including Connecting for Health), the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

Number of staff	*Department of Health (including CfH)*	*MHRA*	*NHS PASA*	*Total WTE*
Full-time	8.3	0.65	0.13	9.78
Part-time	2.28	nil	nil	2
Total WTE	10.58	0.65	0.13	11.78

Notes:

1. CFH: Connecting for Health
2. Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Agency
3. NHS PASA: NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency
4. WTE: Whole Time Equivalent
5. Estimates from proportions of staff time dedicated to FOI work
6. p/t staff includes one agency staff

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1092-94W, on departmental ICT, what his most recent estimate of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* completion date is for each of the projects referred to; and if he will make a statement. [251240]

Mr. Bradshaw: The projects listed under the original parliamentary question were those over £100,000 currently being undertaken by the Department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA). The current expected completion date and estimated cost details, as at 28 January 2009, are as follows:

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Estimated delivery date of project*	*Estimated cost of project (£000)*
Department of Health	Ref Costs 2008	January 2009	1,204

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Estimated delivery date of project*	*Estimated cost of project (£000)*
Department of Health	MEDS Improvements	August 2009	240
Department of Health	MEDBEN	October 2008 (complete)	1,093
Department of Health	Learning Management System	May 2009	684
Department of Health	Contact	June 2009	646
Department of Health	ACCEA	July 2009	1,203
Department of Health	CAS	October 2008 (complete)	572
Department of Health	Delphi 2	February 2009	1,955
Department of Health	Business Intelligence Implementation	February 2009	967
Department of Health	Enterprise Architecture Programme	March 2009	230
Department of Health	Health Protection Informatics Website[1]	n/a	485
Department of Health	Quickr (Quickplace Upgrade)	April 2009	188
Department of Health	Centralised Security Monitoring	April 2009	171
Department of Health	Citrix Upgrade	April 2009	163
Department of Health	WAN Upgrade	April 2009	411
MHRA	Sentinel Server Upgrade	January 2009	3,500
MHRA	Sentinel Component software development	June 2009	1,600
MHRA	Eudra GMP Linkage	January 2009	400
PASA	Pharmacy Replacement	March 2009	281

[1] The HPI is an IT programme, rather than a single project. It has been set up to provide information and data services to enable the DH to manage the national immunisation programme. It also provides tools to facilitate the management of surveillance information as part of the DH Pandemic preparedness measures. The programme was initially established in 2004 to collect Flu Update data from GPs with a budget of £485,000. The programme has expanded since that point, providing national immunisation data related to a number of vaccinations including Influenza, Pneumococcal and HPV, as well as surveillance and Pandemic Preparedness initiatives. Further development and support of the application will be ongoing, to reflect the evolving Immunisation and Pandemic preparedness programmes. The website is being produced and maintained as part of this programme. It does not have a given date.

The IT projects undertaken by Connecting for Health are listed as follows:

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Current estimated delivery date of project*	*Total estimated cost of project (£ billion)*
Connecting for Health	National Programme for IT (NPfIT)	[1]—	[2]12.656

[1] NPfIT comprises a number of separate systems and services for which, as a whole, there is no single completion date.

[2] At 2004-05 prices, including local costs, as reported by the National Audit Office in its May 2008 report on NPfIT.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, on the departmental internet, if he will list the websites operated by his Department in addition to its two main websites. [251480]

Mr. Bradshaw: In addition to its two main websites:

www.dh.gov.uk

and

www.nhs.uk

the Department of Health operates 91 websites, as at 26 January 2009. The following table lists these sites.

Under rules set out by the transformational government agenda, these 91 websites will be closed by March 2011, as their content is being migrated to the Department's two main websites, to Directgov

www.direct.gov.uk

or to Business Link

www.businesslink.gov.uk

as appropriate.

Annex A: Websites operated by the Department of Health as at January 26 2009 (in addition to www.dh.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk)

Website	*URL*
18 Weeks	www.18weeks.nhs.uk
Activity DataBase	www.adb.dh.gov.uk
Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee	www.arsac.org.uk
Advisory Bodies	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk
Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/accea
Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acdp/index.htm
Advisory Group on Hepatitis (AGH)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/agh/index.htm
Asthma Management	www.asthma-d.org.uk
Breast Feeding	www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk
British Pharmacopoeia Commission (BCP)	www.pharmacopoeia.org.uk
Bug Investigators	www.buginvestigators.co.uk
childcare co-ordinators database	www.n.doh.gov.uk/childcarecoordinators/search.asp
Clean safe care	www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk
Clinical Trials Toolkit	www.ct-toolkit.ac.uk
Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)	www.csci.org.uk
Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/coc/index.htm
Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment	www.comare.org.uk

Annex A: Websites operated by the Department of Health as at January 20 2009 (in addition to www.dh.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk)

Website	*URL*
Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/com/index.htm
Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/
Condom Essential Wear	www.condomessentialwear.co.uk
Cosmetic Surgery Steering Group	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/cosmeticsurgery/
CSIP	www.csip.org.uk
Department of Health	www.dh.gov.uk
DoH Thesaurus	www.multites.com/dhthesaurus
Drugs Misuse Research Initiative	www.mdx.ac.uk/www/drugsrmisuse/
East of England Research and Development Sub Unit	www.east-of-england-rdsu.org.uk
End of life care	www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk
Ethics Research Information Catalogue	www.eric-on-line.co.uk/
European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)	www.new-ehic.org.uk
Expert Advisory Group on Aids (EAGA)	www.advisorvbodies.doh.gov.uk/eaga/index.htm
Expert patient	www.expertpatients.nhs.uk
Finance Manual	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/finman.nsf
Five a day	www.5aday.nhs.uk
Forensic Mental Health	www.nfmhp.org.uk/index.htm
Health Technology Assessment Programme	www.ncchta.org
Health Technology Portal	www.healthtechnologyportal.org.uk
Healthcare Commission (Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection)	www.healthcarecommission.org.uk
Healthy Start	www.healthystart.nhs.uk
Healthy Start	www.hsru.co.uk
Human Genetics Commission (HGC)	www.hgc.gov.uk
Immunisation	www.immunisation.nhs.uk
Immunisation Group Web Programme (IGWP)	www.info.doh.gov.uk/Cvts/VTSPCW.nsf
Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)	www.irpanel.org.uk
Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts	www.regulator-nhsft.gov.uk
Information and Communication Technology Research Initiative	www.disco.port.ac.uk/ictri
Information Asset Register	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/iar.nsf?open
Involve	www.invo.org.uk
Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/
Knowledge and Information Portal	www.estatesknowledge.dh.gov.uk
London Health Strategy	www.londonshealth.gov.uk
Mosaic	www.mosaic.nhs.uk
National Biological Standards Board (NBSB)	www.nibsc.ac.uk
National Care Standards Commission	www.carestandards.gov.uk
National Leadership Network	www.nationalleadershipnetwork.org
NatPaCT	www.natpact.nhs.uk
NHS Direct	www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
NHS Factsheets	www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf
NHS Identity	www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk
NHS Photo Library	www.photolibrary.nhs.uk
NHS Plus	www.nhsplus.nhs.uk
On Design	www.design.dh.gov.uk
Patient Information Advisory Group	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/PIAG
Performance Data	www.performance.doh.gov.uk
Policy Research Programme	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/rd2policy.nsf
ProCure21	www.nhs-procure21.gov.uk
Purchasing and Supply Agency	www.pasa.nhs.uk
Putting Action On Health Inequalities Into Practice	www.info.doh.gov.uk/publichealth/hidis.nsf
RD Info	www.rdinfo.org.uk
RD Learning	www.rdlearning.org.uk
RDDirect	www.rddirect.org.uk
Research and Development Sub Unit	www.rdsu.org.uk
Royal Commission Elderly	www.royal-commission-elderly.gov.uk
Safety Alert Broadcast System	www.info.doh.gov.uk/sar/cmopatie.nsf
Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/scoth/index.htm
Section 64 Grants	www.info.doh.gov.uk/Sect64/S64users.nsf
Senior Dental Leadership Team Website	www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhs/cdoweb.nsf/Main?OpenFrameset
Sexual Health Professionals	www.sexualhealthprofessional.org.uk
Shape	www.shape.dh.gov.uk
Smoke Free England	www.smokefreeengland.co.uk
Social Work and Care	www.socialworkandcare.co.uk

Annex A: Websites operated by the Department of Health as at January 26 2009 (in addition to www.dh.gov.uk and www.nhs.uk)

Website	*URL*
Social Work Careers	www.socialworkcareers.co.uk
Specialist Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (SACAR)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/sacar/index.htm
Standing Dental Advisory Committee (SDAC)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/sdac/
Talk to Frank	www.talktofrank.com
The National Coordinating Centre for Research Capacity Development	www.nccrcd.nhs.uk
UK Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority (UKXIRA)	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/ukxira/freedom.htm
Valuing People Support Team	www.valuingpeople.gov.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/Carers/Carersweb.Nsf/vwWebHome	www.info.doh.gov.uk/Carers/Carersweb.Nsf/vwWebHome
www.info.doh.gov.uk/cfs/cfsusers.nsf/	www.info.doh.gov.uk/cfs/cfsusers.nsf/
www.info.doh.gov.uk/cmo/cmosur01.nsf/frmcmosurvey	www.info.doh.gov.uk/cmo/cmosur01.nsf/frmcmosurvey
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/nufusers.nsf/main?readform	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/nufusers.nsf/main?readform

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which websites were operated by his Department in addition to its main website in the last five years. [251481]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the Transformational Government agenda, the Department completed an audit of the websites that it operated in March 2007. In addition to its two main websites:

www.dh.gov.uk

and

www.nhs.uk

it identified 224 websites. A copy of which has been placed in the Library.

As at 26 January 2009, this figure had reduced to 91.

To establish the number of websites operated between January 2004 and the Department's website audit would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to recoup the value of Department property lost by officials from those officials. [252572]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no plans to implement a policy to recoup the value of Department property lost by staff.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether civil servants in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department have been charged the full value of the item in the last 12 months. [252649]

Mr. Bradshaw: When a laptop is reported lost by a member of staff, the Department does not seek to charge that individual for the full replacement or residual value of the laptop.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste was produced by his Department in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such waste was recycled. [252870]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information requested is shown in the following table.

	Tonnes			
	Paper (including cardboard and newspapers)	*Plastic*	*Other waste*	*Proportion of total waste recycled (Percentage)*
2005-06	316.3	0.6	54.3	88
2006-07	300.0	1.5	55.1	89
2007-08	280.2	1.8	56.7	88

These figures represent waste removed from the Department's London administrative estate. They differ from those shown in the annual Sustainable Development in Development (SDiG) report, published by the sustainable development commission, which also includes waste removed from the Department's Executive agencies. The buildings included are as follows:

2005-06: Skipton House, Wellington House, Richmond House, Eileen House (closed July 2005), Hannibal House (closed September 2005).

2006-07 and 2007-08: Skipton House, Wellington House, Richmond House, New Kingsbeam House (paper only; other waste is collected by the landlord's contractor).

Waste from Quarry House in Leeds is collected by the Department for Work and Pensions contractor.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252223]

Mr. Bradshaw: Most fast streamers' training is booked directly by the individual fast streamers themselves. The Department only records fast stream training that requires payment from the central training budget. To obtain a full record of all training that fast streamers have taken from external providers, would incur disproportionate costs.

Over the last three years, the Department's human resources (HR) central records show that the generalist Fast Streamers have used the following providers:

National School of Government

Westminster Explained

Government Exchange

Suzanne James Associates

Common Purpose

Birmingham University
Reed Training
The Emergency Planning College
Neil Stewart Associates
Axon Solutions
Penna plc
Industry and Parliament Trust
Eastmeade EU Training
Hemsley Fraser Group
Parity
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Clutterbuck Associates
3E Training
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Department's HR division only took on oversight of training for specialist fast streamers in 2007 and therefore only information about the last two years is available. Prior to that fast stream training was not dealt with centrally and to obtain information before that would incur disproportionate costs.

Over the past two years, the Department's HR records show that specialist fast streamers have used the following providers:

National School of Government
London School of Economics
Luigi Siciliani—University of York
Paul Kind Quality Outcomes
Government Economic Service
Birkbeck University
University of Manchester
Oxford University
JHA HR Consultancy
The Outlook Training Organisation
Saxton Bampfylde
Royal Statistical Society
Government Statistical Society
Imperial College
Institute of Education
HM Treasury
Remarch Technologies
University of London
Brunei University
Royal Economic Society
Bath University
University of Southampton
Good decisions partnership
Leeds University
Office for National Statistics
Cambridge Econometrics
Modern Government.

No records are held centrally about the number of civil servants in the Department who have participated in provision of training for external organisations, and would incur disproportionate cost to establish.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252269]

Mr. Bradshaw: Training for staff within the Department is paid for by individual business units and this information is not held centrally.

In addition, the Department has no record on its finance system of any payments to the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252025]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies operate the flexible working hours scheme which aims to provide staff and line managers with as much flexibility as possible to accommodate their domestic and other responsibilities without impairing the efficient and effective running of the Department and its business.

The scheme gives staff the opportunity to vary their times of arrival and departure from work, around core hours, vary the timing and length of their lunch break, and take time off in lieu if they work extra hours. These principles apply to all staff unless standard hours are in operation (such as where a team has to provide a customer service between certain times). There may be occasions when the operational needs of the work performed to be given priority. In such circumstances staff and line managers agree suitable arrangements. This scheme is managed locally by line managers, and therefore we do not hold central details.

Part-time staff may choose to work additional hours if the arrangement meets operational needs. Staff are entitled to pay for additional hours above their normal part-time hours, up to the conditioned hours of the grade, when necessary for attending a training course. Line managers may allow time off in lieu to be taken as an alternative to payment subject to the needs of the work.

Staff working additional hours at weekends and/or on public holidays outside contracted hours will be paid at the enhanced rates for all additional hours worked.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252026]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's flexible working hours scheme, which sets out how days off in lieu are earned, is managed locally by line managers using individual timesheets ('flexisheets').

These records are therefore not held centrally and to collect them would incur disproportionate costs.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions the Food Standards Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have had with the authorities in Jersey on implementation of the *(a)* Food Supplements Directive, *(b)* Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation and *(c)* Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [252576]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the progress of *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey in ensuring their compliance with the (i) Foods Supplements Directive, (ii) Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation and (iii) Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. [252886]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) was advised by the Government of Jersey on 28 January that work is progressing under its programme to update Jersey's food safety legislation. On the same date the Government of Guernsey advised the FSA that discussions at official level on implementing the food supplements directive are ongoing, but that priority is being given to drafting the secondary legislation necessary to ensure that the Medicines Directive 2001/83/EC, which will prohibit and allow enforcement action to be taken against food supplements marketed with medicinal claims, is fully implemented.

Jersey and Guernsey officials had undertaken to work with companies based on the Islands to prevent the sale of food supplements that would be illegal in the United Kingdom. They have made visits to several companies to ensure that they are fully aware of relevant concerns. FSA officials continue to liaise with officials in Jersey and Guernsey to keep abreast of developments and on direct action with companies where examples of marketing of illegal products have been identified.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) will be meeting the Government of Jersey on 11 February 2009 to begin discussions on the implementation of the medicines directive, including the implementation of the traditional herbal medicinal products directive. The MHRA continues to assist the Government of Guernsey in the development of the additional legislation required for the implementation of the medicines directive.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce waiting times for drug rehabilitation in Crosby; what the budget was for the drug action team in Crosby in 2007-08; and how many people have been seen by the drug action team in each year since 2003. [253413]

Dawn Primarolo: The Crosby area is served by the Sefton Drug Action Team (DAT), which is the partnership responsible for delivering the drug strategy at a local level.

The funding of local drug treatment services is the responsibility of local primary care trusts (PCTs). The Department, in association with a small contribution from the Ministry of Justice, provide specific resources, through the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), to local partnerships for drug treatment services. In 2007-08, the Sefton area DAT spent £5,514,382 (PTB and local national health service investment) on drug services.

The number of people of Sefton residents in contact with structured drug treatment in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table:

	Number of People
2003-04	1,157
2004-05	1,411
2005-06	1,579
2006-07	1,568
2007-08	1,748

Source:
National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, The National Treatment Agency for substance misuse

Waiting times are monitored quarterly by the National Treatment Agency's North West regional team.

Health Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of use of the NHS by people who have no right to free treatment. [253412]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, set out the criteria for eligibility for free NHS hospital care. It is the legal responsibility of all hospital trusts to ensure that the eligibility of all patients seeking treatment is confirmed and, if they are not eligible for free health care, that the appropriate charges for treatment are levied and subsequently recovered. The Department has provided comprehensive guidance on implementation of the charging regulations to help the NHS to discharge their responsibilities. Most hospitals employ staff specifically to undertake these duties.

We are committed to taking the strongest possible action to tackle abuse in NHS, including that committed by foreign nationals. The NHS Counter Fraud Service will thoroughly investigate allegations of fraud and also take steps to ensure that, wherever possible, fraud is prevented from occurring in the first place.

The Department is satisfied that these procedures ensure that the regulations are applied fairly and effectively, and that there has been no recent evidence that would justify any further assessment of levels of abuse at this time.

Health Services: Public Consultation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to launch the public consultation on access to healthcare for foreign nationals. [251645]

Ann Keen: The Department and Home Office are jointly reviewing the rules on access of foreign nationals to national health service medical services. This review is ongoing and no decisions have yet been made on the very complex and inter-connecting issues under consideration. A public consultation will take place once the review is complete, giving everyone an opportunity to comment on the proposals.

HIV Infection: Fees and Charges

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will amend the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 to specify HIV as a condition exempt from charging. [253512]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, already state that diagnostic testing for HIV and any associated counselling is free of charge to all irrespective of their residency status. Overseas visitors not eligible for free hospital treatment are required to pay the full costs of any HIV treatment beyond the initial test and counselling. A review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals, including consideration of the diseases for which no charge is to be made for treatment, is currently ongoing. This is expected to be subject to a full consultation exercise shortly.

HIV Infection: Life Expectancy

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* months and *(b)* years on average patients with HIV/AIDS have survived following their diagnosis with HIV in the last 20 years. [253653]

Dawn Primarolo: A recently published article in the *Lancet* (2008; 372:293-99) provides estimates of life expectancy for HIV-infected adults receiving combination antiretroviral therapy. It is based on analysis of over 43,000 patients from industrialised countries, including some from the United Kingdom. The median life expectancy for such patients was 63 years for those diagnosed at age 20 and 67 years for those diagnosed at age 35.

Figures are not available for each of the last 20 years, but the estimated life expectancy increased between the first period studied in the research (1996-99) and the last (2003-05). For those patients starting combination therapy at age 20, life expectancy increased from an estimated 56.1 years in 1996-99 to 69.4 years in 2003-05. Equivalent figures at age 35 are from 60 years to 72.3 years.

Hospital Beds

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* child respite beds there are per head of population in each health authority area. [250965]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect data on the number of respite beds centrally.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions were made to hospital wards on referral from accident and emergency units in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [253610]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not centrally collect the number of admissions made to hospital wards on referral from accident and emergency (A and E) units for Hemel Hempstead, however data are collected for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust which provides A and E services at Hemel Hempstead and Watford General Hospital. This information together with data for England in the latest period for which figures are available is set out as follows.

Admissions through accident and emergency departments, NHS organisations in England, 2008-09 July to September (Q2)[1]

Org code	*Name*	*Admissions through A and E*
	England	788,375
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4,551

[1] Status: Published 14 November 2008.

Notes:

1. Data are collected at trust level rather than individual hospitals.
2. West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust provides A and E services at Hemel Hempstead General Hospital and Watford General Hospital. West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust also provides a Type 3 A and E department—other type of A and E/minor injury unit at St. Albans City Hospital, however this did not have any admissions through A and E.

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMAE

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251219]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department sources a national press cuttings service via a framework agreement used by various Government Departments. As such, the value of the 'contract' cannot be established in full; although a breakdown of costs incurred during the financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 is given in the following table. Daily cuttings from the national press have been provided by EDS Media since 1 July 2007. Before July 2007 national press cuttings were provided by Durrants, whose contract commenced in April 2003.

		£
	Organisation	
	EDS Media	*Durrants*
2003-04	0	64,094.11
2004-05	0	65,236.39
2005-06	0	110,476,20
2006-07	0	132,006.82
2007-08	66,196.04	37,864.27

Regional press cuttings are sourced from TNS Media Intelligence via a rolling agreement. A breakdown of costs incurred during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 is given in the following table.

Organisation: TNS Media Intelligence

	£
2003-04	38,677.11
2004-05	22,696.30
2005-06	47,273.79
2006-07	54,720.13
2007-08	26,066.61

The Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) is based in the Central Office of Information and provides a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year monitoring service of broadcast and print media. They provide summaries throughout the day and overnight of key government-related stories and also transcripts of interviews on request. Records of the costs incurred start from the financial year 2004-05 and a breakdown is given in the following table.

Organisation: MMU

	£
2004-05	67,729.19
2005-06	105,149.48
2006-07	115,504.42
2007-08	113,657.75

The figures quoted in the tables above are all inclusive of VAT.

Medical Records: Internet

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people in early adopter areas have registered for an advanced account with HealthSpace; and if he will make a statement. [252338]

Mr. Bradshaw: Patients are eligible for an advanced HealthSpace account once their general practitioner practice has created their summary care record (SCR). Information on the uptake to date of advanced HealthSpace accounts in each of the primary care trust (PCT) SCR early adopter areas is in the following table:

PCT area	*Registered accounts*	*Registered accounts as a percentage of patients with a SCR*
Bury	210	0.21
Bolton	93	0.13
Bradford	20	0.1
Dorset	601	[1]—

[1] Uploading of summary care records has not yet started in Dorset. In future, the facility to register for an advanced HealthSpace account will only be made available once uploading of summary care records has begun.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on the demand for mental health services. [253076]

Phil Hope: The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of the economic downturn on levels of demand for mental health services. However, we recognise that there are links between poor mental health and difficult economic circumstances and, in the current climate it is understandable that people might worry more about their finances and employment. Mental health services in England are now better prepared than ever before to provide help for these people.

Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion) putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The NHS spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 (£3.844 billion in 2001-02).

We now have 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses than we had in 1997, providing better care and support for people with mental health problems. (Full-time equivalent).

Because of the National Service Framework and increased funding, we now have over 740 new community mental health teams offering home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

Further, we are investing significantly in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year (2010-11), to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

This programme is relieving distress and transforming lives by offering effective intervention and treatment choice to people with depression and anxiety disorders and improving the collection, recording and measuring of patients' health outcomes.

35 new services were launched last month, with more than 800 therapy workers now offering this support to people who need it.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the care of people with mental health problems regarding service redesign and strengthening local partnerships across traditional organisational boundaries in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Sefton Primary Care Trust. [253414]

Phil Hope: Specialist care is now often provided in the community, through multi-disciplinary community mental health teams, which give general long-term care, and three specialist teams, each the subject of national targets over the last five years:

crisis resolution/home treatment teams provide intensive support for people in mental health crisis in their own home, reducing the need to be admitted to hospital;

assertive outreach teams engage with people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex needs who have difficulty engaging with services and often require repeat admissions to hospitals; and

early intervention teams provide services to those experiencing a first episode of psychosis.

Further, the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is rolling out across England, training a new workforce of therapists to help the national health service implement the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for the treatment of common mental health conditions of depression and anxiety disorders. 35 primary care trusts (PCTs) are launching their IAPT services in this first year and have recruited more than 800 trainees. There is £33 million funding available in this first year. More PCTs will follow in each of the next two years as a further £140 million in funding is released and we expect Sefton PCT to be developing an IAPT service in the second year.

IAPT services build strong ties with local employment services, helping people stay in or return to work if mental health problems have put their job at risk or prevented them getting one while they have been unwell.

The North West strategic health authority (SHA) reports that Sefton PCT proposes to spend around £31 million on mental health services in 2008-09. A similar amount was spent in 2007-08.

The PCT has been awarded Improved Access to Psychological Therapy development site status from 1 April 2009, which should bring with it additional resource to develop services for people with common mental health problems.

The SHA also reports that services commissioned from Mersey Care Trust are achieving key performance indicators for crisis resolution/home treatment, early intervention in psychosis and assertive outreach services.

Jointly with the local authority, the PCT has commissioned the required number of black and ethnic minority community development workers who are located within the Sefton Equalities Partnership.

NHS East Midlands: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the workplace parking charges being introduced by Nottingham City Council will be required to be paid by staff of *(a)* NHS East Midlands and *(b)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection in whole or in part where those staff work in offices located within the workplace parking charging zone. [253776]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for Nottingham city council in discussion with relevant stakeholders.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, what proportion of the repayment costs for each trust reflect *(a)* repayment of the capital value and *(b)* service and other charges; and what the total for each trust is of the additional charges which have been levied through the relevant private finance initiative contract. [254109]

Mr. Bradshaw: Unitary payments on private finance initiative (PFI) schemes are structured and priced to deliver an integrated service. It is not therefore possible to precisely identify costs attributable to each expenditure category.

However, analysis undertaken by officials on a sample of PFI schemes showed that the provision of 'soft' facilities management (FM) services (e.g. catering, cleaning, portering) made up on average 26 per cent. of the unitary payment; 'hard' FM services (building maintenance) on average 20 per cent. Costs to the private sector in management fees (administering the special purpose vehicles or 'project companies') and taking out insurance on the new facilities account for another approximately 4 per cent. Repayment of the annualised total financing debt (i.e. the capital cost and borrowing charges) accounted for on average 50 per cent. of the unitary payment.

There are no additional charges levied under a signed PFI contract private. The payment mechanism in a contract contains a volume element under which the quantity of variable items such as meals or linen provided is directly related to the throughput of patients, so where the volume of services are above those initially stated in the PFI contract, trusts will make additional payments. Under a 'variation of services' clause in the contract, trusts can also require a change to the contract, for example, to increase capacity, which is charged for through an increase to the unitary payment.

Organs: Donors

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to make changes to the conditions which determine who receives organs donated by those carrying a donor card. [253117]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no plans to change the conditions which determine who receives organs from deceased donors, including those who carry a donor card. The system of allocation differs according to the type of organ, whether it is a heart, lung, kidney, or liver. Patients waiting for a heart or liver who are classified as urgent are given priority. This is because their life expectancy without a transplant can be measured in days or even hours. If there are no urgent patients on the waiting list, the organ is offered for patients on the non-urgent list who are nearest in age and blood group to the donor. The location of donor and recipient is also considered to minimise the delay between retrieving and transplanting organs.

Psychiatry

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychotherapists are employed by each primary care trust in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* England. [253295]

Phil Hope: The numbers of psychotherapists in England and those employed by each East Midlands primary care trust (PCT) are shown in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical qualified psychotherapy staff and medical and dental staff within the psychotherapy specialty in England and the East Midlands strategic health authority area by organisation as at 30 September 2007

	Non-medical qualified psychotherapy staff	*All medical and dental staff within the psychotherapy specialty*
England	1,255	150
of which:		
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority Area	41	12
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	11	1
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	11	7
Lincolnshire Healthcare NHS Trust	6	1
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	8	[1]—
The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1	[1]—

[1] *Denotes zero.*

Source:

The Information Centre for Health And Social Care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Supporting People Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include proposals on the Supporting People programme in his forthcoming Green Paper on social care. [254153]

Phil Hope: The Government will publish a Green Paper on care and support reform in spring 2009.

The reaction from stakeholders and the public to various key questions was tested during an engagement process from May until November 2008. The Department clearly put Supporting People within the scope of this engagement by referring to it in "The case for change - Why England needs a new care and support system", which was published in May 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library. The Supporting People programme was mentioned in the document as one of the wide range of services which, taken together, enable people to live as independently as possible.

The views and comments received during the engagement will help inform the Green Paper and a report of the findings will be published with it. We do not intend to comment on the content of the Green Paper until it is published.

X-Ray Scanners

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dual energy X-ray absorptiometry scanners used to carry out NHS-commissioned scans there are in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary trust in England; and what the location of each is. [253576]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data for dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scanners are not collected.

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on referring patients for dual energy X-ray absorptiometry scans; and if he will make a statement. [253577]

Phil Hope: The National Service Framework for Older People recommends that those patients identified as being at high risk of developing osteoporosis, or an osteoporotic fracture, should be referred for assessment of their bone mineral density, measurable by use of a dual energy X-ray absorptiometry scan, in accordance with guidance issued by the Royal College of Physicians—'Osteoporosis: Clinical Guidelines for Prevention and Treatment'.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy: EDF Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 19WS, on EDF takeover, whether the £4.42 billion dedicated to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund paid on 19 January by Electricité de France EDF may be used for decontamination of radioactively polluted land on British energy sites; and whether title to the plutonium owned by British Energy has been transferred to EDF as part of the takeover. [250729]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* The assets of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) will be used to meet certain decommissioning costs and uncontracted liabilities attaching to existing nuclear power plants operated by British Energy. To the extent that any radioactively polluted land is identified during the decommissioning process, decontamination would be paid for by the NLF if it qualified for payment under the terms of the restructuring agreements. Otherwise it would fall to the account of British Energy.

Title to the plutonium owned by British Energy remains with British Energy Generation Limited (BEG). Title will not transfer to EDF as part of the takeover. However, as a result of the takeover the shares in BEG are now controlled, indirectly, by EDF.

Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the power generation companies on carbon capture and storage in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [252564]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the creation of the Department in October 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has met with senior members of the power generation industry in the course of business to discuss energy issues. Carbon capture and storage is one of the areas that has been discussed among others.

Coal: Prices

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the effect of rising energy prices on people who rely on coal as their main energy source. [241573]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The Department does not carry out separate analysis to quantify the effect of rising energy prices on domestic coal users. However, in 2006, around 101,000 households in England that relied on coal and other solid fuel as their primary source for central heating were fuel poor, around 46 per cent. of all such households. This is a slight increase from 45 per cent. of all households reliant on solid fuel central heating in 2005 (or 106,000 households).

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 109W, on departmental buildings, what costs have been incurred in moving staff into 3 Whitehall Place. [242565]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has spent £54,000 to date on moving staff to 3 Whitehall Place.

Departmental Internet

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for his Department's website is for 2008-09; and how many of his Department's staff are employed to manage the website. [250791]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The current DECC website was put in place at no cost as a temporary measure while a new site for the Department is developed. This current site provides links to the BERR and DEFRA websites where policy content for Energy and Climate Change issues continues to be hosted. £45,000 has so far been allocated for the replacement site for 2008-09. One member of staff is currently employed in managing the website.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department since its inception; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246972]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Once the Transfer of Function Order related to the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has come into force, DECC will sponsor a number of advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which provide independent expert advice on a number of issues. Appointments to NDPBs are governed by the principles set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. Summary information is published in 'Public Bodies' which can be accessed on line at

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies

or copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Summary information on the political activity of individuals appointed to posts regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice is published each year in the Commissioner's Annual Report.

In addition, the Government publish on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 99-102WS. DECC will be covered in future such returns.

Electricity Generation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on electricity generation, what percentage of electricity production in 2007 was from each of the sources classified as other fuels. [251717]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Of the 3.1 per cent. of electricity generation in the United Kingdom attributable to fuels other than coal, gas, nuclear and renewables, 1.2 percentage points were from oil, 1.0 percentage point was from pumped storage, 0.2 percentage points from non-biodegradable wastes, and 0.7 percentage points from coke oven gas, blast furnace gas and waste products from chemical processes. The source of these statistics is the Digest of United Kingdom Energy statistics 2008 a copy of which is available in the Library of the House and also at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page45537.html.

Electricty Generation: Nuclear Power

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on electricity generation, what the UK's capacity for electricity production from nuclear energy was in 2007; and how much electricity was produced from nuclear energy in that year. [251718]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The generating capacity of nuclear plant in the UK at the end of December 2007 was 10,979 MW, compared with 10,969 MW at the end of December 2006. Electricity generated at these nuclear stations during 2007 amounted to 63,028 GWh. The source of these statistics is the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2008, Tables 5.6 and 5.7, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House and also at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page45537.html.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy of publicity highlighting reduced domestic energy tariffs under the Government's agreements with the energy utilities. [243266]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Energy suppliers offer a range of help to their most vulnerable customers such as social tariffs, trust funds and rebates. In April, they agreed with the Government to increase their spend on social assistance and this year they will be spending collectively £100 million, rising to £125 million next year and £150 million by 2011.

In order to facilitate the role of advice organisations, switching sites and other intermediaries in making information available to their clients about social tariffs and other assistance, suppliers agreed in the Fuel Poverty Summit organised by Ofgem in April to provide greater visibility of their offers.

Subsequently Ofgem sought advice from key consumer organisations regarding what information suppliers should include on their websites. Following this process, all suppliers now have relevant information on their websites about their social tariffs and programmes and a contact phone number for consumers to check their eligibility.

Early indication from suppliers is that since this time last year the numbers of customer accounts on social tariffs have at least doubled and will exceed the 600,000 customer accounts originally suppliers estimated that would benefit this winter. This is a good indication of the level of awareness of the assistance suppliers offer, although the Department does not monitor the suppliers' publicity activity directly.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will seek discussions with energy suppliers regarding the availability of social tariffs to cancer patients; [245815]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people with a cancer diagnosis who are living in fuel poverty. [245814]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information as to how many people with a cancer diagnosis are living in fuel poverty is not available. People with a cancer diagnosis are classified as long-term sick and the detailed tables of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, Sixth Annual Progress Report 2008, available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48038.pdf show the number of households containing somebody who is disabled or long-term. These show that in England in 2006, there were around 915,000 fuel-poor households containing somebody who was disabled or long-term sick, however this number does not show how many of these households may contain someone who suffers from cancer.

In respect of social tariffs, suppliers do not record information regarding customers who may suffer from cancer. A number of them do, however, work with voluntary organisations, such as Macmillan Cancer Support, to identify those most vulnerable to fuel poverty.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to encourage energy companies to lower the gas prices they charge to consumers. [251738]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, has met with major energy suppliers and has strongly encouraged them to lower prices to consumers as a matter of urgency. Wholesale gas prices peaked last summer and have now fallen, though not back to 2007 levels. It is important that consumers begin to see the benefits of those lower wholesale prices, and that people can have confidence that they are being treated fairly by suppliers.

Ofgem have been asked to publish quarterly reports on wholesale and retail prices. This will deliver greater transparency over future prices.

Fossil Fuels

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK energy demand that was met from fossil fuel sources in each year since 1990. [242493]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the proportion of UK energy demand met from fossil fuel sources (coal, petroleum and gas). Data are derived from table 1.1.1 of the internet annex to the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2008.

	Fossil fuel use (Percentage)
1990	91.4
1991	90.9
1992	90.3
1993	88.8
1994	88.7
1995	88.6
1996	88.9
1997	88.1
1998	88.3
1999	88.6
2000	89.9
2001	89.6
2002	89.6
2003	89.9
2004	90.3
2005	89.9
2006	90.3
2007	91.3

Fuel Poverty

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people benefiting from and *(b)* the average benefit received from each social tariff scheme operated by energy supply companies in the UK; [242497]

(2) with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1144W, on energy supply: fuel poverty, when he expects Ofgem to publish its report on the social programmes undertaken by energy supply companies. [242585]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem published its first Review of Suppliers' Voluntary Initiatives to Help Vulnerable Customers on 6 August 2007, which covered the period to July 2007. Ofgem updated this report in October 2007. Both reports can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Review%20of%20suppliers%20voluntary%20mitiatives.pdf

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction//Suppliers/CSR/Documentsl/CSRupdate_open_letter_23507.pdf

The October update report shows that the number of gas and electricity customer accounts benefiting from each social tariff scheme and the average benefit received from each social tariff scheme was as follows:

As at 31 August 2007

Supplier	*Tariff name*	*Customer accounts on tariff*	*Total savings (£ million)*	*Average saving per customer account (£)*
British Gas	Essentials (Gas)	197,000	13.6	69
	Essentials (Electricity)	83,000	1.9	22
	Total		15.5	92
EDF Energy	Energy Assist (Gas)	14,825	1.3	87
	Energy Assist (Electricity)	45,154	2.4	54
	Total		3.7	140
Npower	First Step (Gas)	1,042	0.05	48
	First step (Electricity)	1,415	0.11	75
	Total		0.16	124

As at 31 August 2007

Supplier	*Tariff name*	*Customer accounts on tariff*	*Total savings (£ million)*	*Average saving per customer account (£)*
Powergen	Staywarm	10,373	4.4	424
Scottish Power	No social tariff currently offered	—	—	—
SSE	EnergyPlus (Gas)	4,983	0.57	115
	EnergyPlus (Electricity)	7,538	0.54	71
	Total		1.1	186

Ofgem is planning to publish an update to its October 2007 review before the end of the year. This will cover the period from 31 March 2007 to 1 April 2008,

Following the announcement in Budget 2008, energy suppliers agreed to increase the amount they spend on social programmes. This year they will be spending collectively £100 million, rising to £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11. Suppliers have only provided forecast numbers for the first time for 2008, which show that around 600,000 customer accounts are expected to be on social tariffs this winter. The actual number of customer accounts on social tariffs during the first year of the voluntary agreement and the benefit per customer account will be published in Ofgem's next reporting cycle in 2009.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims for *(a)* miners' hearing loss, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were paid to residents of Houghton and Washington East constituency in each of the last six years. [250056]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of payments made for noise induced hearing loss (NIHL), vibration white finger (VWF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in Houghton and Washington East constituency as at 18 January 2009 is shown in the following table:

Number of payments made

Claim	*pre-2003*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
NIHL	181	55	32	48	20	0	4	0	340
VWF	581	200	211	145	240	418	118	0	1,913
COPD	470	539	783	1,597	1,290	774	284	13	5,750

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims for compensation for respiratory disease brought under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme have been settled under the fast track procedure *(a)* by way of expedited payment and *(b)* under the live optional risk scheme since 1 January 2004 in which Avalon Solicitors, Warrington, have been the claimant's representatives in each parliamentary constituency in respect of which legal proceedings have been concluded. [252425]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am today placing in the Libraries of the House a table indicating how each of the settled claims for which Avalon Solicitors have been the claimant's representatives, were concluded, broken down by parliamentary constituency.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in settling coal health claims for surface workers in the mining industry. [252854]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* In February 2006, my right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks) as Minister responsible, undertook to look at any generic lessons that arise from the conclusion of a trial of a sample of "test cases". Following a court order agreed in July 2007 this cohort of surface workers has now been narrowed to around 5,800 claims identified by solicitors of men who worked in Coal Preparation Plants (CPP) on the surface.

Four lead cases have been identified by claimant representatives and are now being progressed towards trial. That trial will begin in November 2009.

Industrial Injuries: Compensation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to recover from Jim Beresford and Douglas Smith of Beresfords Solicitors the monies they accrued improperly in processing personal injury claims under the Coal Health Compensation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [250943]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers have consistently demanded that solicitors who have unfairly taken a proportion of miners' compensation repay the money. However, the issue of solicitor conduct is a matter for the Law Society and I welcome the progress being made by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) in investigating these cases. Once the detailed ruling of the SDT hearing into Jim Beresford and Douglas Smith is published, the Department will consider the issue further. The Ministry of Justice has helped to coordinate action to address this abuse and has taken action to ensure quicker redress of complaints in the future.

Both DECC and the Ministry of Justice continue to support the Legal Complaints Service in their programme to highlight the issue with coal health compensation claimants and Ministers will be meeting the Legal Complaints Service and the Solicitor Regulation Authority in March to review their progress on this important issue.

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much compensation for *(a)* respiratory disease and *(b)* vibration white finger has been paid in total to former miners in Wansdyke constituency. [251832]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total amount of damages paid to former miners or their families for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is £4.2 million; and for vibration white finger is £8,550 in Wansdyke constituency as at 22 January 2009.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what venues were used as health testing centres by his Department for the administration of medical tests under the coal health compensation scheme; and at what cost to his Department such venues were used. [252775]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The medical test centres used under the coal health compensation schemes are shown in the following lists.

the total medical costs for chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease are £404.64 million; and for vibration white finger are £34.95 million as at December 2008. We are unable to breakdown these figures by medical test centres.

Coal health claims—medical assessments centres

COPD—medical assessment locations

Wrexham;
Swansea;
Stirling;
Ystrad Mynach;
Chesterfield;
Leicester;
Deal;
Manchester;
Ayr;
Carlton Square;
Lochore;
Mexborough;
Cwmbran;
Pontefract;
Trentham;
Wakefield;
Ammanford;
Durham;
Edinburgh;
Leigh;
Mansfield;
Cannock;
Cudworth;
Glasgow;
Gateshead;
Mountain Ash;
Stoke;
Leigh;
Barnsley;
Wrexham;
Newcastle;
Huddersfield;
Sheffield;
Coventry;
Salford;
Nottingham;
Newport;
Leeds;
Hamilton.

COPD—mobile test centres

Arundel;
Ayr;
Blackpool;
Bridlington;
Bristol;
Bury St. Edmunds;
Cramlington;
Coventry;
Didcott
Doncaster;
Dunfermline;
Exeter;
Gloucester;
Hertford;
Hessle;
Horncastle;
Isle of Wight;
Leicester;
Newquay;
Norwich;
Nottingham;
Poole;
Sheffield;
Stafford;
Sittingbourne;
Southampton;
St. Austell;
Winscombe;
Whitehaven;
Wrexham.

VWF—medical assessment locations

Barnsley;
Birmingham;
Carlton;
Derby;
Doncaster;
Newcastle;
Canterbury;
Manchester;
Mansfield;
Nottingham;
Sheffield;
Sheikh;

Stoke;
Wakefield;
Edinburgh;
Glasgow;
Cardiff;
Swansea;
London.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid by his Department to Nabarro Nathanson for handling issues related to miners' industrial diseases since 1995. [252867]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: From April 1999 to October 2008, the Department and its predecessors spent £28.7 million + VAT in relation to Nabarro's fees across all mining-related industrial disease claims. But note this excludes all Counsel costs, expert fees, cost draftsman's fees and foreign lawyer's fees.

International Renewable Energy Agency

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the International Renewable Energy Agency to the development of renewable energy. [251276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* To achieve our global climate change goals we need to accelerate rapidly the deployment of renewable sources of energy and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has the potential to make a significant contribution to that work.

The Founding Conference of the IRENA was held on 26 January 2009 and IRENA will be formally constituted when 25 countries have ratified the IRENA statutes. An initial work programme and budget have also to be agreed. It is therefore a little early to be able to make a detailed assessment of the contribution that IRENA might make in the future.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration the Government have given to joining the International Renewable Energy Agency; and if he will make a statement. [251277]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* We have been very keen on joining and have been in close contact with the German Government on the details of the new organisation.

During 2008 we participated fully in the process for establishing the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and we participated at the founding conference on 26 January and the first session of the Preparatory Commission of IRENA on 27 January 2009.

We have been talking to Germany about how IRENA can contribute to the roll-out and deployment of renewables and how we can help to get other countries such as Canada, China, Japan, India and the US to join. We are also talking about how we can make sure that IRENA works closely with, and avoids overlap and duplication with, other international bodies and organisations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), of which the UK is already a member.

Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grants have been made by the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund in each year since the fund was created; and how much was paid in such grants in each of those years. [242495]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Two grants have been made to EMEC (European Marine Energy Centre) from the infrastructure support budget category of the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund. A total payment of £831,000 was made in 2005-06 and £300,000 in 2006-07.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for grants have been received by the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund in each year since the fund was created. [242496]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (MRDF) received two grant applications for infrastructure support, one in 2005 and one in 2006. Both applications were approved. We also received two applications for support in 2006 from the Wave and Tidal-stream Energy Demonstration scheme. However neither application met the eligibility criterion of three months' continuous operation of a full-scale prototype.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many projects have received funding from the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund, broken down by *(a)* nation and *(b)* region. [242550]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Seven projects have been supported by the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund; six have been research related and the other infrastructure support. The projects are broken down by *(a)* nation and *(b)* region below:

(a) Nation

	Number of projects
England	1
Scotland	6
Wales	0
Northern Ireland	0

(b) Region

	Number of projects
London	1
Edinburgh	2
Orkney	3
Aberdeen	1

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 24 October 2008 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on Ms S Harman of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [247893]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 January 2009]*: I responded to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Mining: Equal Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in settling claims for equal pay from cleaners and canteen workers in the mining industry. [252142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 28 January 2009]*: I am pleased to confirm that liability has been discharged in respect of all traceable, valid claims.

Although careful consideration was given to those British Coal canteen workers and cleaners who did not lodge valid claims within the time limits of the employment tribunal, it would not be deemed to have been appropriate to make an exception.

National Grid: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by the Government on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* new capital projects in respect of the national grid in each of the last 20 years. [250757]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following the privatisation of the GB electricity industry under the Electricity Act 1989 National Grid, the Scottish Transmission Companies and the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) have been responsible for maintaining, building and reinforcing the transmission and distribution networks.

Since then the Government have not funded either regular maintenance or new capital projects for the Grid.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much spent nuclear fuel was transported through Shropshire *(a)* to and *(b)* from the installations at (i) Sellafield and (ii) Wylfa in the last 12 months. [252760]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 28 January 2009]*: I am advised that the answer is none.

Renewable Energy

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's international competitiveness of the more effective promotion of renewable energy industries by other countries. [251275]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The UK is committed to an ambitious tenfold expansion in the share of renewable energy in its energy mix in order to meet its 15 per cent. renewable energy target by 2020, and will be publishing a comprehensive Renewable Energy Strategy in the summer.

The development of renewables and the more general transition to a low-carbon economy will lead to significant business and employment opportunities. The Government's aim is to secure a disproportionate share of these jobs for the UK, providing the right frameworks and support for UK companies and attracting inward investment.

The development and deployment of renewable energy technologies in other countries will help the global battle against climate change and renewable deployment abroad could also help reduce the costs of these technologies and hence improve the UK's competitiveness as they are deployed here.

Sellafield: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he was informed that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority planned to propose that the proposed insurance indemnification to be granted to the new management tier for Sellafield should be made available for prior scrutiny only to certain hon. Members in July 2008. [250107]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) did not exist when decisions on the Sellafield nuclear indemnity were taken; it was then the responsibility of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

I am told that my right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks) the then Minister for Energy wrote to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee on 9 June 2008 providing him with advance notice and background information on the intention to seek approval in July for a nuclear indemnity for the preferred bidder for the Sellafield competition. While all the bidders would require an indemnity to proceed to contract, it was not possible to submit an indemnity for scrutiny any earlier because the details were subject to competitive tension and evaluation within the competition process.

Tidal Power: Expenditure

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on wave and tidal renewable energy technologies in *(a)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in the last 12 months. [249517]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change provides funding for demonstration and deployment of commercial scale wave and tidal energy technologies under the marine renewables deployment fund (MRDF). Following is a breakdown of expenditure excluding VAT in the last 12 months:

	£ (excluding VAT)
Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland	0
North-east England	0
England	24,943
UK	54,887

The Government also provide financial support for research and development into wave and tidal energy technologies through the Research Councils' Supergen Marine initiative, the Carbon Trust, the Technology Strategy Board and the Energy Technology Institute.

Wind Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the depreciation of sterling on *(a)* investment in and *(b)* the costs of (i) the London Array and (ii) other major offshore renewable energy projects; and if he will make a statement. [250728]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: Investment in renewables projects such as offshore wind is determined by a wide number of factors of which the exchange rate is only one. The Government are working to create the right conditions for rapid deployment of renewable energy—both to meet challenging climate change goals and maintain energy security. We are the leading country in the world for operational offshore wind farms, and with over 440 megawatts under construction, we are set to remain so in 2009. The UK remains an attractive market for offshore wind and companies continue to invest, with more than 90 UK and international companies registering their interest with the Crown Estate for round three.

It would be inappropriate to give a running ministerial commentary on how currency movements affect commercial investments by private companies like those involved in the London Array.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 5 February 2009

TRANSPORT

Buses: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timescale has been established for the roll-out of smartcard technology on buses in England; whether it is policy that all buses should be smartcard-enabled; and if he will make a statement. [253907]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Department for Transport would like all buses in England to eventually be smartcard enabled. To help achieve this, we have specified that all concessionary travel passes must be smartcards and have announced our intention to pay a higher rate of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) for buses that use such technology. We anticipate that as a result of these initiatives there will be a transformation in the availability of smart card systems and the use of smart cards over the course of this decade.

Work is under way on a ticketing strategy for England, which will encompass smart ticketing. The intention is to publish a consultation paper in the spring and officials are currently meeting with key stakeholders to inform the development of the consultation.

Carbon Emissions: EC Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the implementation of EC Regulations *(a)* 715/2007 and *(b)* 692/2008 on replacement catalytic converters. [254119]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. However, under the terms of directive 98/34/EC, the Department for Transport recently notified the Commission of certain additional domestic provisions which are included in the UK's regulations implementing the EU legislation. These provisions require replacement catalytic converters which are not subject to the EU requirements to be labelled accordingly. The Government consider these provisions to be essential to ensure effective enforcement and hence to fully achieve the objectives of the EU legislation.

Departmental Equality

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the milestones set out on page 7 of his Department's human resources Race Equality Action Plan 2005 to 2008 were not achieved. [253566]

Mr. Hoon: Two of the milestones on page 7 of the Race Equality Action Plan 2005 to 2008 were not fully achieved. These were:

> "publish analysis (of diversity monitoring data) annually" - some information was not published in year, however, all of the information for the years 2005 to 2008 has now been published.
>
> "ensure that external recruitment agencies ... collect and supply ethnicity-monitoring data..." - information has not been available for external recruitment from one contractor for campaigns run in the year 2007-08.

Departmental Leave

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of his Department's bargaining units grant disability leave to staff. [253174]

Mr. Hoon: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Driving Standards Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency grant disability leave to staff. In other bargaining units, requests for time off for disability-related medical appointments and rehabilitation are considered on a case by case basis.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste has been produced by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much of that waste was recycled. [253292]

Mr. Hoon: The figures for the Department for Transport for the last three years are as follows:

	Total waste (Tonnes)	*Recycled waste (Tonnes)*	*Waste recycled (Percentage)*
2005-06	4,300	3,014	70.1
2006-07	3,878	2,214	57.1
2007-08	3,711	2,015	54.3

Very few parts of the Department for Transport are able to calculate the specific volumes of paper and plastic waste generated. However, the following data represent the departmental figures for the specified waste streams.

Tonnes

	Recycled paper waste	*Recycled plastic waste*	*Other waste recycled*
2005-06	1,325	4	1,685
2006-07	1,297	4	913
2007-08	1,227	5	783

Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency: Debts

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on the performance of Moorcroft Debt Recovery Ltd; what conclusions he reached; and if he will make a statement. [253562]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The performance of Moorcroft Debt Recovery Ltd. is monitored on a regular basis.

Driving Standards Agency: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Driving Standards Agency spent on alcohol in relation to its operations conference in September 2008. [250790]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency spent £1,429.64 on drinks served at the Operations Conference in September 2008. This amounted to slightly under £10 per delegate.

Driving Tests

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of scheduled driving tests have been cancelled by the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last five years. [253479]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The proportion of scheduled driving tests that have been cancelled by the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Total cancellations (Percentage)
2003-04	4.4
2004-05	3.7
2005-06	3.0
2006-07	4.1
2007-08	5.8

The majority of these tests were cancelled as a result of bad weather or were cancelled outside of the short notice period.

Infrastructure Policy Statements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the infrastructure policy statements for *(a)* ports, *(b)* surface networks and *(c)* aviation to be published. [253901]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* I expect to publish a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for ports this summer for consultation, with a view to designation early in 2010; to publish a draft NPS for National Networks (strategic highways and railways, including strategic rail freight interchanges) for consultation this autumn, with a view to designation later in 2010; and to publish a draft NPS for airports by 2011.

Oil: Prices

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions on the price of oil his Department used in developing its High Level Output Statement; and whether he plans to revise such assumptions. [253690]

Paul Clark: The oil price assumptions used in the High Level Output Statement were taken from the National Transport Model and the Department for Transport (DFT) Appraisal Guidance, details of which are available on the DFT website at

www.dft.gsi.gov.uk.

These forecasts are kept under review and updated as necessary.

Public Transport: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the transfer of responsibility for concessionary fares from district to county councils. [253902]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* We shall shortly be consulting on possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel. These will include the possibility of moving responsibility for administering concessionary travel from district to county councils or centralising the scheme.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Railfreight Interchange Investment Group on financial support for the development of railfreight interchanges. [254564]

Paul Clark: There have been no recent discussions between Ministers with the Railfreight Interchange Investment Group on the provision of financial support for the development of railfreight interchanges.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the development of railfreight interchanges will be subject to a National Planning Policy Statement under the Planning Act 2008. [254565]

Paul Clark: The development of strategic railfreight interchanges, as specified under the Planning Act 2008, will be part of a National Policy Statement.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the process is for reviewing and updating the railfreight interchange policy. [254566]

Paul Clark: The policy relating to strategic railfreight interchanges will be updated as part of the appropriate National Policy Statement. This review of the current published policy is being undertaken and will be the subject of consultation when published.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he is holding with the Railfreight Interchange Investment Group on the development of the Department's policy on railfreight interchanges. [254567]

Paul Clark: Although there is ongoing contact between officials and the Railfreight Interchange Investment Group, there are no discussions taking place with the group on the development of the Department for Transport's policy on railfreight interchanges at present.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage change in traffic levels *(a)* on English roads and *(b)* on roads in each county within England was in each year since 1997, taking 1997 levels as 100 per cent. [253845]

Paul Clark: A table providing traffic volumes for all motor vehicles on all roads for *(a)* English roads and *(b)* each local highway authority in England has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The figures provided in the table are for the period 1997 to 2007 and are indexed to 1997. More recent data for 2008 will be published during summer 2009.

Traffic estimates at local highway authority level are not designated as National Statistics and are therefore not as robust as the national estimates. Some discontinuities exist in the data between various years for certain local highways authorities. These are caused by the Department for Transport collecting an increased number of road counts in particular years, which allows the Department to make traffic volume series in subsequent years more accurate.

Road traffic by local highway authority can be found on the Department's website at the following web address:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/traffic/rtstatisticsla/

Road Traffic: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* locations and *(b)* roads in (i) the Metropolitan police area of London, (ii) Essex and (iii) Hertfordshire are where enforcement cameras to police no overtaking zones (A) are in place and (B) will be in place within the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [252989]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The enforcement of offences is an operational matter for the police; the Department for Transport therefore does not hold the information requested. The Home Office type approve equipment that the police use for enforcement, so that the evidence it produces is admissible in court without corroboration. They do not type approve cameras to enforce no overtaking zones, only speed, red light, bus lane and unlicensed vehicle offences.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue enforcement cameras for the policing of no overtaking zones have generated in Essex in each year since 1997; and how much of that revenue has been spent in Essex. [252990]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Home Office type approve equipment that the police use for enforcement, so that the evidence it produces is admissible in court without corroboration. They do not type approve cameras to enforce no overtaking zones, only speed, red light, bus lane and unlicensed vehicle offences. Overtaking in a no overtaking zone is an endorsable fixed penalty offence (£60) or can result in a maximum Level 3 (£1,000) fine on conviction. The Department for Transport does not hold any information on the level of fine revenue from these offences.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were killed in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex in drink-driving-related accidents in each of the last five years. [254747]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Estimates of the number of drink-driving-related accidents or casualties are not available below Government Office Region level. The estimates are published as an article 3, entitled "Drinking and driving" in "Road Casualties Great Britain—Annual report 2007". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and it is also available at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgreatbritain/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on roads in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [254802]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of casualties that were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years are given in the following table:

	Number of casualties	
	Killed	*Seriously injured*
2003	4	115
2004	2	80
2005	6	81
2006	6	97
2007	6	99

Shipping: Piracy and Terrorism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions with his European and US counterparts on counter-piracy and counter-terrorism measures aboard passenger cruise ships. [252113]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Currently there are no plans for Department for Transport Ministers to hold discussions with European or US counterparts on improving counter-piracy and counter-terrorism measures on board passenger cruise ships. The Government work with international partners, including the International Maritime Organization, to ensure UK registered cruise ships are given the best advice available to prevent acts of piracy and terrorism. We undertake a programme of inspection to check that our ships are complying with their on board counter-terrorism security plans. Such plans are approved by the Department for Transport as meeting the relevant provisions of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention, the International Ship and Port Facility Code and European Regulation. Our advice on preventing pirate attacks, including the measures that can be taken on board ships, is contained in Marine Guidance Note 298.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent guidance his Department has issued on the visibility of speed enforcement cameras; what legislation currently regulates the visibility of speed enforcement cameras; and if will make a statement. [253005]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 31 January 2007 the Department for Transport issued DfT Circular 01/2007, guidance on the deployment, visibility and signing of speed and red light cameras. The guidance was placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website. This came into effect on 1 April 2007 and recommends a high visibility approach to speed enforcement that the Department expects road safety partnerships to follow. However there is no legislation in place regulating the visibility of speed enforcement. The Department has always made clear that it remains open to the police to conduct covert enforcement of speed limits.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what legislation speed camera zones must be clearly signposted; what changes have been made to this legislation since its enactment; and if he will make a statement. [253009]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no legislation in place mandating the signing of areas where speed enforcement is taking place. Guidance on the deployment, visibility and signing of speed and red light cameras is contained in DfT Circular 01/2007, guidance on the deployment, visibility and signing of speed and red light cameras. The guidance was placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department for Transport's website. This came into effect on 1 April 2007 and recommends the use of camera warning signs where permitted and practicable. The signing is contained in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) and its use is not mandatory. However, in order for a speed limit to be enforced all speed limit signing must be lawful and correct and in accordance with TSRGD.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras were *(a)* installed on and *(b)* removed from roads in (i) England and Wales, (ii) Essex and (iii) Southend in each year from 2000 to 2007. [254137]

Jim Fitzpatrick [*holding answer 3 February 2009*]: The Department only holds figures for 2007 until 31 March, when the National Safety Camera programme ended. The number of speed camera sites installed and removed in England and Wales and Essex is outlined in the following table. Separate information for Southend is not held:

Number of speed cameras installed and removed in England and Wales and Essex

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England and Wales								
Installed	295	379	1116	1165	601	526	289	49
Removed	9	13	81	38	54	55	49	8
Essex								
Installed	48	105	10	33	9	48	6	0
Removed	0	8	45	4	3	9	13	0

Transport Innovation Fund

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1432W, on public transport: Greater Manchester, how many high quality Transport Innovation Fund proposals he has received. [253860]

Paul Clark: We continue to work with a number of other authorities as they consider their congestion problems and the role that demand management, including road pricing, alongside better public transport could play in tackling them and, if appropriate, develop proposals.

PRIME MINISTER

India: Ministerial Visits

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has received representations from the Indian Government on the recent visit by the Foreign Secretary. [253705]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Press Briefing given my spokesman on 21 January. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18111

Sir Fred Goodwin: Honours

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will recommend to Her Majesty the Queen that the knighthood awarded to Sir Fred Goodwin for services to banking be withdrawn. [253483]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 542W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 995-6W, on the internet, on what date he estimates the better quality videos of the Parliamentary tour will be available for viewing on YouTube. [254569]

Nick Harvey: Following the review of the tour videos against editorial standards for quality and accuracy, it has been decided that, in their current form, the videos do not meet the required standards and that some additional filming will probably be required. The films will not therefore be ready to be relaunched in the immediate future. No date has yet been set as the work is still being scoped, but they will be put back on the website as soon as this work has been done.

Members: Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission has set a target for the time within which hon. Members' enquiries regarding their pensions are to be responded to. [253924]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

The administration of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund is a matter for the Trustees. I have asked their chairman, the hon. Member for Bournemouth, West (Sir John Butterfill), to write to the hon. Member.

Snow and Ice

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many snow shovels are owned by the House of Commons. [254561]

Nick Harvey: Snow clearance on the parliamentary estate is the responsibility of the company which holds the main cleaning contract. The company currently has five snow shovels on site. It has been instructed to increase the number to 20. On 2 February other shovels were also used. The problems encountered in clearing the snow were caused by a shortage of staff. Given the circumstances both the contractor's and the House's personnel were used to clear snow but many had been prevented from travelling by the weather.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Lead Theft

9. **John Mann:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate the Church Commissioners have made of the number of churches from which lead has been stolen in the last two years. [254306]

Sir Stuart Bell: In the last two years, Anglican churches have suffered over 4,500 thefts of metal costing around £18.5 million. These have been by far the worst in the Church's history for metal theft.

Church of England: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what assessment the Church Commissioners have made of the effect of the current economic climate on levels of giving to parishes *(a)* via the collection plate and *(b)* otherwise; and if he will make a statement. [254221]

Sir Stuart Bell: Over the last 30 years church members have increased giving as a proportion of net income from 1 per cent. to over 3 per cent., so there is still some way to go to achieve General Synod's 5 per cent. target. Clearly church members will, like everyone else be affected by the present economic difficulties and the dioceses and Archbishops' Council are monitoring the situation closely. The high proportion who give by regular standing order provides some measure of resilience, but these are uncertain times, particularly with other sources of Church income also under pressure.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Registrar of Members' Interests

6. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to share information with the Registrar of Members' Interests. [254303]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has agreed with the Registrar the changes necessary to harmonise the Rules relating to the conduct of Members with the statutory requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. These changes are set out in the Fourth Report of the Committee on Standards and Privileges which was published on 2 February 2009.

Early Voting

8. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of proposals for early voting in elections. [254305]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it believes that paper-based, early voting at polling stations could improve access to the voting process without harming the integrity of the ballot. The Commission believes that the Government should decide how to proceed with early voting as part of a wider electoral modernisation strategy.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what administrative financial penalties may be levied by the Electoral Commission. [253588]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has powers to issue civil penalties under section 147 of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) where a relevant organisation is late in delivering a statutory report to the Commission. The amount of the civil penalty is calculated in accordance with subsection 3 of section 147, and depends on how late the relevant information is provided to the Commission.

The Electoral Commission is also able to apply to a magistrates court to order the forfeiture of an amount equal to the value of a donation that has been accepted by a registered party or regulated donee, if the donation was impermissible or a court is satisfied that the true amount of a donation was intentionally concealed.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Yeo: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what representations from local authorities in Suffolk concerning its inquiry into the future structure of local government in Suffolk the Boundary Committee for England has received; and if he will make a statement. [252002]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Boundary Committee received representations from the county council and all seven district councils in Suffolk. All submissions received are available on the Boundary Committee's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Crime

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been in each of the last five calendar years for offences under Part III of the Clean Air Act 1993. [252146]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not maintain or publish details of prosecutions under the Clean Air Act 1993. Information provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the Court Proceedings Database does not separately identify offences under parts of the Clean Air Act 1993. The following table shows the total number of defendants prosecuted under the Act (excluding offences under section 33) at magistrates courts in England and Wales for the last five years available.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for offences under the Clean Air Act 1993[1,2,3]
2002-06

	Persons[4]	*Other*[5]	*Total*
England[3]			
2002	7	5	12
2003	14	7	21
2004	12	4	16
2005	9	10	19
2006	17	5	22
Wales[3]			
2002	1	—	1
2003	1	1	2
2004	1	4	5
2005	2	1	3
2006	1	2	3

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for offences under the Clean Air Act 1993[1,2,3]
2002-06

	Persons[4]	*Other*[5]	*Total*
England and Wales[3]			
2002	8	5	13
2003	15	8	23
2004	13	8	21
2005	11	11	22
2006	18	7	25

[1] Excludes section 33 (cable burning).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Persons data given are for males and females.

[5] Other data refer to companies, public bodies, etc.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Joint Waste Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on whether members of a joint waste authority are entitled to responsibility allowances and salaries; and whether members will be eligible to join the local government pension scheme. [252322]

Jane Kennedy: No guidance on these issues has been published.

Origin Marking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to improve country of origin labelling. [253937]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The framework European Commission legislation governing general food labelling is currently being revised in Brussels. This includes a consideration of the tightening of criteria around voluntary country of origin declarations. The Government support this move and are actively involved in these negotiations.

In order to help industry meet consumer interest in this issue, the Food Standards Agency has had in place since 2002, best practice guidance. This advises, for example, that bacon products from imported pork should be clearly labelled as such. Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Ministers are holding a series of meetings with industry to promote uptake of the guidance.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities levy charges for the provision of bags for the collection of household waste. [252440]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold this information.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's consultation on revised waste exemptions from environmental permitting, whether municipal allotments will be charged to have permit or exemption in order to have a compost heap. [252638]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on Compost: Licensing, on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 46W.

TREASURY

Child Trust Fund: County Londonderry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Child Trust Fund take-up rates in each ward in East Londonderry constituency were in the most recent period for which figures are available. [254047]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Information broken down by ward would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, constituency-level data, including the number of vouchers issued and parental account opening figures, on Child Trust Fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many responses to letters received in his Department from hon. Members were outstanding in each month since September 2008. [253812]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held on a monthly basis. However, the Cabinet Office annually publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence, which is available in the Library of the House.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy to reduce the impact of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254065]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has regular engagements with outside organisations, including relevant Government Departments, on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-UK born individuals have been in *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employment in each year since 1978; and how many such individuals were in employment in each year. [253923]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many non-UK born individuals have been in (a) public and (b) private sector employment in each year since 1978; and how many such individuals were in employment in each year. 253923

The available information is provided in the attached table. Comparable estimates prior to 1995 are not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include this detailed age breakdown.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Non-UK born people aged 16 and over in employment by public and private sector, three month period ending September, 1995 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Private sector[1, 3]	*Public sector*[1, 2]	*Total*[4]
1995	1,348	449	1,818
1996	1,393	446	1,864
1997	1,539	437	1,991
1998	1,594	464	2,065
1999	1,636	471	2,114
2000	1,738	489	2,237
2001	1,810	506	2.327
2002	1,941	546	2,499
2003	1,996	577	2,591
2004	2,083	628	2,728
2005	2,250	671	2.935
2006	2,561	679	3,254
2007	2,820	706	3,549
2008[5]	*2,985	*723	*3,727

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates:
are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for Public Sector Employment estimates.

[2] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central government, civil service, local government or council (including police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university or other grant-funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.

[3] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[4] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.

[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what internal guidance documents the Valuation Office Agency uses for valuing properties for inheritance tax purposes. [253897]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) internal guidance for valuing properties for inheritance tax purposes is contained in its Inheritance Tax Manual, which is available electronically on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters from hon. Members are yet to be answered by his Department; what the average time taken to reply to a letter from an hon. Member has been in each of the last six months; what his Department's target time for responding to a letter from an hon. Member is; and how many such letters have not been answered within that timescale in the last six months. [251269]

Angela Eagle: The Cabinet Office annually publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence, which is available in the Library of the House.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter sent to his Department by the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead dated 29 October 2008, regarding tax credits. [253972]

Mr. Timms: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 468-9W, in relation to what other groups *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* its predecessor bodies have conducted similar sample surveys. [254108]

Mr. Timms: Inland Revenue, and more recently HMRC, has carried out similar sample surveys in respect of general practitioners and NHS dentists. Results of recent surveys are published on The NHS Information Centre for health and social care website:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley is planned to be closed. [253941]

Mr. Timms: As announced in February 2008 HMRC is planning to vacate Lingmell House, Chorley by autumn 2010. No specific vacation date has yet been set. Inquiry centre services will be continued in the locality.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Offenders: Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Leader of the House what her Office's policy is on the employment of former prisoners. [253809]

Chris Bryant: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Cabinet Office on 15 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 872W. The Leader's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office does not require applicants who have spent convictions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 to provide details of those convictions when seeking employment. Applicants with current convictions are not precluded from taking up employment and each case is considered on the basis of individual circumstances.

JUSTICE

Cannabis: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many successful prosecutions for the possession of cannabis there have been in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years; [253618]

(2) how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were of people from each district council ward in Copeland for (i) the possession and (ii) the supplying of cannabis in the last five years; [253757]

(3) how many of the successful prosecutions for the supplying of cannabis in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland involved (i) offenders resident outside of Cumbria and (ii) young offenders in the last five years; [253758]

(4) how many successful prosecutions for the supplying of cannabis there have been in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in each of the last five years; how many of each resulted in a custodial sentence in each year; and how many resulted in offenders taking part in a drug rehabilitation programme in each year. [253759]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is set out as follows:

Court proceedings

Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the possession and supply of cannabis in Cumbria for 2003 to 2007, broken down by age is in table 1.

Information on the number of defendants given a custodial sentence and given drug treatment and testing orders for the supply of cannabis are in table 2. Drug treatment and testing orders were replaced in 2006 by community orders (not currently collected by the Ministry of Justice) which can comprise a number of possible requirements including a drug treatment programme.

Information held centrally on the Court Proceedings Database from which the data has been derived does not include information on constituencies and the residence of defendants.

Arrests

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, sexual offences and drug offences. From these centrally reported data, we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Data are reported to the Home Office at police force area level only therefore further breakdowns of data by district council ward are not available.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the possession and supply[1] of cannabis, in the Cumbria police force area, 2003-07, broken down by age [2] [3]

		Proceeded against					Found guilty				
Offence	*Age*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Possession	10 to 17	33	26	42	30	14	27	24	40	28	11
	18 and over	192	94	78	84	94	178	80	65	75	89
	All ages	225	120	120	114	108	205	104	105	103	100
Supply	10 to 17	4	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	—
	18 and over	27	15	9	15	20	20	17	4	10	16
	All ages	31	16	10	16	21	24	18	5	11	16

[1] Includes "Supplying or offering to supply" and "Possession with intent to supply".

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Table 2: Custodial sentences and drug treatment and testing orders for supplying cannabis offences[1], Cumbria police force area, 2003-07

Supply	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Immediate custodial sentences	9	6	—	1	9
Drug treatment and testing order[2]	19	13	19	—	—

[1] Includes "Supplying or offering to supply" and "Possession with intent to supply".

[2] Now replaced by community order which can comprise a number of possible requirements including a drug treatment programme, however, these data are not currently collected by the Ministry of Justice.

Notes:

1. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. These data are based on the principal offence basis.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Courts: Closures

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* courts and *(b)* hearing centres have closed in each year since 1997. [253582]

Bridget Prentice: Up until 1 April 2005 magistrates courts were the responsibility of locally managed magistrates courts committees who were statutorily independent. They were not required by statute to inform the Department of closures that were not subject to an appeal under section 56(3) of the Justices peace Act 1997 (now repealed).

The following table shows details of court closures within Her Majesty's Courts' Service, (including Crown, magistrates and county courts) since 1997.

	Closures			
	Magistrates court	*Crown court (satellites)*	*County court*	*Total court*
1997	21	1	8	30
1998	25	0	6	31
1999	7	1	2	10
2000	13	0	4	17
2001	30	0	1	31
2002	7	0	2	9
2003	13	0	0	13
2004	2	0	0	2
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	1	0	1	2
2007	2	1	0	3
2008	2	0	0	2
2009 to date	0	0	0	0
Total				150

Courts: Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions court cells were *(a)* made available for and *(b)* used for housing prisoners overnight in the last 12 months; and how many prisoners were accommodated on each occasion they were used. [252824]

Mr. Straw: Court cells were used on 21 nights between the nights of 5-6 and 28-29 February 2008. At any one time a maximum of 164 cells were available for use.

The following table shows the number of places used in each of five courts over this period. Court cells have not been used since 28-29 February 2008.

Date	*Total*
5 February 2008	66
6 February 2008	71
7 February 2008	56
9 February 2008	32
10 February 2008	32
11 February 2008	99
12 February 2008	87
13 February 2008	71
14 February 2008	95
16 February 2008	26
17 February 2008	26
18 February 2008	63
19 February 2008	9
20 February 2008	44
21 February 2008	69
23 February 2008	39
24 February 2008	39
25 February 2008	61
26 February 2008	40
27 February 2008	63
28 February 2008	27
Total	1,115

Cremation

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish guidance to local authorities on *(a)* the length of time ashes should be retained by crematoria and *(b)* the methods to be used to dispose of ashes not claimed by the family of the deceased. [253654]

Bridget Prentice: We currently have no plans to issue guidance on these issues. Regulation 30 of the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, which came into force on 1 January, sets out the duties of cremation authorities in respect of the disposal of ashes. These are that the cremation authority must give the ashes to the applicant for cremation or someone nominated by the applicant for that purpose. If the applicant does not want the ashes and has not nominated anyone, the cremation authority must retain the ashes for burial or scattering within the crematorium grounds. The authority must not inter or scatter the ashes unless it has given 14 days' notice of its intention to do so to the applicant.

Judicial Appointments Commission: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of the Judicial Appointments Commission was in each of the last three years. [253584]

Maria Eagle: The Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) was officially launched on 3 April 2006. The grant funding for JAC provided by Ministry of Justice in each of the last three years is as follows:

	£000
2006-07	6,104
2007-08	7,130
2008-09	8,148

The 2008-09 grant number is based upon the published winter supplementary estimate.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the creation of a Sentencing Council on the level of the prison population in England and Wales. [253583]

Mr. Straw: The creation of a Sentencing Council has no direct impact on the prison population. This is because there is no requirement in the Coroners and Justice Bill for a sentencer in an individual case to have regard to resources. There is also no requirement in the Bill for the Council to produce guidelines that fit within resource constraints. A key new role of the Sentencing Council will however be to monitor and assess the impact that sentencing guidelines and other factors have, or are likely to have, on the prison population and probation service.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisoners on *(a)* end of custody licence, *(b)* release on temporary licence and *(c)* home detention curfew are eligible to vote if registered. [252817]

Mr. Straw: Prisoners who are detained in a penal institution are ineligible to vote in all UK elections under the terms of section 3 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and other related legislation. Prisoners are only granted temporary release for one of the purposes laid down in rule 9 of the Prison Rules 1999 or rule 5 of the Young Offender Institution Rules 2000. Voting is not included in those purposes who have been released from prison under the home detention curfew scheme are eligible to vote unless they are otherwise excluded by statute.

Prisons: Wind Power

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the effect on *(a)* prison security, *(b)* the well being and health of prisoners and *(c)* the safety and health of prison staff from (i) noise from, (ii) vibrations from and (iii) movement of wind turbines sited close to prisons. [253819]

Mr. Hanson: The Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, are responsible for Government policy on wind turbines and therefore for research about their impact on residential property and businesses in close proximity to them. The National Offender Management Service already reviews the security implications of wind turbines sited close to prisons and will conduct appropriate health and safety risk assessments on wind turbines that are already in place.

Victims' Champion: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of the Victims' Champion is for the term of the appointment. [253586]

Mr. Straw: £60,000 for this calendar year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many additional helicopters have been delivered to forces in Afghanistan as a result of the UK-French Helicopter Fund announced at the March 2008 Franco-British Summit. [254419]

Mr. Hutton: Nations benefiting from the Helicopter Fund will start to deploy helicopters to Afghanistan in September this year. By mid-2010 we anticipate that the first three nations to use the fund to support their theatre-entry equipment and training requirements will have deployed eight helicopters to Afghanistan. Furthermore, three other nations that are considering deploying helicopters to Afghanistan for the first time have made informal enquiries about how the fund may be used to help with the procurement of mission-essential equipment.

Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of personnel who left the armed forces in each year since 2002 had served in Iraq or Afghanistan. [253719]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding reply 3 February 2009]*: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* original and *(b)* revised estimate of the value of defence estates to be sold under package 1 of the Defence Training Review was. [253094]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department is continuing to seek planning consents for the proposed sale of the sites programmed to be sold under the current Metrix deal for Defence Training Review Package 1. Anticipated values rise and fall according to market conditions and are continually reviewed in line with HM Treasury guidance. Surplus sites are planned to be sold at market value from 2012 onwards. I am withholding the anticipated values as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. There is no direct relationship between their disposal and affordability of the Package 1 Project.

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which EU member states are contributing to the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and what each is contributing. [253363]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The majority of EU member states are contributing to EUFOR TCHAD/RCA. The specific contribution of other EU member states is a matter for them. Further information on EUFOR TCHAD/RCA can be found on the website of the Council of the European Union:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/

The UK is providing four military officers under standing EU headquarters augmentation procedures as part of the operation: two officers in the operation HQ at Mont Valerien in Paris and two officers in the force HQ in Chad. There is also one British staff officer attached to the French NATO Rapid Deployment Corps which France has recently deployed to Chad.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops have been stationed in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in each year since 2002. [252911]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A breakdown of figures for the two sovereign areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia is not available. The following table shows the total number of UK service personnel stationed in Cyprus as at 1 April each year:

	Total in Cyprus
2002	3,460
2003	[1]—
2004	[1]—
2005	3,170
2006	3,040
2007	[2]2,950
2008	[2]2,780

[1] Data not available.

[2] Provisional due to on-going validation of data.

Location statistics between 2003 and 2004 were suspended due to concerns over data quality.

Data for 2002 include deployed and stationed personnel; from 2005 onwards data are for stationed personnel only.

The UK regular forces stationed location figures are available in UKDS. The latest published figures are available at:

> http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=1610&date=2008-10-01&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=3

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 107 of the Explanatory Memorandum of 11 December 2008 on the French Presidency Report on European Security and Defence Policy, European Union Document No. 16686/08, whether the generic preparation guide for EU battlegroups uses NATO standardisation agreements. [254420]

Mr. Hutton: 26 EU member states are also members of NATO or NATO Partnership for Peace and therefore use NATO standardisation agreements. The EU battlegroup preparation guide stipulates that

> "EU Battlegroup evaluation procedures and standards should, where applicable, be analogous to those defined within NATO, taking into account the specific nature of EU crisis management"

(paragraph 70, page 16).

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 107 of the Explanatory Memorandum of 11 December 2008 on the French Presidency Report on European Security and Defence Policy, European Union Document No. 16686/08, whether the British armed forces will use the generic preparations guide for EU battlegroups; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the guide. [254423]

Mr. Hutton: The UK contributed to the formulation of the generic preparations guide for EU battlegroups that was agreed under the French presidency for use on a voluntary basis by EU member states in accordance with the battlegroup concept. The UK's contributions to the EU's battlegroup roster are prepared and certified nationally to standards that meet and exceed the ones set out in this and other documents agreed by the council. I will place a copy of the guide in the Library of the House.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which components of the UK's commitment to the Helsinki Headline Goal comprise an *(a)* armed mechanical brigade and *(b)* amphibious brigade. [253368]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United Kingdom currently offers:

> Three brigades from the army to HG2010. The three brigades offer a degree of flexibility that allows the UK to provide either an Armoured Brigade (based on Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicles and Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks), a Mechanised Brigade (based on Saxon Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks) or an Air Assault Brigade consisting of lightly equipped infantry in the Air Manoeuvre role.
>
> One amphibious brigade from the Royal Navy to HG2010.

A member state's declaration to the Headline Goal indicates the range of forces that could be made available to support potential EU operations. It does not bind the member state to providing the forces declared for any specific mission.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 106 of the Explanatory Memorandum of 11 December 2008 on the French Presidency Report on European Security and Defence Policy, European Union Document No. 16686/08, what *(a)* resources and *(b)* capabilities the UK has declared for the (i) Maritime Rapid Response Concept and (ii) Air Rapid Response Concept for 2009. [254421]

Mr. Hutton: The Maritime Response Concept and the Air Rapid Response Concept are mechanisms to speed up the force generation process in the EU and do not indicate any standing forces. The UK has committed no capabilities or resources specifically to either concept but has set out in its response to the EU Headline Goal 2010 the forces, including maritime and air, that are potentially available for planning purposes for EU missions.

Military Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the in-service date for the A400M airlift aircraft. [252864]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Airbus Military has announced a series of delays in the development and production of the A400M programme, and has recently indicated that first deliveries to customer nations will be three years after the achievement of first flight of the A400M prototype. Airbus has indicated that first flight will occur no earlier than the second half of 2009, and has also announced a slowdown in its production plans. Early A400M production aircraft will be delivered to some of our partner nations and therefore the first UK delivery would occur at least six months after Airbus delivers the first A400M. This suggests that initial UK deliveries could not start before 2013 and therefore the estimated in-service date of the A400M (defined as acceptance into service of the seventh aircraft) would be 2014.

Navy: Contracts

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what multi-activity contracts (MACs) the Royal Navy has; and what the *(a)* scope, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* date of expiry of each MAC is. [254362]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Royal Navy has 11 commercial agreements that can be described as multi-activity contracts of varying size, value and scope. These range from services provided under a 15-year partnering arrangement to a small contract for catering and cleaning services. Details are provided in the following table:

Contract Title	*Contract Scope*	*Contract Monetary Value*	*Contract Expiry Date*
RN South-West Regional MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £7 million with an initial period of seven years	30 April 2013 with potential for further periods
RN South Central Regional MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £7 million with an initial period of seven years	30 April 2013 with potential for further periods
RM Condor, HMS Gannet and RMR Scotland MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £1.3 million with an initial period of four years	30 November 2012 with potential for further periods
RM Poole MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £2.2 million with a duration of eight years	30 April 2009
Gosport MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £5 million with a duration of seven years	17 November 2009
HMS Caledonia and Rosyth Area MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £1.8 million with a duration of eight years	31 January 2009
Non Fleet Scottish Units MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £0.15 million with a duration of eight years	31 May 2009
RNHQ Northern England and HMS Cambria	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £0.1 million with an initial period of three years	31 July 2011 with potential for further periods
Gosport MAC	Soft Facilities Management	Estimated annual value of £0.3 million with an initial period of three years	17 November 2010 with potential for further periods
RN Partnering Arrangement	Soft Facilities Management, Hard Facility Management	Estimated annual value of £80 million with a duration of 15 years.	30 June 2011
Navy Command Air Engineering MAC	Technical Services Management	Estimated annual value of £8-11 million with a duration of three years	31 March 2011

Notes:

1. Soft Facilities Management may include but is not limited to the provision of catering, retail and leisure, mess and hotel services, establishment cleaning and waste management, graphic and media support, and administration services.
2. Hard Facility Management may include but is not limited to the provision of civil and domestic building/works, infrastructure maintenance, and grounds maintenance.
3. Technical Services Management may include but is not limited to the provision of training and training support, equipment maintenance and technical support, airfield services and support.

Warships

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria were used to determine the successful bidder for the Royal Navy contract entitled Specialist Vessel Requirement S&MO CB/3193; and if he will make a statement. [254449]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The contract for the provision of harbour support and coastal re-supply services to the Falkland Islands was awarded on 23 January 2009 following an open competition that fully complied with MOD guidelines and EU regulations. All bids received were assessed on a fair and equitable basis against stringent operational requirements and criteria to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. The most technically compliant and affordable bidder was awarded the contract.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Future Work Programme

7. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission when he last discussed the National Audit Office's future work programme with the Comptroller and Auditor General. [254304]

Mr. Alan Williams: The Comptroller and Auditor General is responsible for the selection of topics for the National Audit Office's future work programme. He discusses the actual topics with the Public Accounts Committee. The Commission's role is to ensure that adequate resources are available for the NAO's programme. The Commission last discussed the National Audit Office's work with the Comptroller and Auditor General on 2 July 2008 when it examined the Office's Corporate Plan.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Control

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what increased resources his Department has dedicated to tackling chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism threats, as referred to on page 12 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [246260]

David Miliband: We are increasing programme spend from £2 million for the financial year 2009-10 to £3 million for the financial year 2010-11. Eight officers within the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Directorate for Defence and Strategic Threats cover aspects of work related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism; this represents an increase in the number of staff dealing with the issue. In addition there are officers at posts overseas working on CBRN as part of their portfolios.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245323]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the cost of collecting it would incur disproportionate cost. The FCO's Senior Information Risk Owner wrote to the FCO's main contractors in December 2008 reminding them of their responsibilities under the Data Handling Report in managing data securely. FCO contracts include new security clauses which are applicable to all contracts involving personal data.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245344]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally, and the cost of providing it would be disproportionate.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, on what date Mr. Ravi Gurumurthy was appointed. [242156]

Gillian Merron: Mr. Ravi Gurumurthy was seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 28 June 2007.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247920]

Gillian Merron: Communication Directorate within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office acts as its central media and communication unit. Only a small number of public surveys have been carried out by the directorate in the last three years. Between April 2006 to March 2007, and April 2007 to March 2008, there were none. From April 2008 to January 2009 the directorate spent an estimated total of £25,000 on public surveys.

Embassies: Operating Costs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the running costs of each British diplomatic mission overseas were in the last financial year for which information is available. [242201]

David Miliband: I will write to the right hon. Member separately with details of the costs of each British diplomatic mission overseas for 2007-08, and will place a copy of these details in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay dated 28 October 2008 on the subject of the John Williams draft of the Iraq dossier. [248487]

Gillian Merron: I responded to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy on the recent Arab Peace Initiative is. [248125]

Bill Rammell: The Arab Peace Initiative offers Israel recognition by, and normalisation of relations with, the 22 Arab League States as part of a comprehensive peace. The Government believe that it provides a positive vision for the progress in the Middle East Peace Process. We are working with the Governments of Israel and of the Arab world to pursue a such comprehensive peace.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agreements there are affecting the use of British military airbases for the transfer of weapons from the United States to Israel; and whether the terms of such agreements have been invoked in the last two months. [249201]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Defence has a system in place that requires all countries to seek clearance for all aircraft registered as military or state aircraft that wish to enter, fly over or depart from UK airspace or for civilian aircraft wishing to land at military bases. All other types of aircraft are subject to the requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority. A request for MOD clearance includes the final destination of the flight and details of any dangerous cargo that may be in transit. I can confirm that we have had no such requests for clearance from the US with regards to flights on to Israel in the last two months.

Morocco: Trade

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to firms about trade with Morocco where such trade draws upon the resources of the Non Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara. [244030]

Gillian Merron: Commercial deals are a matter for the companies concerned. However, the Government work to ensure that companies are aware of the undetermined status of the non self-governing territory of Western Sahara when trading with Morocco. The UK supports UN efforts to resolve the conflict and urge all parties to achieve a mutually acceptable solution that provides the people of the Western Sahara with an opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal: Imports

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much coal was imported in each of the last 10 years; how much he forecasts will be imported in the *(a)* current year and *(b)* next three years; and if he will make a statement. [250076]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: The following table shows how much coal was imported into the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years. Provisional annual figures for 2008 will be published in the March edition of Energy Trends.

	Amount (Thousand tonnes)
1998	21,244
1999	20,293
2000	23,446
2001	35,542
2002	28,686
2003	31,891
2004	36,153
2005	43,968
2006	50,529
2007	43,365

Source: Table 2.1.1 Long Term Trends, Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008.

A range of scenarios for future coal imports implied by scenarios for demand and indigenous production of coal can be found on page 88 of the "Energy Markets Outlook Report" December 2008, produced by Department of Energy and Climate Change. A copy of this publication is available in the House of Commons Library or can be accessed through this link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49406.pdf.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of contractors and suppliers to his Department has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008, bringing together policy responsibility for energy (formerly with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)) and climate change (formerly with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)). The Department is not at present party to any contracts, as the Transfer of Function Order related to the creation of DECC has not yet come into force. Existing contracts related to energy and climate change matters will remain with BERR and Defra respectively until the Transfer of Function Order comes into force. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1588W and by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245333]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008, bringing together policy responsibility for energy (formerly with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)) and climate change (formerly with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)). The Department is not at present party to any contracts, as the Transfer of Function Order related to the creation of DECC has not yet come into force. Existing contracts related to energy and climate change matters will remain with BERR and Defra respectively until the Transfer of Function Order comes into force. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 890W and by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 423W.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions since the creation of his Department Ministers used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249131]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the Department's inception on 3 October 2008, Minister's have not asked for any parliamentary questions to be answered whereby disproportionate costs would have been incurred.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead's letter of 10 October 2008, that was transferred to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on cavity wall insulation. [247207]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to the hon. Member on 20 January 2009 and apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Warm Front Scheme: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Warm Front scheme in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [250353]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Work and Pensions operates the winter fuel payments. My Department has received representations on the operation of the Warm Front Scheme in North Yorkshire.

I am currently receiving all aspects of the scheme and all such representations are informing the process.

Wind Power

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 896-97W, on wind power, what assessment he has made of the contribution of operational wind turbines towards the Government's renewable energy targets. [250721]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The UK has a domestic target of 10 per cent. of our electricity coming from renewable sources by 2010. In 2007, all renewables generated 19,664 GWh of electricity, or 5 per cent. of the UK's electricity.

Of this, onshore wind generated 4,491 GWh. The contribution from onshore wind to overall UK electricity generation was 1.14 per cent.

Offshore wind generated 783 GWh in 2007. The contribution from offshore wind to overall UK generation was 0.2 per cent.

The contribution from onshore and offshore wind to overall UK generation was therefore 1.34 per cent.

Source: AEA Technology/RESTATS.

It should be noted, however, that since this data was collated new projects have gone live in 2008—such as the 194MW Lynn and Inner Dowsing offshore wind farms and the 322MW Whitelee onshore wind farm. Generation data for these sites is not yet available.

With the construction of Lynn and Inner Dowsing, the UK now has 598MW of offshore wind capacity, overtaking Denmark as world leader in this technology. This extra capacity also takes the UK over the 3GW mark of total installed onshore and offshore wind capacity.

We are committed to increasing the use of wind power far beyond 3GW over the next few decades. The step change in the policy and measures necessary to achieve this are already in train or being developed.

The UK Government support the agreement that has been reached between the Council and European Parliament following the Council in December 2008 that 20 per cent. of EU energy consumption should come from renewable energy sources by 2020. In the UK this equates to a 15 per cent. target by 2020.

To meet this target, we consulted on a draft UK Renewable Energy Strategy last summer. We sought stakeholders' views on a wide range of measures, including further development of wind power, to help meet our share of the EU target. We will publish our finalised Renewable Energy Strategy later this year.

We also have a range of measures already in place to bring on more renewables development, including onshore and offshore wind, in order to meet our targets. For example, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced in the pre-Budget report that we would be extending the Renewables Obligation (RO) until 2037. This will ensure that investors can plan with confidence for the future so that over the next decade the market will continue to deliver the renewables projects that we need to achieve our 2020 target.

This Department will also be launching an Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED), one of a suite of new low-carbon offices, as a one-stop-shop for business and other stakeholders aimed at removing supply chain barriers to renewables deployment. ORED will also have a strong role to play in tackling other deployment barriers related to grid, planning and raising public awareness.

Other measures include the launch this year of tenders under the Offshore Transmission Regime, to enable more offshore wind power to be connected to the grid. The Transmission Access Review will also enable more onshore wind to get early connection dates.

In summary, we are working across policy areas to increase wind developments: planning, financial incentives, business development and grid infrastructure. These measures will ensure wind power plays a full part in meeting our carbon budgets and energy supply needs in 2020 and beyond.

OLYMPICS

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to reply to the letters of 6 November 2008 and 14 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on Olympic events for women cyclists, reference SP2318. [254529]

Tessa Jowell: I will reply to the hon. Member's letter early next week. I apologise for the delay.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much his Department has spent on advertising in the last five years; [243249]

(2) with reference to the Answer of 12 November 2008, on departmental marketing, how much his Department spent on advertising in the last five years. [243526]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides details of the Northern Ireland Office's advertising expenditure, excluding agencies and NDPBs, in the last five years.

	Advertising expenditure (£)
2003-04	372,922
2004-05	548,451
2005-06	159,146
2006-07	190,204
2007-08	454,075

The increase in 2007-08 was largely due to a public advertising campaign for fireworks safety, funded by Firearms and Explosives Branch. Expenditure in this campaign included creative, agency and production costs as well as media advertising, promotion, education packs and initiatives for schools.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251871]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 5W, in relation to the Government Car and Despatch Agency. Other transport costs for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Regulation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to regulate the advertising industry. [253800]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* Advertising in the UK is strictly controlled through a system of co-regulation and self-regulation, which is enforced by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). This regulatory system is independent of Government and is ultimately responsible for setting the standards in advertising.

The bodies responsible for writing and maintaining the advertising codes, the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP), are currently undertaking a full review of all the advertising codes. CAP and BCAP will hold a public consultation on proposed changes to the advertising codes in 2009.

Arts Council England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding Arts Council England provided to *(a)* the Hayward Gallery, *(b)* the London Philharmonic Orchestra and *(c)* the Saison Poetry Library in each of the last five years; and how much came from (i) Exchequer funding and (ii) the National Lottery in each such year. [249420]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that it has provided funding to the Hayward Gallery and the London Philharmonic Orchestra in each of the last five years as set out in the table. Regular funding towards the ongoing running costs of the Hayward Gallery and the Saison Poetry Library is included in the overall allocation for the South Bank Centre. The Saison Poetry Library has received no lottery funding.

£

Arts Council England funding to:	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(a) Hayward Gallery					
(i) Exchequer funding other than regular funding via South Bank Centre allocation	—	—	—	—	500
(ii) Lottery funding: grants for the Arts	—	—	30,000	—	—
(b) London Philharmonic Orchestra					
(i) Exchequer funding	1,618,362	1,741,681	1,916,615	1,969,322	2,023,478
(ii) Lottery funding: grants for the Arts	—	—	30,000	269,694	10,928

BBC: Location

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the cost of relocation of BBC staff to Media City, Salford; what discussions he has had on the subject with *(a)* the Director General of the BBC and *(b)* the BBC Trust; and if he will make a statement. [254032]

Andy Burnham: The cost to the licence fee payer of relocating BBC staff to Media City in Salford was estimated by the BBC at the time of the licence fee settlement announcement at £200 million over the current licence fee period, which is from April 2007 to March 2013.

The BBC director general and the chair of the BBC Trust update me regularly on BBC-related matters, including the relocation to Media City.

Broadband

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to the Review of Barriers to Investment in Next Generation Broadband. [242071]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have been considering the recommendations from the Caio Review into the barriers to investment in Next Generation Access carefully, particularly in relation to the recently announced Digital Britain Report, which will provide a strategy for a fully digital Britain. The Government will fully respond to these recommendations in due course.

Digital Broadcasting: Publicity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of campaigns to inform people about the switchover from analogue to digital television. [253802]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* DigitalUK is responsible for informing the public about switchover. The DigitalUK tracker survey Q3 2008 shows that public awareness now stands at almost 90 per cent. and Digital Television take-up at 87 per cent.

Public Service Broadcasting: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure quality of service from public service broadcasters. [253799]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* Within the framework of the Communication Act 2003 and the BBC's Charter and Agreement, day-to-day responsibility for ensuring quality of Public Service Broadcasting rests with the broadcasters and the broadcasting authorities.

The Government are looking at how the quality of Public Service Broadcasting can be sustained in the future, as part of the current Digital Britain review, due to published in the summer of 2009.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much TV Licensing spent on public relations in each of the last three years. [249805]

Andy Burnham: The BBC has a statutory responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system. Under contract to the corporation, TV Licensing carries out the day to day administration of these duties.

"TV Licensing" is a trading name used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. TV Licensing's marketing and public relations activities are carried out by the AMV consortium, which is made up of the following four companies: Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO Ltd, Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams Limited (who are responsible for TV Licensing's public relations activities), PHD Media Limited and Proximity London Ltd.

The BBC considers that release of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of parties within, and connected to, this arrangement, as well as the BBC itself, as it would reveal valuable information on pricing structures, business structures and operations to these companies' competitors.

Television: Standards

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he received any representations from viewers regarding the use of language in Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmare programme broadcast on Channel 4. [254555]

Andy Burnham: My Department has not currently received any representations from viewers referring to the use of language in Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmare programme.

Tourism

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to encourage foreign visitors to the United Kingdom over the next 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [247213]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain (VB) is currently formulating a new three-year strategy on the back of the many recommendations of the recent British Tourism Framework Review. The strategy will set out the steps that VB will take between 2009 and 2012 to increase the visitor economy to £133 billion by 2018. The strategy is due to be launched on 11 February.

Overseas visitors demand the highest levels of customer service and we believe that despite the global economic downturn, they are willing to spend on good quality products. VisitBritain therefore announced a new marketing campaign 'Value for Money' at the Liverpool Tourism Summit on 8 January 2009 costing £6.5 million. This will include the promotion of London as a more affordable destination at the present time. In addition, the Government will continue to invest in skills and in tourism product itself. This will include the quality of accommodation; the Olympics and Paralympic Games; the Cultural Olympiad; free museums and galleries; heritage and seaside resorts, which are all critical to meeting visitor expectations and their demand for an exceptional experience.

Tourism: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to bid for EU funding schemes for tourism in England during the current financial year. [253233]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The Department has no current plans to bid for EU funding schemes for tourism in the current financial year. Bids for funds from the European Regional Development Fund Objective 2 and the European Social Fund for Tourism are usually submitted by the Regional Development Agencies.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of an annual increase in carer's allowance of *(a)* £3, *(b)* £4, *(c)* £5, *(d)* £6, *(e)* £7, *(f)* £8, *(g)* £9 and *(h)* £10 a week in each of the next six years. [246725]

Jonathan Shaw: The estimated additional annual cost of increasing carer's allowance by the specified amounts is shown in the following table. The increase in carer's allowance is represented as a cash amount in the given years. The costs are given in nominal terms.

Estimated additional annual cost of increasing carer's allowance

£ million

Increase in carer's allowance amount	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£3	40	42	44	45	47	48
£4	54	56	58	60	62	64
£5	67	70	73	75	78	80
£6	80	84	87	90	93	96
£7	94	98	102	105	109	113
£8	107	111	116	120	125	129
£9	121	125	131	135	140	145
£10	134	139	145	151	156	161

These figures represent the best estimate we can provide given the limitations of the data. However, they are likely to under estimate the total costs. This is because they do not include any costs for carer's allowance recipients who are in a household where a member receives an income-related benefit, as we are unable to estimate the costs of increasing carer's allowance for this group.

Children: Maintenance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what enforcement action his Department and its agencies have taken to recover debts in respect of which they have obtained liability orders in each region of England in each of the last three years. [250962]

Kitty Ussher: The Department does not use liability orders to recover benefit overpayment debts.

Council Tax and Housing Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many outstanding unprocessed council tax benefit claims there were in each local authority area in each *(a)* quarter of each year from 1999 to 2008 and *(b)* of the last 12 months; [249428]

(2) what the average number of days taken to process council tax benefit applications was in *(a)* each quarter of each year from 1999 to 2008 and *(b)* each of the last 12 months; [249429]

(3) what the average number of days taken to process housing benefit applications was in *(a)* each quarter of each year from 1999 to 2008 and *(b)* each of the last 12 months; [249430]

(4) how many outstanding unprocessed housing benefit claims there were in each local authority area in *(a)* each quarter of each year from 1999 to 2008 and *(b)* each of the last 12 months. [249433]

Kitty Ussher: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which websites are operated by his Department in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for those websites is. [251212]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables detail the websites currently operated by the Department for Work and Pensions, and the costs associated with them.

DWP websites are mostly operated by the Department's own in-house Digital Media team.

DWP is currently working with the COI to develop a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government. We will be implementing this standard from March 2009 in line with the current timetable.

However, for the financial year 2007-08, the latest available figures, it was not possible for us to quantify internal staff costs, because in most cases, staff were engaged in more than one role. In addition, we were unable to establish accurately our infrastructure costs because they formed part of a wider departmental IT contract. We have therefore detailed only quantifiable costs for each site—these include payments to suppliers for services such as research, testing and site builds. Figures for the jobcentre plus website include the costs of maintaining some online services, since these figures are quantifiable.

Table A lists those websites operated by Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is responsible for the content:

Website name and address		*Quantifiable costs financial year 2007-08 (£)*
Department for Work and Pensions		
www.dwp.gov.uk		25,666
Jobcentre Plus		
www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk	Employer Direct Online	390,684
	Internet Job Bank	1,645,752
	Tactical e-services	1,014,816
	Site Accessibility	58,000
	Total	3,109,252
The Pension Service		
www.thepensionservice.gov.uk		10,429
Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections		
www.direct.gov.uk/disablity		614,848

Website name and address		*Quantifiable costs financial year 2007-08 (£)*
www.direct.gov.uk/carers		
Directgov Over 50s Section		
www.direct.gov.uk/over50s		—
Directgov Jobseekers		
www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers		—
Age Positive		
www.agepositive.gov.uk		—
Office for Disability Issues		
www.officefordisability.gov.uk		149,466
European Social Fund		
www.esf.gov.uk		—
Now Let's Talk Money		
www.nowletstalkmoney.com		163,612

Table B lists those websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is not responsible for the content:

Website name and address	*Quantifiable costs financial year 2007-08 (£)*
Independent Case Examiner	
www.ind-case-exam.org.uk	—
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	
www.iiac.org.uk	—
Social Security Advisory Committee	
www.ssac.org.uk	—
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force	
www.emetaskforce.gov.uk	—

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249849]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

End of year performance bonuses

Senior civil service individual performance bonuses reward the delivery of in-year personal and business objectives or targets.

For the senior civil service end-of-year bonuses are determined on an individual basis by the relevant DWP SCS pay committee. The number of bonuses awarded to senior civil servants in DWP and its agencies and totals paid in 2007 and 2008 are shown in the following table:

	DWP and its agencies	
	Number of bonuses awarded to senior civil servants	*Total paid (£ million)*
2007	202	1.73
2008	208	1.82

Notes:
1. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in the year.
2. The total amount paid includes employers national insurance contribution (ERNIC).

Special bonus and voucher payments

Individuals may also be entitled to special bonus payments either as cash or vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award. Information on special bonus and voucher payments is not collated separately for the senior civil service and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Government

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the accessibility of Government websites; and if he will make a statement. [243868]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated December 2008:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [243868] on what assessment has been made of the accessibility of Government websites.

Standards for websites across government are the responsibility of the Central Office of Information (COI). Guidance on website accessibility was issued to Departments in June 2008 following public consultation. Departments are required to have central government website accessibility plans in place by 1 January 2009. Plans must be implemented and all websites must comply with the double-A W3C web accessibility standard by 1 January 2010. Departments will be requested to report their compliance with these measures.

EU Grants and Loans

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what allocation the UK has received from the European Union Globalisation Fund for the next 12 months; and what allocations of that funding have been made by his Department. [252128]

Mr. McNulty: The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, or EGF, does not operate through making allocations to member states. It is a contingency fund as such and a member state has to make a specific application for matched funding from the EGF. There is no ring fenced EGF budget: rather, the fund can draw on up to €500 million per year from within the EU budget where there may be underspends or decommitted funds.

Jobcentre Plus: Vacancies

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many posts in the Jobcentre Plus network have been vacant in each of the last 12 months. [241452]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many posts in the Jobcentre Plus network have been vacant in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below shows a snapshot of the number of internal and external vacant posts in each of the last 12 months within Jobcentre Plus.

	Number of vacancies
2007	
December	567
2008	
January	609
February	642
March	602
April	786
May	756
June	627
July	628
August	513
September	644
October	646
November	742

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentres: Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in job centres in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Scotland on (i) 1 January 2008 and (ii) 1 January 2009. [253082]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available broken down by constituency or local authority area.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants have returned to claiming JSA within 12 months of gaining employment in the latest year for which figures are available. [249029]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information his Department holds on people with rheumatoid arthritis; whether rheumatoid arthritis is classified as a disability under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005; and if he will make a statement; [253918]

(2) what recent estimate he has made on the effect of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 on access to employment for people with rheumatoid arthritis; [253919]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen the legal rights of people with rheumatoid arthritis in the workplace. [253920]

Jonathan Shaw: Data are held by my Department in respect of information provided on claims made to incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance. These data indicate that at February 2007 there were 26,470 claimants whose medical condition was recorded as "other rheumatoid arthritis"[1]. Similarly, information on the disabling condition is collected for claimants of disability living allowance, but it does not separately record rheumatoid arthritis.

Rheumatoid arthritis is not specifically classified as a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act as amended (DDA). In general, a person is considered to be disabled for the purposes of the Act if they have a "physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities". A person with rheumatoid arthritis will be protected by the provisions of the Act where he or she meets this definition of a disabled person. Furthermore, a person with rheumatoid arthritis may be able to benefit from special provisions in the Act which apply to persons with progressive or fluctuating conditions[2].

My Department has made no estimate of the effect of the DDA on access to employment for people with rheumatoid arthritis. Access to employment by disabled people, including those with rheumatoid arthritis is influenced by a range of factors, for example, the economic climate, the availability of work programmes and in-work benefits, and the advice disabled people receive to help them to find work.

It is not possible to isolate the effect of disability discrimination legislation on access to employment for disabled people.

The Government have significantly improved and strengthened the DDA, so that it now provides a comprehensive and enforceable set of civil rights for disabled people. We have no plans to extend legal rights in the workplace specifically for people with rheumatoid arthritis. We are, however, taking the opportunity of the forthcoming Equality Bill to simplify and streamline the disability discrimination legislation to make it more accessible and effective for disabled people, including those with rheumatoid arthritis, to operate.

[1] To qualify for IB, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the Personal Capability Assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the IB claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so for example, the decision for a customer claiming IB under any category would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the Personal Capability Assessment. These statistics provided are gathered by DWP for its own purposes and are based on DWP staff's interpretation of what can sometimes be quite vague information about the disabling condition on medical certificates and other corroborating evidence given by claimants. It is important to note that, where someone has more

than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded. In light of this, the information provided cannot be taken as a robust indication of the underlying condition that results in entitlement to IB.

[2] Detailed information on the provisions relating to progressive and fluctuating conditions are included in the statutory guidance on the definition of disability (Disability Discrimination Act: Guidance on matters to be taken into account in determining questions relating to the definition of disability:

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/pdf/DefnOfDisability.pdf

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Coastal Towns Network

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which principal seaside towns are *(a)* members and *(b)* not members of the Coastal Towns Network (CTN); and whether there are plans to develop links between the CTN and coastal towns in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. [244860]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The CTN is made up of representation from a range of national and regional stakeholders. Individual coastal towns are not on the CTN, but relevant towns and places are represented through local authority representation on the CTN programme, and other networks.

So far the network has included the following local authorities in meetings and circulation of papers; Brighton and Hove city council, Thanet district council, Kent county council, Lincolnshire county council, East Lindsay district council, Boston district council. CTN included representation from the BURA (British Urban Regeneration Agency) seaside network (which has a membership of public and private sector organisations in excess of 120), Coastal Communities Alliance and BRADA (British Resorts and Destinations Association). There are plans to make links with similar networks in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the first half of 2009.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 294W, on community relations: Islam, if she will place in the Library a copy of the report by the Change Institute on Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities. [252177]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has commissioned the Change Institute to conduct research on Understanding Muslim Ethnic Communities. This work has not yet been completed.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing further community-based advisory groups modelled on the Young Muslim Advisory Group. [254178]

Mr. Khan: The Department is committed to engaging with community-based groups across the Department's agenda. The Young Muslims Advisory Group has been in existence for less than six months. We will be monitoring the group's progress, and will use this information to inform any future decisions on establishing new community-based advisory groups.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1044W, on billing, if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's letter to its agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [251863]

Mr. Khan: The information has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letters of 4 December and 30 December from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on the fees levied by local authorities in respect of discharge of planning conditions, reference FD5970. [254528]

Mr. Iain Wright: I replied to the hon. Member's correspondence on 2 February 2009.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W, on departmental databases, how ACORN data are used in relation to *(a)* her Department's House Price Index, *(b)* local authority formula grant distribution and *(c)* the citizenship survey; and how MOSAIC data are used in relation to the Neighbourhood Renewal Evaluation. [252176]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is as follows:

Acorn:

(a) The CLG monthly house price index is a hedonic mix-adjusted index. The mix-adjustment weights are updated on an annual basis using a variety of variables. One of the variables is type of neighbourhood. This is produced by linking the house price dataset to Acorn data via the postcode.

(b) The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative needs and relative resources of an authority relative to all other authorities providing the same service. There is also a central allocation and floor damping mechanism. The formulae used in the distribution system cover a wide range of socio-economic and demographic indicators

For the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlement, Acorn data have been used for indicators that are used within the Police Relative Needs Formula (RNF) and the Fire and Rescue RNF.

Annex D of the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2008-09 (HC 262) contains the description of each of the indicators used in the calculation of the allocation of formula grant.

(c) Recent analysis of the Citizenship Survey has not used Acorn data. Analysis using Acorn was last carried out using 2003 and 2005 data as reported in the annual reports. More recently, data are analysed using classifications such as the new Index of Multiple Deprivation, urban/rural, and social class. However, we provide Acorn in the publicly available Citizenship Survey dataset as we recognise that local area characteristics can play an important role in cohesion and data users may wish to use this.

Mosaic:

The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal Evaluation requires the identification and analysis of socio-economic trends at small spatial scales (i.e. Lower Level Super Output Areas—LSOA) which is why the Department's contractors, Amion Consulting, have used Mosaic group data provided by Experian as it provides a typology of areas. It was initially used as part of the modelling analysis but was ultimately set aside due to extensive correlation with other socio-economic variables and consequential statistical problems.

The Mosaic typology is based on a series of datasets assembled by Experian. Two of these datasets have also been used in the Evaluation:

The ethnic origins dataset—which was also set aside in preference to Census data but is being used to identify areas with high concentrations of particular ethnic groups for subsequent analysis; and

the length of residence dataset—which was employed as part of the transition-modelling process as it provides an indicative measure of population churn (identified as an important factor in influencing area change).

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether special advisers in her Department may claim overtime payments. [251795]

Mr. Khan: Special advisers may not claim overtime payments, as set out in the Department's staff handbook and the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Derelict Land: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of recent levels of brownfield development in *(a)* the City of Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* Eastleigh borough. [254015]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the period 2003 to 2006,

(a) 94 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in Southampton was previously-developed.

(b) 71 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in Test Valley was previously-developed.

(c) 71 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in Eastleigh was previously-developed.

"Brownfield" development has been interpreted as all development on previously- developed land, not just residential development. Information on residential development can be found on the CLG website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Disadvantaged

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which electoral wards make up the 10 per cent. most deprived in England and Wales. [253340]

John Healey: The English Indices of Deprivation have, since 2004, been produced at Lower Level Super Output Area (LSOA). These are smaller than wards and are designed to remain consistent in size, and over time, to allow more detailed identification of pockets of deprivation. This also overcomes difficulties in producing statistics for electoral wards associated with frequent boundary changes. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England with an average population of 1,500 people.

I have placed a table of the 10 per cent. most deprived LSOAs from the English Indices of Deprivation 2007 in the Libraries of the House.

The Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland administrations produce separate deprivation indices.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Communities and Local Government Euro Changeover Plan 2007. [252186]

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's most recent Euro Changeover Plan; and on what date the plan was last updated. [254849]

Mr. Khan: The Communities and Local Government Euro Changeover Plan was placed in the Library in February 2006.

There has been no change of note to Communities and Local Government, its agencies and NDPB's Euro Changeover Plans since then.

The Department has therefore not produced a further version of such plans.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within her Department's responsibility. [254051]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has frequent discussions with a very wide range of external stakeholders across the full breadth of our responsibilities, covering numerous issues including reducing the impact of the recession.

Economic Situation: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what briefing notes the Minister for the East of England has received on the business environment in Hertfordshire since 1 August 2008. [254222]

Mr. Khan: The Regional Minister receives regular briefing on a range of issues which impact on the business and economic environment across the region and within Hertfordshire.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1201-2W, on empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent list of vacant domestic dwellings, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* ward. [252163]

Mr. Iain Wright: The most recent statistics on vacant dwellings at local authority level are for October 2008 and these have been placed in the Library. The latest statistics on vacant dwellings published at ward level are for April 2005. These are on the Office for National Statistics' Neighbourhood Statistics website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/datasetList.do?JSAllowed=true&Function=%24ph=60&CurrentPageId=60&step=1&CurrentTreeIndex=1&searchString=&datasetFamilyId=1618&Next.x=11&Next.y=16

Statistics for 2006, 2007 and 2008 are due for publication later this year.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what administrative financial penalties may be levied by her Department and its agencies. [253599]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its agencies have no powers to levy administrative financial penalties.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters required medical treatment as a result of assaults in each of the last three years, broken down by fire and rescue service area. [254214]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Defibrillators

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of operational fire appliances carry defibrillators. [254858]

Mr. Khan: Information on which front-line appliances carry a defibrillator is not centrally held. However, recent research on co-responding indicated that, as at the end of 2007, over one-third of fire appliances had a defibrillator on board.

Fire Services: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons new burdens funding will not be provided in relation to Project Fireguard. [254008]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 771W.

Government Office for the Regions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Local Authority Leaders' Boards will be based in the Government office regions. [254771]

Mr. Iain Wright: Yes, the intention is that Local Authority Leaders' Boards would be set up to cover the same regions as covered by Government offices and regional development agencies.

Government Office for the Regions: EU Grants and Loans

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding for 2000-2006 was unspent *(a)* in each Government Office region and *(b)* in each EDRF programme; and if she will make a statement. [254620]

John Healey: The 2000 to 2006 ERDF programmes have so far recorded spend of over €5 billion. There are over 2,900 ERDF grant claims being processed in our systems and more are expected as projects make their final claims for grant. Until these claims are all paid we will not have a final spend position but expect it to show successful take up of the available funds—at least equal to previous rounds of ERDF.

Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local housing authorities under section 226 of the Housing Act 2004; and when such guidance was last issued or revised. [254854]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government issued guidance to local housing authorities on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments under section 226 of the Housing Act 2004 in October 2007.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* all newly constructed dwellings were constructed on previously-developed land, *(b)* all dwellings on previously-developed land were newly constructed dwellings on previous residential land and *(c)* all newly-constructed dwellings were new dwellings on previously-residential land in each (i) region, (ii) county and (iii) local authority area in each of the last three years. [253940]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007, on a provisional estimate, 77 per cent. of all new dwellings (including conversions) were built on previously-developed land, compared to 76 per cent. in 2006. Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 212 gives a regional breakdown of the percentage of all new dwellings that were built on previously-developed land. Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 213 gives a local authority level breakdown of the percentage of all new dwellings that were built on previously-developed land. Both tables can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Tables have been deposited in the Library providing county level estimates of *(a)* all newly constructed dwellings that were constructed on previously-developed land, and regional, county and local authority level estimates of *(b)* all dwellings on previously-developed land were newly constructed dwellings on previous residential land and *(c)* all newly-constructed dwellings were new dwellings on previously-residential land. Estimates at a local authority and county level are provided as multi-year averages because of the unrobust and volatile nature of the data at spatial levels lower than Government office region.

Housing: Learning Disability

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to increase the number of houses available in the West Suffolk area to enable people with learning difficulties to live independently. [253122]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are responsible for assessing the housing needs in their particular locality in order to deliver the most appropriate housing solutions for their residents including those with specific needs.

In the East of England, based on recommendations within the Regional Housing Board investment plan, the Homes and Communities Agency has available £78.21 million from the National Affordable Housing Programme over the three years 2008-11 to fund Supported Housing Projects, which includes specialist provision for people with learning disabilities. Allocations of these funds are dependent on suitable schemes being submitted to the HCA for approval and, where necessary, supporting people funding being available through the local authority.

People with learning disabilities may also benefit from our standard HomeBuy products and through our specialist Home Ownership for People with long term disabilities (HOLD) product. HOLD enables purchasers with disabilities to select a home on the open market, in the location of their choice that is suitable for their needs and then buy it on shared ownership terms with a housing association. Interested applicants may apply through HomeBuy Agents in the usual way and will be referred to a specialist housing association provider, as necessary.

Housing: Mortgages

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people who have *(a)* a mortgage on a domestic property and *(b)* own a property outright. [255215]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is estimated that there were 8 million households buying with a mortgage and 6.7 million households who were outright owners in England in 2008. These estimates are based on data from the ONS Labour Force Survey.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether section 106 agreements may be attached to household extensions in cases where the proposed extension *(a)* does and *(b)* does not have permitted development rights. [252303]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning obligations (also known as section 106 agreements) can be attached to a planning permission to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.

Research commissioned by the Department shows that in 2005-06 only 6.4 per cent. of planning permissions had an obligation attached to them and that the majority of these obligations were attached to large development.

New revisions to planning regulations for General Permitted Development Orders, announced by the Government on 10 September 2008, meant that from 1 October 2008 the majority of homeowners will no longer need to get planning permission when extending their existing homes.

Therefore, for the majority of household extensions with permitted development rights planning permission would not be required and they would therefore not be liable for planning obligations. For those developments which do not have permitted development rights, planning permission may be required and therefore a section 106 obligation could be attached to the permission.

Housing: Regeneration

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has allocated to each housing market renewal pathfinder for each of the next three years. [254851]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend Baroness Andrews to Lord Greaves on 23 January 2009, *Official Report*, column WA239.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost of a *(a)* new build, *(b)* refurbishment, *(c)* acquisition and *(d)* demolition in a housing market renewal pathfinder in the latest year for which figures are available. [254852]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 791-92W.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on housing: sustainable development, if she will place in the Library a copy of BS 5906:2005. [252861]

Mr. Iain Wright: BS 5906:2005 waste management in buildings is one of the many standards that are produced and published by BSI—British Standards, a division of the BSI Group. BSI Group is non profit making and all profits are reinvested to create new standards. The documents are not published by my Department and as such I am unable to place a copy in the Library. All BS standards are available to view in the British Library or in the BSI Library in Chiswick (for a nominal fee). They are also available on the BSI website at:

http://www.bsigroup.com/en/standards-and-publications/online-subscription-products/BSOL

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the average change in per capita Government funding in *(a)* district councils, *(b)* county councils, *(c)* London boroughs, *(d)* metropolitan councils, *(e)* existing unitary councils and *(f)* new unitary councils between 2008-09 and 2009-10. [253869]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1074W.

Local Government Services: Public Participation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local community groups on accepting community transfer of libraries and other facilities. [253739]

Mr. Khan: There has been no specific guidance issued on the transfer of library facilities. General guidance was published by the Department in July 2008 on Managing Risks in Asset Transfer. The Asset Transfer Unit, which is hosted by the Development Trusts Association and funded by the Department, opened for business in January 2009 to raise the profile and importance of transferring assets to communities, and will respond to requests from community groups and public bodies for information and advice.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the transfer of facilities to community groups. [253741]

Mr. Khan: The findings of the Quirk review of Community Management and Ownership of Public Assets was published in May 2007 and made available to every local authority in England. In July 2008 every council leader and chief executive in England was sent a copy of 'Managing Risks in Asset Transfer: A Guide' which is a practical guide on managing and minimising risk. Additionally the Department has funded the Advancing Assets demonstration programme where 50 local authorities and community partnerships have been supported to facilitate community asset transfer and 60 more will be supported between 2009 and 2011.

Local Government: EU Grants and Loans

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department received from *(a)* regional development agencies, *(b)* Government offices of the regions, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* Objective 1 and 2 convergence partnerships on the extension to the deadline offered to all EU countries to spend unused 2000-2006 European regional developement funds; and if she will make a statement. [254623]

John Healey: The Government took into account views from the regions, including on the extent to which any additional resources resulting from programme extension could be used given the lack of flexibility in the EC's offer of extension and decided that there was insufficient benefit to justify changing existing spending plans.

Local Government: Publicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the revision of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Government Publicity. [253885]

Mr. Khan: Our current consultation on proposals to revise the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Government Publicity ends on 12 March 2009. We intend that any revisions we make following consultation should come into force by April 2010, in parallel with any guidance issued on the proposed new duty on councils to promote democracy, for which the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill makes provision.

Local Government: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to fund the floor damping system from central Government funds. [253139]

John Healey: Floor damping is already met from central Government funds. It ensures that every authority in England will receive at least a minimum increase in formula grant year-on-year on a like-for-like basis i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function. The cost of the floor is paid for by scaling back grant increases above the floor. This provides stability, while allowing some of the underlying change in grant to come through.

We consulted in 2005 on the mechanism for floor damping. The overwhelming majority of responses to the consultation preferred the existing system for funding the floor, by scaling back grant increases above the floor, and we accepted this as the way forward.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the processes employed by the Boundary Committee to reach a decision on the options of local government structure in Suffolk. [253123]

John Healey: The Boundary Committee is a statutory committee of the Electoral Commission which reports to Parliament and not Government, and its review processes are a matter for the Committee itself. The Secretary of State will have regard to all relevant matters when considering any advice provided by the Boundary Committee in response to the Secretary of State's request for advice of 6 February 2008.

Local Government: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities include measures on waste in their local area agreement 35 local improvement targets. [253078]

John Healey: 126 out of 150 local areas have at least one designated target in their local area agreement, covering measures on waste. All LAAs are publicly available on the IDeA website at:

http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8399555

and contain details of the partner agencies that are signed up to targets.

Local Spending Reports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reason is for the time taken by her Department to publish a consultation document on local spending reports. [253689]

Mr. Khan: The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of local spending reports; to make the first arrangements before 23 April 2009; and to consult affected persons before doing so. This is a complex task and we have been working across Government to map available information. We aim to consult shortly.

National Policy Statements

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of national policy statements (NPSs); and what subject topics each NPS will cover. [253690]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government published a Route Map for implementation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission regime, including the current timetable for preparation of national policy statements, on its website on 27 January. Copies are also in the House Library.

The Government are planning initially to produce 12 NPSs covering the following infrastructure sectors:

Overarching Energy (setting the context for the other five energy NPSs) as follows:

Renewables

Fossil Fuel

Electricity Networks (i.e. power lines etc.)

Oil and Gas Infrastructure (e.g. pipelines and storage)

Nuclear Power

Ports

National Networks (i.e. strategic roads and railways, including strategic rail and freight interchanges)

Airports

Waste Water (e.g. sewage treatment infrastructure)

Water Supply (e.g. reservoirs)

Hazardous Waste (e.g. high temperature incineration).

The first tranche—the NPSs on Non-Nuclear Energy and Ports—are currently scheduled for publication for consultation in the summer and then designation in early 2010.

Our current plans for the later NPSs are as follows:

We plan to start the consultation on the Nuclear NPS in 2009 following on from the package of non-nuclear energy NPSs, and aim to designate this NPS in the spring of 2010.

The National Networks NPS is scheduled for consultation and parliamentary scrutiny in autumn 2009 with designation later in 2010.

We expect consultation on the Waste Water NPS late in 2009, with the Hazardous Waste NPS published for consultation in spring 2010, the Water Supply NPS later in 2010, and the Airports NPS planned for public consultation by 2011.

Ordnance Survey: Visits Abroad

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1150-1W, on Ordnance Survey: visits abroad, what the purpose was of each visit. [252789]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the countries and cities visited by Ordnance Survey in the time period specified along with the purpose for each visit has been deposited in the Library. In some cases the location listed was an intermediate business stop during a longer journey to other listed destinations.

Partnerships UK

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remuneration Baroness Ford has received for her work for Partnerships UK on surplus public sector land in 2008-09. [252459]

Mr. Iain Wright: This Department has not provided any direct remuneration to Baroness Ford.

Partnerships UK is a dedicated centre of expertise available to the public sector to provide strategic support for delivering successful projects and programmes and has an established framework agreement with Communities and Local Government. Communities and Local Government contracted with Partnerships UK, using its framework agreement, to provide work required by the Government to increase the pace of change in the surplus public sector land programme. The maximum fee payable to Partnerships UK for this work is £75,000 plus VAT. Partnerships UK in turn contracted with the Royal Bank of Canada Europe Limited to provide specialist advice in relation to that commission. Baroness Ford is employed by the Bank as its director of social infrastructure and has specialist knowledge of housing and regeneration. The contractual relationship that Communities and Local Government entered into was with Partnerships UK and this Department is not a party to their contractual arrangements with the Royal Bank of Canada, nor to the Bank's contractual arrangements with Baroness Ford.

Plain English

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to adopt Plain English standards in its publications. [253884]

Mr. Khan: The Department is a corporate member of the Plain English Campaign, which allows us to seek advice or request Crystal Mark status for our publications on a case by case basis.

For information on the publications which the Department has submitted for Crystal Mark status since 2005 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1286W.

Planning Permission: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to intervene in planning applications which relate to development of areas in London in which war memorials are located. [253338]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policy on the call-in of planning applications was set out by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) on 16 June 1999, *Official Report*, column 138W. The Government have no plans to alter this policy at this time.

Planning Permission: Parking

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning policy guidance is in force in relation to the use of car parking charges in developments to encourage alternative modes of transport. [254767]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport (PPG13), published in 2001, asks local authorities to use parking charges to encourage use of alternative modes of transport. Regional Transport Strategies should set out the longer term objectives, ensure consistency and avoid wasteful competition between locations. Within this framework, local authorities should set appropriate levels and charges for parking in their local transport plans that do not undermine the vitality of town centres. Local authorities can refuse permission for developments that are not in accordance with the policies set out in their plans.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her *(a)* powers and *(b)* responsibilities are to (i) approve and (ii) amend the final versions of the integrated regional strategies. [253870]

Mr. Iain Wright: Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill covers our provisions for regional strategies. The Bill is currently being considered in the other place. Clause 72 sets out the proposed powers and responsibilities of the Secretary of State in approving the regional strategy.

Zanzibar eProcurement Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of her Department's contracts with suppliers are handled through the Zanzibar eProcurement Service; and what estimate she has made of the resultant savings achieved in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [252704]

Mr. Khan: Four of our supplier contracts are currently handled through the Zanzibar eProcurement Service. For Communities electronic purchase to pay systems are most suitable for low value high volume requirements and the department uses Zanzibar to handle stationery, IT consumables and temporary agency staff.

Savings from electronic purchase to pay systems were estimated, for the purpose of building a business case, at £41 for each transaction. Zanzibar provides catalogue hosting and management for our electronic purchase to pay systems. The future use of Zanzibar is currently being reviewed in the Department.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the potential annual saving which would result from the full-scale implementation of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service; [252705]

(2) what initiatives, procedures or training programmes her Department has to ensure the take-up of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service by *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies within her Department and *(b)* local authorities. [252706]

Mr. Khan: The Department is currently reviewing the use of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service and there are no plans to roll out the service to its agencies and non-departmental bodies or local authorities.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what records the Government Equalities Office maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240464]

Maria Eagle: Information relating to the recording of hospitality expenditure is kept locally within the GEO's finance team and monitored by internal audit and externally by the National Audit Office. Expenses for hospitality can be claimed by GEO's director general and deputy directors in accordance with departmental limits. The provision of alcohol falls under the hospitality account. We maintain records of expenditure on this account.

WALES

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251427]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Amounts spent by Wales Office on agency staff in each financial year since 2005 were:

	£
2005-06	91,923
2006-07	19,808
2007-08	1,585

Amounts spent for temporary staff were:

	£
2005-06	55,488
2006-07	8,332
2007-08	69,845

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff have been employed in each of his Department's country offices in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [252755]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the National Audit Office's October 2008 report on the Department for International Development's (DFID) work in insecure environments and improvements to the way DFID ensures the safety and security of its staff, the Department does not publicise staff numbers, or changes in staff numbers, for each country office.

Developing Countries: Debts

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department has put in place to ensure that new loans to poor countries do not result in unsustainable levels of debt, with particular reference to loans for initiatives to address *(a)* climate change and *(b)* food shortages. [253421]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK has led international initiatives to resolve the debt problems of the poorest countries and is committed to ensuring that they do not reoccur. We have worked to:

Develop the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF) which helps countries to take informed decisions about new borrowing.

Ensure the DSF is used by the Multilateral Development Banks to determine whether their assistance to poor countries is in the form of grants or highly concessional loans.

Ensure that new ECGD-guaranteed lending to low income countries is consistent with the DSF and will contribute to their development, and secured agreement at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that other Export Credit Agencies do the same.

One of our major responses to the challenge of climate change has been to set up the climate investment funds (CIFs). Low and middle income countries will benefit from these resources, and the CIFs will provide grants and concessional loans. For low income countries assistance will be consistent with the DSF.

DFID has committed £868 million in response to the food crisis. All of DFID's aid is given as grants and therefore does not contribute to debt accumulation. The World Bank allocated $1.2 billion (£840 million) to the global food crisis response programme. $200 million (£140 million) of this was in the form of grants for the poorest countries.

Development Aid

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the Government's policy on attachment of economic policy conditions to aid and debt relief is extended to multilateral lenders, with particular reference to the IMF and World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries debt relief initiative. [253419]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK's policy is clear that conditionality must not be used to impose policy on governments and that conditions should be limited to issues essential to ensure programmes are successful. The UK continues to press the World Bank and IMF to reform their conditionality practice in line with our approach and we have had some success. The World Bank has stopped using prescriptive conditionality and has adopted good practice principles on conditionality. These provide clear guidelines to staff and emphasise a need for country ownership and fewer conditions. The IMF also agreed to limit the number of conditions used, to justify each condition and focus on major macroeconomic issues.

The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative provides large scale irrevocable debt cancellation. It is therefore essential that we can have confidence that debt relief will be used in ways that will benefit poor people.

Conditions are agreed with each country, focussing debt relief on poverty reduction, economic management and financial accountability. The UK has pressed the World Bank and IMF to ensure conditions reflect countries' priorities and are applied flexibly where appropriate. Several countries have received their debt cancellation without having met all triggers, but when strong overall progress had clearly been made.

Haiti: Debts

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will support *(a)* Haiti's accelerated progress through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries debt cancellation process and *(b)* a moratorium on Haiti's debt service payments. [253420]

Mr. Michael Foster: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank anticipate that Haiti will complete the HIPC Initiative in the next few months, at which point it will receive irrevocable debt cancellation. The UK Government therefore do not believe an accelerated progress through the Initiative or a moratorium on debt service is required. Haiti has been receiving relief on its debt service since 2006 and is not making any payments to the UK Government.

The international community recognises the recent challenges Haiti has faced—hurricane damage, and high fuel and food costs—and has provided exceptional assistance. For example, the Inter-American Development Bank, the IMF and the World Bank have agreed additional assistance amounting to a total of $100 million (approximately £70 million).

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the security and safety of people within the humanitarian space which has been designated by the government of Sri Lanka in the northern region of the country; [253347]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in the northern region of Sri Lanka on the ability of humanitarian convoys to deliver assistance to those who are displaced. [253346]

Mr. Michael Foster: The security and safety of civilians in northern Sri Lanka, and their access to relief supplies is difficult to assess but causes great concern, especially following the Sri Lankan forces' recent offensive. We are extremely concerned at reports of civilian casualties within the designated safe zone and urge all parties to ensure the safety of non-combatants. We particularly deplore the recent shelling of a hospital.

We constantly monitor the situation through our high commission and other sources, supplemented by field visits by DFID humanitarian staff. We have recently programmed £2.5 million humanitarian funding through the UN, Red Cross and non-government organisations. We are sending another humanitarian mission in the next few weeks and have agreed a further £2.5 million humanitarian funding.

The problem will not be resolved by funding alone. We are resolute in pressing for better humanitarian access for aid convoys and other relief within safe humanitarian space. The Foreign Secretary repeated this to President Rajapakse on 30 January.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Numeracy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adult learners received basic numeracy skills qualifications under the skills for life funding scheme in each of the last five years, broken down by level of qualification. [251995]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The following table shows LSC-funded Skills for Life achievements—the number of adult learners (aged 16+) achieving LSC-funded accredited Skills for Life numeracy qualifications in the 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2007/08 academic years. Information on Skills for Life achievements is not available prior to 2004/05.

LSC-funded accredited Skills for Life numeracy achievements, 2004/05 to 2007/08

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*[1]
Total numeracy achievements	243,500	326,400	359,500	386,800
Of which:				
entry level	22,700	28,900	36,000	42,000
Of which:				
Level 1	118,900	167,100	181,400	190,600
Of which:				
Level 2	111,600	145,000	159,100	171,200

[1] Provisional

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100, and may not sum to the total.
2. These figures include learners at Further Education Colleges (including learndirect), Work Based Learning (including apprenticeships, Train to Gain and entry to Employment) and Adult Safeguarded learning.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many applications for capital funding from the Building Colleges for the Future programme were made by *(a)* further education and *(b)* sixth form colleges (i) in the 2006-07 academic year and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available; [254190]

(2) what capital expenditure from the Building Colleges for the Future programme in the *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 academic years has been allocated to (i) further education and (ii) sixth form colleges; [254191]

(3) how many projects relating to *(a)* further education and *(b)* sixth form colleges were affected by the moratorium on decisions on capital spending under the Building Colleges for the Future programme; [254192]

(4) what estimate he has made of the value of projects affected by the moratorium on decisions on capital spending under the Building Colleges for the Future programme. [254193]

Mr. Simon: In 1997, the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England was nil. Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition, we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years. Currently more than 250 projects are under way and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC)—helped by the recent decision to accelerate £110 million in 2008-09 from future budgets to help beat the downturn.

In total, since the programme began, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed.

The pace of demand for capital funding has increased. In addition, there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the Learning and Skills Council is working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making further funding decisions. As a result of this, the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—has been deferred from December to March.

As your question relates to an operational matter for the LSC, Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in both Libraries.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many advertisements to attract students into higher education were placed by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; how many were placed *(a)* in print newspapers and magazines, *(b)* on a website and *(c)* on television and radio; and what the cost was in each case. [249384]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested of the Department is as follows. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed in June 2007, following the machinery of Government changes, since this date/and as a result we are only able to provide information from June 2007. In 2007/08 DIUS spent £2,859,791 and in 2008/09 is budgeted to spend £2,255,791 on all advertising to attract students into higher education.

The breakdown is as follows

2007/08 (actual spend)

	£
(a) Newspapers and magazines	
Newspapers	460,000
Magazines	31,703
(b) Online/website	160,000
(c) TV and radio (budgeted)	
TV	1,145,813
Radio	374,173

2008/09 (budgeted)

	£
(a) Newspapers and magazines	
Magazines	43,907
(b) Online/website	180,000
(c) TV and radio	
TV	1,201,851
Radio	395,149

Departmental Recruitment

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to recruit scientifically-trained civil servants; and what timetable he has set for the recruitment process. [253513]

Mr. Simon: The Department recruits staff through the civil service recruitment code that allows Departments to ask for specific skills and backgrounds to be key features in recruitment advertisements if they are required. A number of previous posts have lead to the recruitment of scientifically-trained employees.

We will continue to ask for such in some of our future recruitment campaigns where relevant. In addition we also take advantage of the science and engineering fast stream (Fast Track graduate recruitment) where each year we take some graduates from a Government-wide scheme.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the interest payments made by further education colleges to finance their capital programmes in the latest year for which figures are available. [254014]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years. In total, since the programme began, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed.

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the administration of the further education capital budget. However, as independent providers, colleges themselves are responsible for the management and financing of their capital projects. As a result, the Department does not collect information relating to the level of interest payments made by colleges regarding the financing of their capital programmes.

However, the Department is aware of the important role finance can play for colleges and is being kept informed by the LSC and sector representatives about the cost and availability of finance for the sector.

Higher Education: March, Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on plans for the new campus of the College of West Anglia proposal for the town of March. [253159]

Mr. Lammy: Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years.

In total, since the programme began, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed—including support for the College of West Anglia.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding they require are becoming increasingly ambitious. In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making further funding decisions. As a result of this the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—has been deferred from December to March.

As the hon. Member's question relates to an operational matter for the LSC, Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in both Libraries.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many EU-domiciled undergraduate students began courses at higher education institutions in 2008; [254168]

(2) how many EU-domiciled undergraduate students are expected to begin courses at higher education institutions in 2009. [254187]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The latest available figures for the number of EU domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

EU domiciled undergraduate entrants by mode of study, UK higher education institutions, academic year 2007/08

	Number
Full-time	25,715
Part-time	9,050
Total	34,765

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

EU domiciles make up 4.4 per cent. of all undergraduate entrants, compared to 89.2 per cent. for UK domiciles and 6.4 per cent. for non-EU domiciles.

Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that 21,255 EU domiciled applicants were accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions in 2008. This is compared to 20,661 in 2007, a rise of 2.9 per cent. Not all EU domiciled applicants apply through UCAS, some will apply to the institutions directly. Final figures for applicants accepted for entry in 2009 will be available in January 2010.

The admission of students, whatever their nationality, is a matter for individual higher education institutions.

Higher Education: South East

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which colleges in *(a)* London and *(b)* Kent are affected by the Learning and Skills Council's decision to postpone capital projects by three months. [253917]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years.

In total, since the programme began, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making further funding decisions. As a result of this the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—has been deferred from December to March.

As the hon. Member's question relates to an operational matter for the LSC, I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in both Libraries.

London Metropolitan University

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the student completion rate was at the London Metropolitan University in the last year for which figures are available. [252619]

Mr. Lammy: Figures from table T5 of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education show the proportion of full-time first degree starters expected to neither obtain an award nor transfer, at London Metropolitan University in the 2005/06 academic year, was 21.2 per cent. Figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in June 2009.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251221]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' (DIUS) media monitoring is supplied by Energy Data Service Limited (EDS) and the Media Monitoring Unit (MMU).

DIUS was formed on 28 June 2007 as a result of the machinery of Government changes. Information on the costs of contracts for the provision of media monitoring services to DIUS is therefore only available for the current financial year.

Available figures for the annual costs of each contract are as follows:

EDS

2008/09: £39,943 (to date)

MMU

2008/09: £42,125 (annual subscription).

Students: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding is allocated per student for *(a)* full-time undergraduates, *(b)* part-time undergraduates, *(c)* full-time foundation degree students, *(d)* part-time foundation degree students, *(e)* advanced adult apprentices, *(f)* full-time level 3 students in further education colleges and *(g)* part-time students in further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [252850]

Mr. Lammy: The total expenditure provided by the Department (provisional 2006-07 figures) per full-time equivalent higher education student is £5,179 in cash terms. This is based on student support, teaching and research expenditure. Further information on the figure can be found in the DIUS 2008 departmental report (table 16, annex 2). It is not possible to produce like-for-like figures for the precise data requested in the question and the precise level of funding for each student is determined by a wide range of factors including choice of subject, location and intensity of study, previous qualifications and personal and family circumstances.

The funding provided by the Department and the Department for Children Schools and Families (2006-07 figures) per full-time equivalent further education student is £5,240. Further information on the figure can be found in the DIUS 2008 departmental report (table 15, annex 2). Funding at course level will vary depending on factors such as subject area, the location and learner success rates of the provider and other factors.

Relevant LSC guidance on funding for 2008/09 can be found at

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/LSC-P-NAT-080078_FundingRates.pdf

Westminster University

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the University of Westminster on the closure of the Harrow Ceramics School; and if he will make a statement. [254197]

Mr. Lammy: Ministers and officials have had no discussions on this issue. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocates grant to institutions independently of Government according to its statutory duties. It is for individual institutions to make decisions on the funding of particular courses and Ministers have no powers to intervene in those decisions. In this case I understand the future of the BA Ceramics course is currently under review, but no final decision has been taken.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cabinet Office Leadership Conference

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who attended the Cabinet Office Leadership Conference on 17 March 2008; who the speakers were; and what the agenda was. [253503]

Mr. Watson: The event on 17 March was for the senior civil servants working in the Cabinet Office. The speakers were drawn from the Cabinet Office Board. Delegates were informed of the outcome of the Cabinet Office's People Survey 2007. The agenda covered the key challenges for the Cabinet Office.

Childbirth

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of live births were to *(a)* non-UK born and *(b)* foreign national mothers and fathers in each (i) primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority are in each year since 1997. [253925]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of live births were to (a) non-UK born and (b) foreign national mothers and fathers in each (i) primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority are in each year since 1997. (253925)

The tables attached provide the percentage of live births that were to (a) mothers (table 1) and fathers (table 2) not born in the United Kingdom, in each (i) primary care organisation and (ii) strategic health authority in England, for each year from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Figures for the percentage of live births that were to (b) foreign national mothers and fathers are not available, as nationality is not recorded at birth registration.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many live births there were in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by the age of the mother. [254149]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on how many live births there were in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by age of mother. (254149)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2007. The attached table shows the number of live births in England and Wales in 2007, broken down by age of mother.

Live births by age of mother, England and Wales, 2007

Age of mother	*Live births*
Under 15	211
15	928
16	3,381
17	8,188
18	13,206
19	18,891
20	22,074
21	24,325
22	26,491
23	27,709
24	30,185
25	32,553
26	35,351
27	38,099
28	38,268
29	38,299
30	38,424
31	40,046
32	39,556
33	37,627
34	35,471
35	32,811
36	28,461
37	22,574
38	18,034
39	13,500
40	9,543
41	6,728
42	4,143
43	2,355
44	1,272
45	601
Over 45	708
Total	690,013

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Civil Servants: Retirement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the timetable is for removing the mandatory retirement age policy across the Civil Service; and whether such removal will apply to senior civil servants. [249918]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Secretary announced on 1 October 2008 that Departments and agencies who had not already done so will introduce a policy of having a no mandatory retirement age for staff by March 2010. A review is currently under way to assess the potential impact of extending such a policy to members of the senior civil service.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in the Prime Minister's Office who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244380]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Permanent Cabinet Office employees are paid an annual salary, rather than an hourly rate. Permanent employees are paid within the Cabinet Office grading structure, where the grade of each role and the corresponding salary range is determined by the demands of the role.

Temporary Cabinet Office employees (on a fixed term contract of up to one year) are also paid an annual salary within the Cabinet Office pay ranges, with the grade again determined by the demands of the role.

As such, temporary and permanent employees at the same grade will both be paid within the same pay range.

Temporary staff not employed directly by the Cabinet Office (such as agency staff or fee-paid staff) are not Cabinet Office employees. Hourly rates of pay are not determined by the Cabinet Office and may be different than for temporary and permanent Cabinet Office employees.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to staff survey response metric of the capable Departments key performance indicator for Cabinet Office Departmental Strategic Objective 5, what proportion of civil servants in his Department *(a)* agreed and *(b)* disagreed with the statement that (i) this organisation as a whole is well-managed and (b) overall I have confidence in the senior managers in my organisation in the most recent period for which figures are available. [249964]

Mr. Watson: Details of the results of the latest Cabinet Office People Survey 2007 are published on the Civil Service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/staff_surveys.asp

A copy of this information has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the policy of *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House is on granting staff time off in lieu for working (i) in lunch breaks, (ii) in evenings and (iii) at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement; [252003]

(2) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours in the latest year for which figures are available; [252004]

(3) what the policy of the Cabinet Office and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement; [252043]

(4) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agencies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252044]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office and the Leader's Office are part of the Cabinet Office.

There are times when any Cabinet Office employee may be required to work during meal breaks, evenings and other occasions beyond their conditioned hours. They can apply for and be granted time off in lieu equivalent to the actual additional hours worked rather than claiming overtime payment.

The number of days off in lieu granted to the Department's employees could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disposable Income

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of their income was spent by *(a)* the poorest 10 per cent. and *(b)* the richest 10 per cent. of the population on (i) food and (ii) fuel in the latest year for which figures are available. [254113]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster asking what proportion of their income was spent by (a) the poorest 10 per cent and (b) the richest 10 per cent of the population on (i) food and (ii) fuel in the latest year for which figures are available (254113).

In 2007, the average weekly household expenditure on food, as a percentage of gross income, was 22 per cent for the lowest income decile group and 3 per cent for the highest income decile group. For fuel, the percentages were 11 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

Estimates of expenditure on food and fuel are based on the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), an annual survey of approximately 6,200 households in the United Kingdom. Further information on the EFS is available in the annual publication 'Family Spending' which can be found on the National Statistics website

(http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=361&Pos=l&ColRank=l&Rank=272.).

Emergencies: EC Action

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he has had discussions with his counterparts in other European Union countries on proposals for an EU-wide civil protection rapid reaction force; and if he will make a statement. [248675]

Mr. Watson: The UK supports the principle of member states cooperating voluntarily in the response to disasters but not the creation of a stand-by European civil protection force. Such a force would require pre-commitment of member states' resources and would go beyond the current legal framework of the Community's Civil Protection Mechanism. The current voluntary approach to mutual assistance among European Union member states is more cost-effective and flexible than a standing EU-wide civil protection force; and it allows member states to provide urgent assistance bilaterally or as part of regional groupings.

My officials have been closely involved in discussions with their European counterparts and have kept me informed on developments. These issues have also been discussed at a ministerial level in the Justice and Home Affairs Council and the General Affairs and External Relations Council.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of people aged *(a)* over 50 and *(b)* 16 to 24 years were employed in the fourth quarter of 2008. [254049]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of people aged (a) over 50 and (b) 16 to 24 years were employed in the fourth quarter of 2008. (254049)

The requested information will not be available until the publication of the February 2009 Labour Market Statistics First Release on 11 February.

Government Departments: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether each internet service provider supplying internet connectivity services to central Government deploys the blocking list of known child pornography web sites provided by the Internet Watch Foundation. [253403]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office Corporate IT System accesses the Internet via the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) services as provided by Cable and Wireless.

In order to enforce the Cabinet Office HR 'Appropriate Usage Policy' for our IT systems we additionally use the website blocking system Websense Web Filter. Websense Inc. is an associate member of the Internet Web Foundation (IWF). The Websense Web Filter provides a list of categories to be blocked and URLs of sites within the category are updated on a daily basis.

Each Government Department is responsible for setting, implementing and maintaining its own controls. The Cabinet Office does not keep information centrally about the controls applied in other Departments.

Public Appointments: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will include in the list of posts deemed suitable for pre-appointment scrutiny all *(a)* public sector regulators, *(b)* permanent secretaries of Government Departments, *(c)* heads of the judiciary and *(d)* heads of the police and security services. [254621]

Kevin Brennan: The list of posts suitable for pre-appointment hearings was agreed with the Liaison Committee and published on 2 June 2008 in "Pre-appointment hearings by select committees: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session" 2007-08 (HC594). There are no plans to amend the list.

Public Service Forum

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Public Service Forum. [250511]

Mr. Watson: A note of each future Public Services Forum meeting will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the internet.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged 16 to 24 years in each region *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100,000 population were unemployed in (i) last quarter for which figures are available and (ii) the same quarter of the previous year, in rank order from highest to lowest. [254173]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people aged 16 to 24 years in each region (a) in total and (b) per 100,000 population were unemployed in (i) last quarter for which figures are available and (ii) the same quarter of the previous year, in rank order from highest to lowest. 254173

The requested information is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Unemployed people aged 16-24, by region, three month period ending September, 2007 and 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Region	*2008*[1]	*2007*
North West	**120	106
London	**116	104
South East	**96	98
Yorkshire and Humberside	**95	68
West Midlands	**82	85
East Midlands	***69	66
Eastern	***63	72
Scotland	***55	60
South West	***52	53
North East	***50	40
Wales	***49	38
Northern Ireland	****—	—
Total	*864	806

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Unemployed people per 100,000 population aged 16-24, by region, three month period ending September, 2007 and 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Region	*2008*	*2007*
North East	15	12
Yorkshire and Humberside	14	10
North West	14	12
Wales	13	11
East Midlands	13	12
London	13	12
West Midlands	13	13
South East	10	11
Eastern	10	12
Scotland	9	10
South West	9	9
Northern Ireland	—	—
Total	12	11

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes and have not been provided
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

V: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent through the v project in the last three years. [253136]

Kevin Brennan: v spent £25.643 million in 2006-07 and £47.175 million in 2007-08. v spent all funding allocated over these two financial years. Information for 2008-09 is not yet available. Information is taken from Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007-08 which has been placed in the Library of the House.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Posted Workers Directive

7. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the EU Posted Workers Directive relating to wage rates for posted workers. [254314]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave some moments ago to my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, North-West (John Robertson).

Regional Development Agencies: Business Support

8. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps regional development agencies are taking to support small and medium-sized businesses during the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [254315]

Mr. McFadden: RDAs are offering SMEs real help through the Business Link network, including access to the "Solutions for Business" portfolio of business support. In addition, outside London, RDAs are already providing or are in the process of setting up transition loan funds for viable small and medium-sized businesses facing finance difficulties. £25 million will be available through these funds to businesses suffering short-term funding problems owing to the global downturn.

Recession: North-east

10. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect of recession on businesses in the North East. [254317]

Mr. McFadden: I receive a monthly report on the strengths and emerging issues facing the economy in the region from the regional development agency, One North East. Additionally, the right hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend (Mr. Brown), in his role as Minister for the North East, regularly addresses the likely impact of the recession on businesses in that region through regular engagement with the Northern Business Forum. The Government and their agencies will continue to do all it can to help North East businesses survive and thrive.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

11. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the conditions under which small and medium-sized enterprises are conducting business. [254318]

Ian Pearson: BERR makes regular assessments of the conditions under which small and medium-sized enterprises are conducting business.

12. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department is providing for small and medium-sized enterprises in 2008-09. [254319]

Ian Pearson: The regional development agencies are offering SMEs real help through the Business Link network, including access to the "Solutions for Business" portfolio of business support. In addition, outside London, RDAs are providing transition loan funds for viable small and medium-sized businesses facing finance difficulties. More information on Government support is available at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Small Businesses: Credit

13. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from small businesses on their access to credit. [254320]

Ian Pearson: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Ministers and officials are in regular contact with small business representative organisations and with small businesses themselves on many issues, including access to credit.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to assist small businesses in obtaining credit. [254316]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise that the unprecedented combination of credit crunch and global economic downturn means that economically viable businesses may be struggling to receive funding for working capital, trade finance and investment. Against these continuing global economic challenges and uncertainties our priorities have been to stabilise the banking system, to stimulate the economy, and to ensure we get lending going again.

Alongside these measures my RHF the Chancellor has announced a package of measures designed to assist businesses obtain credit including:

£10 billion working capital scheme, securing up to £20 billion of short-term bank lending to companies seeking loans of £1,000 to £1 million with a turnover of up to £500 million.

A £1 billion enterprise finance guarantee scheme (EFG), securing up to £1.3 billion of additional bank loans to small firms with a turnover of up to £25 million.

A £75 million capital for enterprise fund (CEF) (£50 million from Government augmented by £25 million from the banks) to invest in small businesses with viable business models that have exhausted traditional forms of finance.

BERR continue to work very closely with the main lenders—through the Small Business Finance Forum—to ensure that viable businesses are given access to the credit they need. I would like to draw the House's attention to a commitment by RBS today to ensure that their branches are lending to small businesses.

Small Businesses: Government Assistance

14. **Mr. Binley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from small businesses on Government assistance to them. [254322]

Ian Pearson: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Ministers and officials are in regular contact with small businesses and their representatives on many issues, including Government support programmes.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

15. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the level of take-up by businesses of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has been since its introduction. [254323]

Ian Pearson: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee was launched on 14 January and we will report on its progress shortly.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the criteria are for businesses to qualify for help under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [254308]

Mr. McFadden: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is intended to facilitate bank loans of between £1,000 and £1 million.

EFG is available to SMEs in the UK with an annual turnover of up to £25 million. Each lender is able to advise whether or not a specific business would be affected by these restrictions. The Government bear 75 per cent. of the risk of default, but the decisions on individual applications under the scheme are taken by the banks involved.

An interactive tool is available on the Real Help with Finance pages on the Business Link website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance

for businesses to assess their suitability for EFG. However, lending under EFG is at the discretion of the lender.

National Minimum Wage

16. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the range of penalties for non-compliance with national minimum wage regulations; and if he will make a statement. [254324]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to simple, effective NMW enforcement and HMRC follow-up all complaints of underpayment.

The Employment Act 2008 strengthens the NMW enforcement regime. From 6 April 2009 there will be automatic penalties of up to £5,000 for employers who do not comply and a fairer method of calculating arrears. This will help to ensure that vulnerable workers are paid the minimum wage.

Small Suppliers

17. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure that small suppliers are paid promptly by the Government and businesses. [254325]

18. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure small suppliers are paid promptly by the Government and businesses. [254326]

Ian Pearson: All central Government Departments are committed to pay within 10 days, ensuring over £66 billion of payments reach business quicker than ever.

Regional Development Agencies: Business Support

19. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps regional development agencies are taking to support small and medium-sized businesses during the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [254327]

Mr. McFadden: RDAs are offering SMEs real help through the Business Link network, including access to the 'Solutions for Business' portfolio of business support. In addition, outside London, RDAs are already providing or are in the process of setting up transition loan funds for viable small and medium-sized businesses facing finance difficulties. £25 million will be available through these funds to businesses suffering short-term funding problems owing to the global downturn.

Broadband

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households that do not have access to broadband internet in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England. [243004]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the creation of a universal service obligation in respect of broadband internet provision. [249018]

Mr. McFadden: Since the announcement of the Digital Broadband Report on 17 October, this Department has received representations on universal service obligation in the form of correspondence from a Member of Parliament, a member of the Scottish Parliament and industry as well as a parliamentary question. The Digital Britain interim report will look at the case for a universal service commitment on broadband.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households that do not have access to broadband in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* East Devon constituency and *(c)* Exmouth. [242161]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Business for New Europe

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Business for New Europe on his Department's policies for business in Europe since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [254321]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has had two meetings with members of Business for New Europe since his appointment. He attended a breakfast meeting with BNE members on 10 December 2008 and again on 17 December 2008 to discuss the current economic situation, internationally and domestically.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in each year since the Department's inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper in that time; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248801]

Mr. McFadden: The following figures relate to spend on the BERR HQ estate since its inception on 28 June 2007 and is broken down into the categories required:

(a) £2,100,000;

(b) £36,460;

(c) £6,871,000.

BERR does not use wallpaper on its estate. Further spending on departmental decoration is dependent on its lease obligations.

Office refurbishment costs have been included under *(c)*. These projects will have included an element of redecoration and to split these costs out would involve disproportionate cost. Also included in *(c)* are the costs associated with a large number of projects, e.g. improvements to the heating and ventilation system in BERR's HQ building at 1 Victoria Street (including the conference centre and works to the lifts across the estate to bring them up to DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 894W, on departmental marketing, what expenditure on promotional products by the Insolvency Service has been since February 2008; and what branding appeared on each of the Insolvency Service branded *(a)* pens, *(b)* clocks, *(c)* mugs and *(d)* USB memory sticks procured in this period. [248997]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service has spent approximately £8,000 on departmental promotional products since February 2008.

The Insolvency Service has produced pens and mugs with the Insolvency Service logo. No clocks or USB sticks have been procured during this period.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 894W, on departmental marketing, what branding or logos were published on each of the branded Insolvency Service *(a)* pens, *(b)* clocks, *(c)* mugs and *(d)* USB memory sticks. [252452]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service has produced pens and mugs with the agency's logo and the strapline "working well together" and "your views matter".

No clocks or memory sticks were purchased during this period.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available; [252045]

(2) what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252046]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not keep a central record of how many days off in lieu were granted to staff. The matter of granting time off in lieu is dealt with locally by line managers in accordance with departmental policies.

The Department has a flexible working policy which allows staff to work flexibly and organise their time around their contracted hours. The ways staff can work flexibly includes flexi-time, part-time, compressed hours, annualised hours and homeworking.

Complying with the Working Time Directive, staff are encouraged to take regular breaks including a minimum lunch break each day of half an hour. Staff who accrue flexi-time can take time off in lieu.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 5 February 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question, reference 252045, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House operates a Flexible Working Hours Scheme. Under the terms of that scheme staff who work lunch times, evenings or at other times build up flexi credits for the additional time they have worked. They then take that time as flexi leave. They have a responsibility to manage their time and can carry over 14 hours 48 minutes credit or debit from one flexi period to the next.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 5 February 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question (2008/742), how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times, in the last year for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service is unable to supply you with data for the questions raised. The data required is held by local line-managers from different sources and in varied locations. To gather this information would entail disproportionate cost.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 5 February 2009:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2008/743) asking what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working (a) in lunch breaks, (b) in evenings and (c) at other times outside contracted working hours, and if he will make a statement.

I would like to answer the three parts of your question in relation to the Insolvency Service:

A) Staff are permitted to take time off in lieu when they are required for operational reasons to work through all or part of their meal break.

B) Staff attending approved evening or part day/evening courses of study may be allowed time off in lieu during the day, up to the equivalent time spent at classes, plus travelling time.

C) Time off in lieu may be allowed for necessary attendance at approved training activities on a Saturday, Sunday, public, Bank or privilege holiday or other recognised non-working day within the limits of conditioned hours.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 5 February 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question, reference 252046, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

As Companies House operates a Flexible Working Hours scheme, we have not granted any days off in lieu for staff working in lunch breaks or at other times.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 694W, on Economic and Monetary Union, whether his Department's updating of its euro changeover plan has been completed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version. [250102]

Mr. McFadden: BERR's euro transition plan is being updated to reflect recent machinery of Government changes. When completed, we will place a copy in the Library.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with other Government departments on its review of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations. [251755]

Ian Pearson: The Department has had extensive discussions on the review of the waste electrical and electronic equipment regulations with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and devolved Administrations.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1271W, on housing: low incomes, which programmes *(a)* will not be proceeded with and *(b)* will receive reduced funding following the redirection of £300 million from the regional development agency budgets. [252741]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs are working closely with Government to respond to the current economic challenges. Tough decisions had to be taken over the £300 million budget changes. The Government have also asked RDAs to refocus their budgets to concentrate on support for businesses in their regions. In reshaping its corporate plan for the period ahead, each RDA will be assessing with key partners and regional stakeholders, in the light of their regional economic strategy, how the cuts will impact and how best they can be mitigated and how best to maintain key priorities.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Christchurch of 10 December 2008 on the loss of overseas business from a firm in his constituency. [252644]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 29 January 2009]*: Officials are consulting with colleagues in the Home Office on this matter. I will respond to the hon. Member shortly.

Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many redundancies were notified to his Department and its predecessor in each *(a)* month of the last five years for which information is available and *(b)* year since 1997. [252925]

Mr. McFadden: I cannot give the right hon. Member details of the actual number of redundancies as there is no requirement for employers to provide that information. However, employers who propose to make 20 or more redundancies at one establishment are required to notify the Secretary of State of the proposal under provisions contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Information on those notifications is only held from January 2006. I have detailed as follows the number of notifications received for each month from January 2006 to December 2008. I should add that these are only proposed, not actual redundancies, therefore the number of actual redundancies that may have taken place would not be the same.

	Number
2006	
January	35,133
February	32,038
March	27,288
April	21,635
May	33,578
June	23,950
July	21,122
August	27,971
September	35,031
October	26,247
November	48,754
December	19,248
Total	351,995
2007	
January	32,325
February	21,205
March	67,232
April	18,055
May	20,688
June	26,919
July	23,985
August	62,960
September	40,068
October	33,360
November	17,034
December	36,434
Total	400,265
2008	
January	29,626
February	19,875
March	34,149
April	30,222
May	26,387
June	18,720
July	37,505
August	18,177
September	30,691
October	42,829
November	45,855
December	69,660
Total	403,696

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many notifications his Department and its predecessor received of businesses making 20 or more employees redundant in each month of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many have been received in each year since 1997. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: Employers who propose to make 20 or more redundancies at one establishment are required to notify the Secretary of State of the proposal under provisions contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Information on those notifications is only held from January 2006. I have detailed as follows the number of notifications received for each month from January 2006 to December 2008.

	Number
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Total	403,696

Regional Development Agencies: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1114W, on the Regional

Development Agency National Secretariat, on which external public affairs firms or consultants spending was incurred; and for what purposes each was engaged. [253516]

Mr. McFadden: The total expenditure of the National Secretariat on external public affairs firms or consultants amounts to a sum of £29,397. This was paid to Linstock Communications for an analysis of RDA national newspaper coverage during an 18 month period from 1 April 2006 to 1 October 2007.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on external consultants in 2007-08. [253768]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1366W, which provides each regional development agency expenditure on external consultants in 2007-08.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what allocations his Department has made to each regional development agency for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [253769]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the indicative allocation of each RDA's grant in aid budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11. These figures incorporate the bringing forward of £100 million of capital expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10 that was announced in the pre-Budget report.

		£ million
RDA	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
AWM	294	212
EEDA	135	108
EMDA	160	131
LDA	375	326
NWDA	397	305
ONE	249	195
SEEDA	165	133
SWRDA	156	125
YF	317	228

Regional Planning and Development: North West

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether discussions have taken place between the North Western Regional Development Agency and Lancaster City Council on the Central Park Scheme in the west end of Morecambe. [246101]

Mr. McFadden: *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The agency were approached by Lancaster city council and the Winning Back the West End Regeneration Team in early 2007, and entered into discussions which led to a round one funding bid (concept approval stage) to the agency for the Central Park Scheme in August 2007.

Further information provided when working up the detailed bid revealed that the costs of the project were increasing, which led the agency to conclude that it would not present value for money and could not generate significant economic impacts. I understand, however, that the agency would be happy to enter into further discussions with Lancaster city council and the Winning Back the West End Regeneration Team.

Retail Sector

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the Competition Commission on its proposals to *(a)* strengthen the code of practice in the grocery sector and *(b)* set up an ombudsman. [248241]

Mr. Thomas: Ministers and BERR officials hold regular meetings with the Competition Commission (CC) as part of the process of policy development and delivery to discuss a range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. There have not been any recent meetings specifically held to discuss the CC's proposals to strengthen the code of practice in the grocery sector, or to set up an ombudsman.

Wind Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with power generation companies on the interference of wind power generators with television signal reception. [246223]

Mr. McFadden: Neither I, nor my right hon. Friends, the Secretaries of State for Energy and Climate Change and for Culture, Media and Sport, or our officials, have had any recent discussions with power generation companies on the interference of wind power generators with television signal reception.

This is essentially a planning matter. Paragraph 64 of the Technical Annex to the Government's Policy Planning Statement (PPS) 22

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147447.pdf

states that

> "provided careful attention is paid to siting, wind turbines should not cause any significant problems of electromagnetic interference i.e. adverse effects on communication systems which use electromagnetic waves as the transmission medium (e.g. television, radio or microwave links)".

However, it is a requirement of the consenting process for onshore wind farms that the developer addresses any issues relating to possible interference with television signal reception.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Almondbury High School

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent communication he has had with Almondbury High School in Huddersfield; and when he expects the school to receive its students' full key stage test results. [252579]

Jim Knight: QCA advises that Almondbury High School has experienced particular difficulties in receiving results during the 2008 test cycle, and they have been in contact with the school to resolve these issues. They advise that the school has now been made aware of all its results, including the outcome of its review applications. The Department has no record of any communication with Almondbury High School.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England are planned to have energy efficiency improvements under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what estimate he has made of the consequential (i) carbon dioxide emissions avoided and (ii) savings in energy bills; [254194]

(2) how many schools in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England have had energy efficiency improvements under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what estimate he has made of the consequential (i) carbon dioxide emissions avoided and (ii) savings in energy bills. [254195]

Jim Knight: The Department does not gather detailed information on individual measures that have been implemented to improve energy efficiency for schools within Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

All schools within Building Schools for the Future (BSF) are expected to work with their Local Authority Partnership (LEP) to address their energy consumption. The effectiveness of each LEP is incentivised and monitored through a set of key performance indicators (KPIs). These KPIs include an assessment of energy efficiency in operation: comparing actual energy consumption per unit floor area with design estimates.

In December 2007 we introduced a requirement for all new schools within BSF to reduce their carbon emissions by 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards in 2002 building regulations. The Department has provided additional funding for more than 200 schools in Building Schools for the Future and the Academies programme to fund the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites to enable this requirement to be met. We have developed a 'carbon calculator' to allow users to demonstrate how they would achieve the 60 per cent. reduction. The carbon calculator compares the likely effectiveness of various energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, but is not intended to provide accurate forecasts of energy savings.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made on each project under the Building Schools for the Future programme affecting schools in North East Cambridgeshire constituency. [253158]

Jim Knight: Cambridgeshire county council has made good progress since starting its first Building Schools for the Future Project in February 2007. The local authority issued an OJEU notice to procure a local education partnership to develop four secondary schools, one special school, and a one pupil referral unit in the north east of the county on 1 July 2008. The two sample schools in the project are Thomas Clarkson community college in Wisbech and Neale Wade community college in March. The local education partnership is expected to be operational in 2010 with the first two schools being delivered in 2011 and 2012. The remaining four schools are expected to be delivered by 2014.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare settings have ceased operating permanently in each quarter of the last five years. [250970]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Number and percentage of child care providers that have opened and closed[1], position as at each quarter, England

		2003/04					
		Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care[2]*	
		Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
April to June	Opened	4,300	6.3	500	5.2	500	6.0
	Closed	2,500	3.6	200	2.0	200	2.7
July to September	Opened	4,000	5.7	700	7.1	800	9.7
	Closed	3,800	5.5	300	2.7	400	4.5
October to December	Opened	4,000	5.7	500	4.9	500	6.0
	Closed	2,200	3.1	200	2.1	200	2.0
January to March	Opened	4,000	5.5	800	7.4	600	6.4
	Closed	3,600	5.0	400	3.7	400	4.8
Total	Opened	16,300	22.5	2,300	22.6	2,400	25.9
	Closed	12,100	16.7	1,100	9.7	1,200	13.0

		2004/05					
		Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care[2]*	
		Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
April to June	Opened	3,300	4.5	800	7.5	600	6.2
	Closed	3,000	4.1	300	2.9	400	4.3

		2004/05					
		Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care*[2]	
		Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
July to September	Opened	3,600	5.0	900	7.5	900	10.1
	Closed	4,400	6.1	500	4.7	600	6.6
October to December	Opened	3,000	4.1	600	4.7	500	5.6
	Closed	3,800	5.3	500	3.9	600	6.0
January to March	Opened	3,200	4.6	600	4.8	600	6.0
	Closed	4,000	5.7	400	3.6	600	6.1
Total	Opened	13,100	18.6	2,800	23.3	2,600	27.3
	Closed	15,300	21.8	1,800	14.5	2,200	22.6

		2005/06					
		Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care*[2]	
		Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
April to June	Opened	3,200	4.7	500	4.4	500	5.3
	Closed	2,500	3.6	300	1.7	300	2.5
July to September	Opened	3,100	4.4	700	5.3	800	7.8
	Closed	3,000	3.8	400	3.6	500	5.2
October to December	Opened	2,700	3.8	500	4.1	500	4.5
	Closed	2,300	3.2	300	2.3	300	3.3
January to March	Opened	2,900	4.0	600	4.6	500	5.2
	Closed	2,800	3.8	300	2.6	400	3.7
Total	Opened	11,900	16.6	2,300	17.3	2,300	21.6
	Closed	10,500	14.7	1,300	10.1	1,500	14.6

		2006/07					
		Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care*[2]	
		Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
April to June	Opened	2,700	3.8	500	3.9	500	4.5
	Closed	2,700	3.8	300	2.4	400	4.0
July to September	Opened	3,100	4.3	700	5.1	700	6.5
	Closed	3,400	4.8	400	3.0	600	5.3
October to December	Opened	3,000	4.2	500	4.0	500	4.6
	Closed	2,700	3.8	400	2.7	400	4.1
January to March	Opened	2,500	3.5	500	3.3	400	4.0
	Closed	4,100	5.7	400	3.0	600	5.2
Total	Opened	11,200	16.1	2,200	15.9	2,100	19.7
	Closed	12,900	18.5	1,500	10.8	2,000	18.7

		2007/08					
		Childminders		*Full day care*		*Out of school day care*[2]	
		Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
April to June	Opened	2,400	3.4	400	3.3	500	4.6
	Closed	4,000	5.7	400	2.7	400	4.2
July to September	Opened	2,700	4.0	600	4.5	700	6.1
	Closed	3,600	5.3	500	3.3	500	4.7
October to December	Opened	2,100	3.1	500	3.7	400	4.1
	Closed	3,700	5.6	400	3.2	500	4.7
January to March	Opened	2,200	3.3	600	3.9	400	4.2
	Closed	3,300	5.0	400	2.9	500	4.5
Total	Opened	9,300	14.5	2,100	15.0	2,000	19.0
	Closed	14,600	22.6	1,700	11.8	1,900	18.1

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Out of school day care figures may not include services in extended schools as OFSTED data only includes providers that have to register separately.

Source:
Ofsted

Children: Diabetes

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage increased awareness of diabetes among teachers and head teachers; and if he will make a statement; [247315]

(2) what support is made available for children *(a)* up to the age of 11 and *(b)* aged between 11 and 16 years who have been diagnosed with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [247316]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings", issued jointly by the Department and the Department of Health in 2005, specifically addresses what schools can do to support pupils with medical needs such as diabetes. It encourages schools and local authorities to develop policies on the management of pupil's medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs, taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities. We also produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled "Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings".

Also, since September 2007 schools have a duty to promote the well-being of all pupils, including those with long term medical conditions. This duty defines well-being as the five outcomes of Every Child Matters, including being healthy and staying safe.

In April 2007, the Department of Health published a report entitled "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", and has convened a group to support the implementation of best practice as set out in the report. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is represented on that group, and also on the sub-group set up to look specifically at support in schools.

Children: Obesity

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made towards its target to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [247469]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data from the Health Survey for England (HSE) form the basis of the PSA indicator for child obesity. The most recent data may be an early indication that obesity prevalence rates in children are levelling out. The 2007 HSE data, which was published in December 2008, estimated that the prevalence of obesity among two to 10-year-olds was around 15 per cent. The exact rate has increased very slightly, to 15.4 per cent., from 15.2 per cent. in 2006. However, this change is not statistically significant and it follows a fall from 16.8 per cent. in 2005. These are encouraging figures but there is no room for complacency and we will continue to monitor closely the trends in England.

The 2004 spending review public service agreement (PSA) target 4, to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010, has been superseded by a more ambitious target to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels by 2020 in the context of tackling obesity across the population. This target is one of the indicators that underpins the 2007 comprehensive spending review PSA to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Citizenship: Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have taken up the citizenship continuing professional development programme; and how much has been spent by his Department on bursaries for such teachers. [253133]

Jim Knight: In 2007-08 103 teachers completed the citizenship continuing professional development programme. This is the latest information available. The amount spent on bursaries for such teachers is unknown.

Class Sizes: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire have class sizes of over 30 pupils. [252782]

Jim Knight: The requested information can be found in the following table:

Schools in north east Lincolnshire and north Lincolnshire: classes with more than 30 pupils, January 2008

School name	*Number of one teacher classes of size 31 or more*	*Number of pupils in one teacher classes of size 31 or more*
Althorpe and Keadby Primary School	2	65
Bottesford Junior School	3	97
Brigg Primary School	4	126
Burton-upon-Stather Primary School	1	39
William Barcroft Junior School	5	166
Elliston Infants' School	1	39
Queen Mary Avenue Infant School	1	37
Crowle Primary School	2	62
Goxhill Primary School	1	37
Kirton Lindsey Primary School	3	108
Messingham Primary School	2	72
New Waltham Primary School	3	99
Scawby Primary School	1	31
Brumby Junior School	3	99
Frodingham Infant School	1	51
South Ferriby Primary School	1	33
The Leas Junior School	2	64
Thrunscoe Junior School	1	31
Leys Farm Junior School	1	31
Berkeley Infant School	1	33
Signhills Junior School	1	31
Winterton Junior School	4	133
Middlethorpe Primary School	1	38
Holme Valley Primary School	2	74
Coomb Briggs Primary School	1	31
Broughton Junior School	2	63
Weelsby Primary School	1	31
Edward Heneage Primary School	2	63
Springfield Primary School	2	76
Western Primary School	1	35
Crosby Primary School	5	173
Wybers Wood Junior School	1	31
Humberston Cloverfields Primary School	1	31
Castledyke Primary School	4	135
Bursar Primary School	1	31
St Barnabas CofE Primary School, Barnetby	3	99
Barton St Peter's CofE Primary School	2	72
Belton All Saints CofE Primary School	2	65
East Ravendale CofE Primary School	1	34
The Humberston CofE Primary School	2	62
Stanford Junior and Infant School	2	63
Scunthorpe CofE Primary School	2	69
Westwoodside CofE Primary School	2	63
Winterton CofE Infant School	1	39

Schools in north east Lincolnshire and north Lincolnshire: classes with more than 30 pupils, January 2008

School name	*Number of one teacher classes of size 31 or more*	*Number of pupils in one teacher classes of size 31 or more*
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	1	32
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	2	63
Saint Augustine Webster Catholic Primary School	4	128
Eastoft Church of England Primary School	1	35
St Joseph's RC Primary School	2	65
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	4	131
Hereford Technology School	9	295
Whitgift School	5	159
Huntcliff School	3	96
Brumby Engineering College	1	31
FTC (Foxhills Technology College)	3	97
Tollbar Business and Enterprise College	2	64
North Axholme School	1	31
South Axholme Community School	6	196
The Lindsey School and Community Arts College	3	93
Frederick Gough School - A Specialist Language College	7	222
High Ridge School Specialist Sports College	2	63
Winterton Comprehensive School with Specialist Status in Engineering	5	162
Humberston Comprehensive School	4	131
Baysgarth School	7	227
Sir John Nelthorpe School - A Specialist Technology College for Science, Mathematics and Computing	3	94
Matthew Humberstone Church of England School	3	94
St Mary's Catholic School	1	32
St Bede's Catholic School	1	31
Old Clee Primary School	3	95
Yarborough Primary School	1	31
Parkwood Primary School	3	127
Lisle Marsden CofE Aided Primary School	4	134
Nunsthorpe Community School	3	95
Melior Community College for Business, Enterprise and the Arts	2	64
Oasis Academy Immingham	3	98
Oasis Academy Wintringham	11	355
Havelock Academy	3	95

Notes:

1. One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
2. Includes middle schools as deemed.
3. Includes Academies and CTCs.
4. Includes Reception classes.
5. Classes of 31 or more, excluding those large classes where there are pupils who have been admitted as exceptions or those classes engaged in an excepted activity.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, on education maintenance allowance, if he will publish the daily processing statistics on the education maintenance allowance which his Department has received from the Learning and Skills Council since September 2008. [253075]

Jim Knight: I have regularly written to update the Select Committee on the delivery of the education maintenance allowance (EMA). Those updates have been copied to the hon. Member and copies placed in the Libraries. In the most recent update, dated 28 January, I reported that as of 23 January over 520,000 young people had received EMA payments in this academic year. This is over 1,000 more than at this time last year.

As I also reported in my letter of 28 January, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Capita are confident that they have accurate data on the numbers of EMA learners enrolled and those in payment. However, they have advised that the data on the number of applicants may include double counting. The LSC has therefore commissioned Capita to carry out a data-matching exercise to eliminate duplicates.

Given the possibility that the data on applicant numbers may be inaccurate, it would not be helpful or in the public interest to publish the daily statistical reports that the Department received from the LSC between September 2008 and January 2009. The key figure is the number receiving payment, which I have regularly provided.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for education maintenance allowance were lost between 1 August 2008 and 31 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [253193]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the both Libraries.

Education: Assessment

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has commissioned to assess the extent of teaching to the test practices in schools. [253304]

Jim Knight: The Department has undertaken investigative research in a small number of primary schools to look at good practice in preparing pupils for key stage 2 national curriculum tests. The findings will be considered by the Expert Group on Assessment as part of their wider research into the future of testing. The group is due to report in March 2009.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms his Department uses to assess the relevance of qualifications offered in schools and colleges to the requirements of employers. [253578]

Jim Knight: Qualifications taken by young people must equip them with the right knowledge and skills for employment, and we already involve employers directly in the design and delivery of many 14-19 qualifications. The extent to which qualifications meet employers' requirements is considered as part of the accreditation process, and at the point of consideration for public funding.

Employers are closely involved in the development of both Diplomas and Apprenticeships. Sector Skills Councils and individual employers play key roles in each of the Diploma Development Partnerships to ensure that the new qualifications respond to the needs of different sectors. Apprenticeship frameworks meet the needs of employers through Sector Skills Councils working with employers in their sector to assess the suitability of qualifications in designing a framework.

This year the Department has made £500,000 available to Sector Skills Councils to assess sector skills needs in the 14-19 age range, and to incorporate those assessments into their Sector Qualifications Strategies. These Strategies will provide evidence for determining the types of 14-19 qualifications which are eligible for public funding.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has commissioned on pupils' and parents' views of testing in schools in the last two years. [253744]

Jim Knight: A number of recent surveys have found that most parents agree that national testing enables them to compare one school's performance against another, and that the performance of each school in tests and exams should be published and publicly available.

We have recently announced significant changes to the testing and accountability regime, and established an expert group on assessment to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on a wide range of assessment issues. The group is seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, to inform its thinking.

The independent evaluation of single level tests within the Making Good Progress pilot includes consideration of pupils' experience of testing. The interim report (Evaluation of the Making Good Progress, Research Report DCSF-RR065) sets out that the majority of interviewees who commented on pupils' test experiences, considered that pupils were generally not stressed by the tests involved, because they were pitched at the 'right' level.

Families at Risk Review

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the written ministerial statement of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS, on the Families at Risk review, which recommendations from the report *(a)* have and *(b)* have not been implemented. [250106]

Beverley Hughes: The Government Departments responsible for implementing the Families at Risk Review's recommendations are the Department of Work and Pensions, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, HM Treasury, the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Reports on progress will be issued in due course.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors he has identified as the primary causes of the disparity between children from different ethnic groups in GCSE attainment. [253619]

Jim Knight: The analyses from the latest national statistics on survey responses to the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) released on 26 June 2008 exemplify the multi-faceted nature of the influences on GCSE attainment and outcomes. They show that personal characteristics including ethnicity, first language, socio-economic background, attitudes and behaviours all have strong relationships with attainment and participation outcomes. However it is noteworthy that GCSE attainment by black and other minority ethnic groups has improved over the last five years more rapidly than that of the whole cohort, so that most remaining gaps have narrowed.

Mathematics: GCE A Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* all schools, *(b)* independent schools and *(c)* comprehensive schools achieved a grade C or higher in A level mathematics in 2008. [251298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: In 2008, 17,643 pupils in comprehensive schools, 11,622 pupils in independent schools and 36,317 pupils in all schools achieved an A-C grade in GCE A level Mathematics. The all schools figure includes pupils in selective, modern and other maintained schools. "Other maintained schools" includes community and foundation special schools, hospital schools and pupil referral units.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints his Department received concerning the quality of marking of Key Stage 2 national curriculum tests in each of the last five years. [253081]

Jim Knight: Information on the volume of queries received from schools about the quality of marking of the National Curriculum tests, during the period 2004 to 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1 January 2008, the Department's Public Communications Unit has responded to 1,016 letters and e-mails about the quality of marking of the National Curriculum tests across both key stages 2 and 3.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment was made of the previous record of ETS Global BV before granting it the key stage tests marking contract. [253496]

Jim Knight: Decisions relating to the national curriculum test operations contract are the responsibility of the qualifications and curriculum authority (QCA). The award of the contract to ETS was investigated by Lord Sutherland as part of his Inquiry into the 2008 test delivery difficulties. Lord Sutherland concluded that the procurement process was sound but that QCA should have undertaken more detailed referencing of contractors prior to awarding the contract to ETS. Lord Sutherland's report is available at:

http://sutherlandinquiry.independent.gov.uk/index.shtml

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* private, *(b)* voluntary and *(c)* independent nurseries have (i) opened and (ii) closed permanently in each of the last four quarters. [250967]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested. The available information on the number and percentage of child care providers that have opened and closed in each of the last four quarters is shown in the following table:

Number and percentage of child care providers in England that have opened and close[1] in each of the last four quarters

		Full Day Care	
Position as at each quarter		*Number*	*Rate (percentage)*
July—September 2007	Opened	600	4.5
	Closed	500	3.3
October—December 2007	Opened	500	3.7
	Closed	400	3.2
January—March 2008	Opened	600	3.9
	Closed	400	2.9
April—June 2008	Opened	500	3.6
	Closed	400	2.6

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

Note:

Due to changes in legislation as at 1 September 2008 new categories have been introduced for the collection of child care data and the current categories have ceased to exist. The latest Ofsted figures for a full quarter were published in June 2008.

Source:

Ofsted

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether early years settings must have no exemptions from the Early Years Foundation Stage to receive funding for the free entitlement for nursery education; and if he will make a statement; [253104]

(2) what estimate he has made of the length of time it will take for early years settings to apply successfully for exemption from the Early Years Foundation Stage. [253105]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for determining which providers in their area should be funded to deliver the free entitlement. Local authorities have discretion whether to fund providers where there is an exemption in place. An exemption will not automatically make providers ineligible for funding.

It is estimated that most applications for exemptions will be dealt with within 12 weeks. There is no automatic right to an exemption and each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The length of time to process an individual application will vary depending on the nature and complexity of the exemption sought. In cases where an application is declined, settings are free to submit a fresh application.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the extension in free entitlement to nursery care on the children who receive it. [253107]

Beverley Hughes: We are extending the free early education entitlement from 12.5 hours to 15 hours delivered more flexibly in all local authorities by September 2010.

We are rolling out the extension in a staged approach. Twenty pathfinder local authorities have been delivering the extended flexible entitlement since April 2007, assessing the demand for different patterns of provision, and exploring ways of working that enable greater flexibility in a diverse childcare market. An additional 14 local authorities began delivery in September 2008. The extended offer will be available to the 25 per cent. most deprived children in every local authority from September 2009, and will be universal entitlement from September 2010.

The Department has commissioned external research to evaluate the demand for and deliverability of the extended flexible entitlement in Pathfinder local authorities and its impact on parents. The research will be published in the spring.

We already know from research that high quality early learning makes a real difference to children's development with lasting effects throughout primary school and that the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds allows parents to access child care as a route to work and training, lifting more children out of poverty.

Pre-School Education: Vacancies

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the average number of vacant places in *(a)* children's centres nurseries, *(b)* maintained nurseries and *(c)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries in (i) England, (ii) each region, (iii) the 10 per cent. most deprived local authority areas and (iv) the 10 per cent. least deprived local authority areas in each year since 1997. [252065]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information vacant places for children at childcare and early years providers. Table 1 shows the average number of vacant places per setting in England, by type of provision. Data for previous years are not available.

Table 1: Average number of vacant places per setting

	2005	2006	2007
Full day care	8	7	9
Full day care in children's centres	[1]—	12	11
Nursery schools	[1]—	5	3

[1] Signifies cases where data are not available, either because the question was not asked, or the provider type was not surveyed in that year

Note:

Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 2 shows the average number of vacant places per setting in each region, by type of provision. Data for previous years are not available. Data for nursery schools is not available due to small sub-sample sizes for this provider type at the regional level.

Table 2: Average number of vacant places per setting, by region

	Full day care		Full day care in children's centres	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
East Midlands	10	11	13	10
East of England	9	7	10	7
London	7	10	8	9
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	8	9	16	13
North West	7	8	10	10
South East	6	9	13	12
South West	6	7	10	9
West Midlands	5	7	14	11

[1]. Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 3 shows the average number of vacant places per setting, by type of provision and level of deprivation. Data for previous years and data for the 10 per cent. most deprived and 10 per cent. least deprived areas are not available.

	Full day care		Full day care in children's centres		Nursery schools	
	30% most deprived areas	70% least deprived areas	30% most deprived areas	70% least deprived areas	30% most deprived areas	70% least deprived areas
2006	8	7	12	11	3	7
2007	10	8	11	9	3	3

Table 3: Average number of vacant places per setting, by level of deprivation

Note:

Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Pupil Exclusions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were permanently excluded from schools in England in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2007-08. [247260]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 8,680 children were permanently excluded from schools in England in 2006-07. This figure has been taken from the statistical first release "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07—Amended" and covers all maintained schools in England. This publication can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml.

Figures are not yet available for 2007-08 and are due to be published in June 2009.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils on free school meals have been taught in schools with *(a)* 1,500 or more and *(b)* 2,000 or more pupils in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [247310]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information, in the format requested, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, we have provided a table to show how many pupils on free school meals have been taught in schools with *(a)* 1,500 or more and *(b)* 2,000 or more pupils in each of the last 10 years in England and a table to show how many pupils on free school meals have been taught in schools with *(a)* 1,500 or more and *(b)* 2,000 or more pupils for 2008 broken down by local authority.

State-funded secondary schools[1]: free school meal arrangements by size of school[2], position as at January each year 1997 to 2008, England

	State-funded secondary schools						
	Total number of schools	Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils	Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils	Number of schools with 2,000 and over pupils	Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils
1997	3,584	132	17,520	26,840	6	990	1,400
1998	3,582	146	19,100	28,820	6	950	1,340
1999	3,575	169	21,210	32,040	6	890	1,300
2000	3,565	188	24,280	35,960	7	960	1,470
2001	3,496	215	29,180	44,470	8	770	1,250
2002	3,471	227	30,150	42,550	13	1,500	2,250
2003	3,454	257	33,750	47,610	14	1,940	2,810

State-funded secondary schools[1]: free school meal arrangements by size of school[2], position as at January each year 1997 to 2008, England

	State-funded secondary schools						
	Total number of schools	*Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*
2004	3,435	251	31,550	43,870	21	2,210	3,410
2005	3,416	262	30,100	45,030	20	2,520	3,320
2006	3,405	260	29,640	42,970	21	2,650	3,560
2007	3,399	267	29,110	42,010	22	2,730	3,820
2008	3,383	263	29,770	42,120	25	3,030	4,350

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

State-funded secondary schools[1]: free school meal arrangements by size of school[2], position as at January 2008, local authority area

		State-funded secondary schools						
		Total number of schools	*Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*
	England	3,383	263	29,770	42,120	25	3,030	4,350
	North East	207	11	1,110	1,560	1	260	380
841	Darlington	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
840	Durham	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
390	Gateshead	11	1	66	130	0	0	0
805	Hartlepool	6	1	114	153	0	0	0
806	Middlesbrough	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	14	3	450	616	1	264	376
392	North Tyneside	15	2	161	188	0	0	0
929	Northumberland	58	1	90	128	0	0	0
807	Redcar and Cleveland	11	1	101	162	0	0	0
393	South Tyneside	9	1	66	89	0	0	0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
394	Sunderland	17	1	57	89	0	0	0
	North West	470	31	4,440	6,400	0	0	0
889	Blackburn with Darwen	10	1	50	57	0	0	0
890	Blackpool	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
350	Bolton	17	3	147	304	0	0	0
351	Bury	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
875	Cheshire	42	6	343	518	0	0	0
909	Cumbria	42	2	111	157	0	0	0
876	Halton	8	1	112	196	0	0	0
340	Knowsley	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
888	Lancashire	85	2	118	143	0	0	0
341	Liverpool	31	3	982	1,421	0	0	0
352	Manchester	24	3	1,344	1,880	0	0	0
353	Oldham	15	1	95	105	0	0	0

State-funded secondary schools[1]: free school meal arrangements by size of school[2], position as at January 2008, local authority area

		State-funded secondary schools						
		Total number of schools	Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils	Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils	Number of schools with 2,000 and over pupils	Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils
354	Rochdale	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
355	Salford	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
343	Sefton	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
342	St. Helens	10	2	286	481	0	0	0
356	Stockport	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
357	Tameside	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
358	Trafford	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
877	Warrington	12	3	104	151	0	0	0
359	Wigan	20	2	175	234	0	0	0
344	Wirral	22	2	573	748	0	0	0
	Yorkshire and the Humber	321	46	5,090	7,430	3	250	450
370	Barnsley	14	1	68	100	0	0	0
380	Bradford	29	6	1,193	1,546	0	0	0
381	Calderdale	15	1	118	154	0	0	0
371	Doncaster	17	2	258	411	1	112	250
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	18	5	305	477	0	0	0
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	14	1	166	206	0	0	0
382	Kirklees	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
383	Leeds	39	8	973	1,574	0	0	0
812	North East Lincolnshire	12	0	0	0	1	59	80
813	North Lincolnshire	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
815	North Yorkshire	47	6	198	288	0	0	0
372	Rotherham	16	5	598	880	0	0	0
373	Sheffield	27	5	523	725	0	0	0
384	Wakefield	18	5	624	984	1	75	117
816	York	10	1	69	85	0	0	0
	East Midlands	305	22	1,790	2,710	4	360	450
831	Derby	14	2	133	153	0	0	0
830	Derbyshire	47	5	353	544	1	44	57
856	Leicester	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
855	Leicestershire	54	4	132	222	2	71	115
925	Lincolnshire	63	2	55	65	0	0	0
928	Northamptonshire	41	2	104	130	0	0	0
892	Nottingham	18	2	495	897	0	0	0
891	Nottinghamshire	47	5	513	695	1	248	279
857	Rutland	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	West Midlands	402	15	2,220	2,730	1	240	400
330	Birmingham	75	2	496	592	1	242	404
331	Coventry	19	1	89	89	0	0	0
332	Dudley	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
884	Herefordshire	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
333	Sandwell	18	3	509	681	0	0	0
893	Shropshire	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
334	Solihull	14	1	338	338	0	0	0
860	Staffordshire	68	2	246	321	0	0	0
861	Stoke-on-Trent	17	0	0	0	0	0	0

State-funded secondary schools[1]: free school meal arrangements by size of school[2], position as at January 2008, local authority area

		State-funded secondary schools						
		Total number of schools	*Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*
894	Telford and Wrekin	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
335	Walsall	19	1	[illegible]	282	0	0	0
937	Warwickshire	36	4	[illegible]	323	0	0	0
336	Wolverhampton	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
885	Worcestershire	46	1	102	103	0	0	0
	East of England	423	35	3,160	4,410	1	420	420
820	Bedfordshire	56	2	84	98	0	0	0
873	Cambridgeshire	30	5	375	492	0	0	0
881	Essex	80	13	1,157	1,567	0	0	0
919	Hertfordshire	82	1	68	79	0	0	0
821	Luton	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
926	Norfolk	52	5	455	588	0	0	0
874	Peterborough	11	3	627	723	1	415	415
882	Southend-on-Sea	12	2	191	522	0	0	0
935	Suffolk	78	4	199	338	0	0	0
883	Thurrock	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
	London	426	36	7,140	10,380	3	460	650
	Inner London	147	5	1,340	2,060	0	0	0
202	Camden	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
201	City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
309	Haringey	12	1	110	115	0	0	0
206	Islington	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
207	Kensington and Chelsea	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
208	Lambeth	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
209	Lewisham	14	1	375	476	0	0	0
316	Newham	15	1	433	998	0	0	0
210	Southwark	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
211	Tower Hamlets	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
212	Wandsworth	11	2	426	475	0	0	0
213	Westminster	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Outer London	279	31	5,790	8,310	3	460	650
301	Barking and Dagenham	9	4	1,113	1,926	0	0	0
302	Barnet	20	1	82	126	0	0	0
303	Bexley	17	3	596	751	2	326	512
304	Brent	14	3	741	1,199	0	0	0
305	Bromley	17	5	339	417	0	0	0
306	Croydon	23	1	55	55	0	0	0
307	Ealing	13	3	753	891	0	0	0
308	Enfield	18	2	344	460	0	0	0
203	Greenwich	14	3	957	1,250	0	0	0
310	Harrow	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
311	Havering	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
312	Hillingdon	18	0	0	0	1	130	141
313	Hounslow	14	1	166	277	0	0	0
314	Kingston upon Thames	10	0	0	0	0	0	0

State-funded secondary schools[1]: free school meal arrangements by size of school[2], position as at January 2008, local authority area

		State-funded secondary schools						
		Total number of schools	*Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils taking free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*
315	Merton	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
317	Redbridge	17	4	587	887	0	0	0
318	Richmond upon Thames	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
319	Sutton	14	1	60	74	0	0	0
320	Waltham Forest	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	South East	504	39	2,810	3,780	9	780	1,080
867	Bracknell Forest	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
846	Brighton and Hove	9	3	482	654	1	146	194
825	Buckinghamshire	34	1	87	87	0	0	0
845	East Sussex	27	3	283	311	0	0	0
850	Hampshire	71	6	334	451	1	68	87
921	Isle of Wight	21	1	130	209	0	0	0
886	Kent	104	3	276	373	1	78	140
887	Medway	19	2	169	269	0	0	0
826	Milton Keynes	12	1	138	138	2	300	410
931	Oxfordshire	34	2	156	230	1	39	57
851	Portsmouth	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
870	Reading	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
871	Slough	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
852	Southampton	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
936	Surrey	53	8	276	374	2	103	135
869	West Berkshire	10	3	171	262	0	0	0
938	West Sussex	40	4	229	310	1	42	60
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	13	1	48	58	0	0	0
872	Wokingham	9	1	27	53	0	0	0
	South West	325	28	2,030	2,740	3	270	520
800	Bath and North East Somerset	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
837	Bournemouth	10	1	50	77	0	0	0
801	Bristol, City of	19	1	49	84	0	0	0
908	Cornwall	31	2	189	238	0	0	0
878	Devon	37	5	453	682	2	214	447
835	Dorset	34	2	160	198	1	55	72
916	Gloucestershire	42	4	271	332	0	0	0
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	10	3	199	251	0	0	0
879	Plymouth	17	1	66	85	0	0	0
836	Poole	9	2	91	113	0	0	0
933	Somerset	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
803	South Gloucestershire	16	3	157	195	0	0	0
866	Swindon	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
880	Torbay	8	1	205	288	0	0	0
865	Wiltshire	29	3	137	199	0	0	0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, city technology colleges and academies.

[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to raise the education and training leaving age to *(a)* 17 and *(b)* 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [253199]

Jim Knight: Our intention is that from 2013 all young people will participate in some form of education or training post-16. We plan to raise the participation age in two stages: to 17 in 2013 and to 18 in 2015. The first cohort to benefit from these changes began year 7 in September 2008.

Schools: ICT

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers Partnership for Schools has to prevent individual schools opting out of proposals for authority-wide ICT programmes in favour of submitting an Alternative Business Procurement Case. [252688]

Jim Knight: Partnerships for Schools does not have powers to prevent a school opting out of proposals for authority-wide ICT programmes. Where a school wishes to opt out of the managed service it must submit an Alternative Business Procurement Case. This must demonstrate that the school's alternative provision will be at least of an equivalent standard to the managed service proposed by the local authority, that it is able to link up to the area-wide solution, and that it passes a value for money test to ensure taxpayers' money is being well spent.

Schools: Music

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) with reference to his Department's press release of 21 November 2008, on funding for music in schools, how many new musical instruments have been bought with the funds announced; [254392]

(2) how much of the planned £40 million expenditure over four years on new musical instruments announced by his Department on 21 November 2007 has been spent. [254435]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Music Instrument Fund (MIF) was introduced in 2007-08 and provides £10 million a year (capital grant) for LAs to purchase instruments for instrumental learning at key stage 2 or transitional programmes beyond key stage 2. In November 2007 it was announced that the £10 million grant would continue to 2011, hence the £40 million.

In 2007-08 local authorities claimed £9.97 million and 99,892 instruments were purchased. In 2008-09, £8.25million of the total allocation has already been claimed by local authorities and over 94,000 instruments purchased.

Schools: Parents

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of levels of accountability of schools to *(a)* parents and *(b)* students since 1997. [251306]

Jim Knight: Schools are accountable to the taxpayer, to parents and to pupils—both for their overall performance and for the outcomes of individual pupils.

The introduction of the New Relationship with Schools (NRwS) in 2004 brought about major changes to the school accountability framework, in order to make it more coherent and evidence-based. All schools now have a school improvement partner to help evaluate the school's performance and identify priorities for improvement, and there is a greater emphasis on school self-evaluation and building schools' capacity to drive their own improvement. The School Profile was also introduced to communicate with parents about each school's progress, priorities and performance. Building on the NRwS, we now plan to make the accountability system even more coherent and better able to recognise the full range of each school's achievements.

For example, school performance data are currently available to the public through the Achievement and Attainment Tables. However, we think there is scope for a wider range of information on schools' performance to be reported in a clearer and more powerful way, so it can be more easily used by governors, parents and the public. In December, we launched a consultation on 21st Century Schools and the school report card. The school report card will set out a range of outcomes for which schools will be held to account and provide an indication of the degree of challenge faced by each school. The consultation will be followed by a White Paper in the spring and further consultation on the detail of the school report card indicators.

Parents and pupils also need to be able to hold schools to account for the outcomes they deliver for individual children. Schools must report individual children's performance to parents and pupils at the end of the year, and many schools are now reporting pupils' progress to parents on a more regular basis. We are supporting the development of teachers' skills in pupil tracking through the Assessment for Learning Strategy, launched in May 2008 and underpinned by £150 million. We also expect that by 2010, all secondary schools will report online to parents on pupils' attendance, behaviour, special educational needs and achievement, and that all primary and special schools will do so by 2012.

All schools are also required to have home school agreements, containing commitments made by the school and parents to support children's education and well-being. In the children's plan one year on progress report, we outlined a new approach to improving parents' engagement and committed to review school reporting regulations and home school agreements and will shortly be consulting publicly on possible changes.

The inspection system gathers pupils' and parents' views about individual schools and assesses the extent to which parents are involved in their children's learning and development. In April 2007 new powers were introduced to enable Ofsted to investigate complaints from parents about their children's schools. These allow parents to raise concerns about systemic matters relating to a school which Ofsted can investigate. If the matter is of serious concern, this can lead to the immediate inspection of a school.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the potential effects on standards of attainment in maintained schools of the implementation by independent schools of Charity Commission guidance on bursary schemes; and if he will make a statement. [253323]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has made no assessment of the potential effects on standards of attainment in maintained schools of the implementation by independent schools of Charity Commission guidance on bursary schemes. It is for each independent school that has charitable status to decide for itself how to meet the public benefit requirement, having regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Secondary Education: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the provision of funding for children in their final year of secondary school who have repeated a year. [253700]

Jim Knight: Local authorities receive revenue funding according to the number of pupils they have on roll at the spring school census—this would include those pupils that are repeating a year. Local authorities will apply their local funding formulae to fund schools in their area which takes account of all the children attending school.

Secondary Education: Vocational Guidance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in secondary schools are employed to act as careers advisers in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [253128]

Jim Knight: Responsibility for curriculum organisation and staffing is delegated to local authorities and schools. We do not keep records centrally on the number of teaching staff involved in providing careers advice in secondary schools.

Social Services: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the reorganisation of children's services in local authorities. [250008]

Beverley Hughes: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has received a large number of representations following the case of 'Baby P' in Haringey. Many of the correspondents have been supportive of the current requirement to have integrated services for children under a single Director of Children's Services and some have suggested these arrangements should be reconsidered.

We are currently consulting on revised statutory guidance on the role of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services. The consultation ends on 10 February 2009 and to date we have received three responses suggesting the current requirements for an integrated service should be reconsidered.

Social Services: Haringey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what inspections of Haringey council Ofsted has undertaken since 2000. [245922]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in both the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 22 January 2008

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted inspected Local Education Authorities in conjunction with the Audit Commission from 1997 to 2005, under section 38 of the Education Act 1997. Ofsted inspected Haringey Local Education Authority in 2002 and again in 2003. These inspections are shown in Table A.

That inspection regime was replaced in September 2005 by the current cycle of Joint Area Reviews. Prior to 2005, all inspections of local authorities' children's services in relation to children's social care were undertaken by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and these inspections are, therefore, not included in this response.

Ofsted is responsible, with other inspectorates, for inspecting children's services provided in a local area. As such, we have carried out annual performance assessments (APA) under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and a rolling programme of joint area reviews (JARs) in each of the 150 local authority areas of England under section 20 of the Children Act 2004. The full list of JARs and APAs carried out in Haringey is shown in Table B.

In April 2007, Ofsted took over responsibility for regulation and inspection of children's social care from CSCI. A list of the inspections carried out of Haringey Council social care services is shown in Table C. Please note that this includes only those inspections of services provided directly by Haringey Council and does not include all social care services in Haringey. CSCI reports from prior to April 2007 are not included in this response.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Table A: Local education authority inspections carried out in Haringey since 2000

Type	*Date*	*Publication date*
Local education authority inspection	2002	26 September 2002
Local education authority inspection	2003	20 January 2004

Table B: Annual performance assessments (APA) and joint area reviews (JARs) carried out on Haringey since 2005

Type	*Date*	*Report/ Letter published*	*Notes*
APA	June 2005 to July 2005	1 December 2005	
APA	June 2006 to July 2006	n/a	APAs were carried out in 2005 and 2007. In 2006 Haringey had a JAR, so no APA was carried out. The JAR grades were carried forward for the purposes of the APA.
APA	September 2007 to October 2007	26 November 2007	

Table B: Annual performance assessments (APA) and joint area reviews (JARs) carried out on Haringey since 2005

Type	*Date*	*Report/ Letter published*	*Notes*
APA	September 2008 to October 2008	17 December 2008	
JAR	12 June 2006 to 23 June 2006	10 October 2006	JAR was carried out concurrently with the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment. It was also enhanced to enable coverage of the youth service (report published 16/10/2006).
JAR	13 November 2008 to 26 November 2008	1 December 2008	This JAR was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, to look specifically at Safeguarding Children. It was jointly carried out with the Healthcare Commission and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary.

Table C: List of Ofsted's last inspections on children's care in Haringey

Reference number	*Setting name*	*Provision type*	*Inspection date*
SC042906	London Borough of Haringey Fostering Service	Local Authority Fostering Agency	25 January 2008
SC072906	London Borough of Haringey Private Fostering Arrangements Service	Private Fostering Arrangements	30 January 2008

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 936W, on Social Services: Haringey, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of each Ofsted inspection of Haringey council's children's social services since 2000. [253515]

Beverley Hughes: Copies of Ofsted's inspection reports and assessments of Haringey's children's social services are available on Ofsted's website. The following links are provided at:

Joint Area Reviews

10 October 2006

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/1446/(as)/JAR/jar_2006_309_fr.pdf

1 December 2008

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/4657/(as)/JAR/jar_2008_309_fr.pdf

Annual Performance Assessments

1 December 2005

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/258/(as)/APA/apa_2005_309.pdf

26 November 2007

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/3060/(as)/APA/apa_2007_309.pdf

17 December 2008

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/4687/(as)/APA/apa_2008_309.pdf

Fostering services

25 January 2008

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/5041/(as)/SC/SC_SC042906_20032008.pdf

30 January 2008

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/6180/(as)/SC/SC_SC072906_08032008.pdf

Copies have also been placed in the Library.

Specialist Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to review its policy on specialist schools. [253100]

Jim Knight: The Department publishes guidance on the specialist schools programme annually setting out the objectives of the programme and the procedures relating to the designation and redesignation of specialist schools. We expect to publish the 2009 guidance in the summer.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist schools there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [253101]

Jim Knight: There are 2,993 specialist schools in England, of which 170 are in the North East and five are in Middlesbrough and South East Cleveland constituency. These are Freebrough Specialist Engineering College (Engineering), Huntcliff School (Humanities), Laurence Jackson (Sports), Newlands Catholic School (Maths and Computing) and Kilton Thorpe Special School (Arts).

Teachers: Stress

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to reduce stress on teachers. [253116]

Jim Knight: The Department recognises that there are a variety of factors that contribute to teachers' stress. Accordingly we have put in place a range of measures to address the causes.

Through our ongoing work with social partners, we are undertaking a significant programme of work force reform to help address those causes associated with work load. The National Agreement on Raising Standards and Tackling Workload, which was signed in January 2003, led to guaranteed time for planning, preparation and assessment, limits on the amount of cover teachers could do, and a transfer of admin tasks to support staff, all of which help address the issue of workload. There have also been increases in the number of teachers and support staff working in schools. Since 1997, the number of support staff has more than doubled and teacher numbers have risen by over 40,000.

Encouraging better pupil behaviour and attendance also has a direct impact on reducing teacher stress. That is why we are investing in a comprehensive national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage pupil behaviour.

In addition we have encouraged better management of teacher health matters through improved occupational health guidance for schools and local authorities, and we are working with employers to encourage early intervention to avoid ill health retirements. We have recently reinforced those moves through the release of guidance on common mental health problems which give practical advice on positive action to support teachers through the stresses and strains that can arise through life and work.

Young, Gifted and Talented Programme

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1126W, on Young, Gifted and Talented Programme, what percentage of pupils aged between *(a)* four and 10 and *(b)* 11 and 18 are participating in the Young, Gifted and Talented Programme in each local authority. [248475]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Reliable data cannot be provided because, as indicated in the reply of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1126W, the relevant local authority can be confirmed only for less than one-third of pupils registered with the Young Gifted and Talented (YG and T) Learner Academy.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what subsequent support is available to people who successfully complete NHS alcoholic treatment courses; [252858]

(2) how many people *(a)* have and *(b)* have not successfully completed NHS alcoholic treatment courses in (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [252859]

Dawn Primarolo: On 1 April 2008, a National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NATMS) begun operation to collect and report local and national information on the provision of structured care-planned treatment for alcohol misuse in England. Prior to 1 April 2008 there was no routine collection of data on numbers receiving alcohol treatment in England.

The first year's data will be reported in October 2009 and will include data on the number of individuals who have completed their treatment; however, this is a new system and it may not be possible at this early stage to accurately report the number of successfully completed treatments.

Furthermore, the data are unlikely to represent a complete picture of alcohol misusers receiving treatment. They primarily represent contact with specialist alcohol treatment services, and are therefore unlikely to include a significant number of alcohol misusers who receive interventions in primary care and/or accident and emergency departments.

Limited NATMS data are reported on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System website, at

www.ndtms.net/alcohol.aspx.

The currently available data, for those in structured care-planned treatment and for discharges, are given as follows for England and North West strategic health authority (SHA), which includes the constituency of Ribble Valley:

	North West SHA		*England*	
	Number in treatment	*Discharges*	*Number in treatment*	*Discharges*
2008				
April	7,998	874	47,011	5,594
May	8,554	1,037	48,206	5,495
June	9,010	1,175	49,998	6,032
July	9,464	1,180	51,591	6,562
August	9,584	1,112	51,389	5,481
September	9,802	1,109	52,865	5,885
October	10,014	1,041	54,070	5,891
November	9,890	721	53,280	4,172

It is important to note that data for November 2008 are likely to be an under-representation due to the time it takes to verify the data; additionally, there is likely to be an overall under-representation as NATMS is not yet fully established.

We know that for some alcohol dependence can be a relapsing condition and that aftercare following the completion of treatment is needed to ensure that they maintain the benefits gained from their treatment and do not return to their previous higher-risk drinking habits.

To aid commissioners and providers in delivering effective interventions and treatment for adults affected by alcohol misuse, the Department and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse jointly published, in June 2006, best practice guidance, "Models of care for alcohol misusers" (MoCAM). A copy has been placed in the Library.

MoCAM advises that commissioners take into account the role of aftercare in helping individuals maintain the gains they have made from alcohol treatment. Aftercare can involve:

psychosocial therapies;

support with housing, employment and family relationships;

structured activates, designed to monitor progress, build on successes, identify problems and ways to overcome them; and

mutual aid and self help groups.

Allergies: Medical Treatments

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS trusts on the use of desensitisation as a treatment for allergy; and if he will make a statement. [254391]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), with advice from the Commission on Human Medicines

(CHM), to assess a medicinal product intended for desensitisation as a treatment for allergy (allergen immunotherapy). The products will need to establish quality, safety, efficacy and a favourable benefit:risk profile, as for any medicinal product. Neither the MHRA nor the CHM has any objection to the principle of immunotherapy for allergy. However, in view of the small risk of life threatening anaphylactic reactions associated with immunotherapy, the CHM has, naturally, been cautious in its approach to the licensing of desensitising vaccines.

There are three currently licensed desensitisation products:

Grazax (Timothy grass), a sublingual tablet for patients with hay fever;

Pollinex preparations (grasses and rye or tree pollen), for patients suffering from seasonal hay fever who have failed to respond to standard anti-allergy medication; and

Pharmalgen (bee/wasp venom extract), for patients with hypersensitivity to bee/wasp venom.

Each application was assessed on the scientific evidence provided taking account of the current prevailing medical and scientific opinion.

Allergies: Research

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 223-24W, on allergies: research, which aspects of allergy research his Department intends to prioritise; and what criteria are used in the allocation of funding for such research. [254533]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's investment in health research in England is channelled through the Department via its Policy Research Programme and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council. Their usual practice is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Each organisation welcomes applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

NIHR programmes identify and prioritise topics for research taking account of the views of those who work in, manage and develop policy for the national health service and of patients and the public. The NIHR website (www.nihr.ac.uk) provides an overview of the institute's role and functions and detailed descriptions of its various funding streams.

Cancer

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of *(a)* lung and *(b)* cervical cancer there were (i) in the North West and (ii) on average in all other regions in each year since 2004; and what steps have been taken in the North West (A) to prevent cancer, (B) to inform the public about the causes of cancer, (C) to provide equipment and services to treat cancer and (D) to provide palliative care for patients who are terminally ill since 2004. [253415]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung and cervical cancer in the Government office for the north-west region compared with the average of all other regions in England from 2004 to 2006.

	2004		*2005*		*2006*	
	North-west	*Others*	*North-west*	*Others*	*North-west*	*Others*
Lung cancer						
Males	3,046	1,927	2,984	1,915	2,939	1,883
Females	2,241	1,302	2,365	1,355	2,373	1,344
Cervical cancer						
Females	306	244	347	240	374	243

Notes:

1. Lung cancer is coded to C34 and cervical cancer is coded to C53 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
2. 'Others' is the average of all other regions in England.
3. Before the 2006 volume of Cancer Statistics, the rates in the government office regions table were crude rates.
4. In 2006, the north-west had the highest number of registrations for both lung and cervical cancer.
5. However, as there are differences in both the age profile of cancer patients between geographical areas and the population size and age profile of the nine regions in England, the unbiased way to compare cancer incidence between different regions is to calculate directly age-standardised incidence rates. Such rates, by region, are given in table five of the annual reference volume Cancer Statistics: Registrations Series MB1, available on the National Statistics website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

This shows that the north-west region has the second highest rate for lung cancer and the fourth highest rate for cervical cancer.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

The Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007, sets out guidance to the local national health service on how to improve cancer prevention, speed up the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, reduce inequalities, improve the experience of people living with and beyond cancer, ensure care is delivered in the most appropriate settings and ensure patients can access effective new treatments quickly. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to use the funds made available to them and work in partnership with strategic health authorities, local services, cancer networks and other local stakeholders to deliver these aims. Information on the work being done in the north-west can be obtained from the individual PCTs directly.

Through the Cancer Reform Strategy's National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, the Department, in partnership with Cancer Research UK, is co-ordinating a programme to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness, and encourage people to seek help early.

Cannabis

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department holds on the effects of habitual, long-term use of cannabis on *(a)* physical and *(b)* mental health. [253789]

Dawn Primarolo: At the request of my right. hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the Government's advisory committee on drugs, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), carried out a substantial review last year of the harms associated with cannabis use, including the physical and psychological effects of cannabis. The report, 'Cannabis: Classification and Public Health (2008)', was published in May 2008 and copies have already been placed in the Library.

Additionally, the Department commissioned a systematic review of studies relating to cannabis and mental health. The peer-reviewed results of this review were published in the Lancet in July 2007 and confirmed the evidence of an association, possibly causal, between prior cannabis use and later development of psychosis and schizophrenia with a 40 per cent., increase in risk reported, up to a 200 per cent. increase for at-risk heavy users.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes in each region did not comply with minimum infection control standards in each of the last three years. [254151]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that its inspectors assess the performance of care homes against each national minimum standard (NMS) and rate them on a four-point scale. A score of 4 indicates that a standard has been exceeded. A score of 3 shows that it has been met. A score of 2 denotes that the standard was almost met with minor shortfalls—this indicates that one of the numerous sub-sections in the standard has not been completely met. A score of 1 means the standard has not been met.

The following table shows the numbers and percentages of care homes with scores of two and one against the relevant NMS for Care Homes for Older People relating to hygiene and infection control for the years ending 31 March 2006-08.

Numbers of services per region which failed the hygiene and infection control standard (NMS for care homes for older people)

	As at 31 March;		
CSCI region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
East Midlands	181	125	104
Eastern	232	268	195
London	173	169	142
North East	123	129	97
North West	282	260	180
South East	457	427	365
South West	307	299	268
West Midlands	383	357	293
Yorkshire and Humberside	288	258	219
Total	2,426	2,292	1,863

Percentages of services per region which failed the hygiene and infection control standard (NMS for care homes for older people)

	As at 31 March;		
CSCI region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
East Midlands	18	12	11
Eastern	22	25	19
London	21	21	18
North East	22	23	18
North West	18	17	12
South East	23	22	19
South West	20	20	18
West Midlands	36	33	28
Yorkshire and Humberside	26	23	21
Total	23	22	18

Note:

Figures show scores for homes which were active on the date shown and which had been inspected against NMS 26 - NMS for Care Homes for Older People—at some point prior to the date shown but not necessarily during that particular year.

Source:

CSCI database

Chronically Sick

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department's review of prescription charges for long-term conditions will take into account the socio-economic profile of the patient group affected by individual conditions; [253728]

(2) whether his Department's review of prescription charges for long-term conditions will take into account the views of patients with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia. [253730]

Dawn Primarolo: The president of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) is carrying out the review of prescription charges that is considering how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. The review is due to make its recommendations to departmental Ministers in summer 2009.

The review is engaging widely with stakeholders to seek the views of patients, the public, patient representative bodies, clinicians and healthcare organisations and to take account of the specific circumstances of patients with long-term conditions. It will do this via written consultation; web based consultation, oral evidence sessions; deliberative research with patients and the public and with general practitioners; stakeholder workshops, literature review and data analysis. The Government will carry out an Equality Impact Assessment of any policy proposals that emerge from the review prior to implementation.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on sickle cell and thalassaemia has been in contact with the review and the Sickle Cell Society has been invited to provide written evidence to the review.

Complementary Medicine

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether any NHS patient wishing to choose *(a)* homeopathic treatment and *(b)* other forms of complementary medicine is able to receive it from an NHS homeopathic hospital; [254003]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the potential for use of complementary and alternative medicines in place of conventional drugs on the NHS. [254004]

Phil Hope: The Government consider that it is the responsibility of the national health service to make decisions on what treatments are most appropriate for their patients, including complementary and alternative medicine treatments and referrals to homoeopathic hospitals. In some cases complementary and alternative medicine treatments may be appropriate and a general practitioner would make a decision to refer taking into account safety, clinical and cost effectiveness as well as the availability of suitably qualified and regulated practitioners. The Government are currently giving careful consideration to the issue of cost but would consider the provision of such treatments would usually be complementary to, rather than provided in place of, conventional treatments.

Contraception

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training on the provision of advice on *(a)* contraception and *(b)* long-acting methods of contraception is available for nurses whose main duties do not relate to the provision of sexual health services. [253454]

Dawn Primarolo: Education and training for all nurses is the responsibility of their employers in light of local priorities and local assessment of training needs. The need for both general contraception and specifically long acting reversible contraception training has been identified as a priority, locally, regionally and nationally.

Training is available from a range of professional bodies, voluntary organisations and educational establishments.

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will review the role of termination of pregnancy clinics in providing advice on contraception; [253455]

(2) if he will review his policy on the provision of advice on contraception immediately following *(a)* the termination of a pregnancy and *(b)* repeat terminations of pregnancies. [253456]

Dawn Primarolo: As set out in the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10, from 1 April 2009, the standard national health service contract includes the requirement that abortion service providers should provide contraception advice and treatment services. The contract specifies that providers must draw up plans, to be approved by each commissioner, to improve access for women to the full range of contraception advice and treatment during attendance for medical or surgical abortion. This should include follow up arrangements for women who do not receive contraceptive advice or treatment at the time of abortion.

Contraception: Young People

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to increase the level of awareness and knowledge amongst young people of the range of available contraceptive methods. [253458]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10 calls upon primary care trusts to reduce teenage pregnancy rates by providing a full range of contraception services and methods.

In support of the £26.8 million additional funding for contraceptive services, a new targeted campaign will begin this year to highlight the full range of contraception available, including long acting reversible contraception.

We are also improving young people's access to contraceptive and sexual health advice, by making services more young people friendly and by locating services in places that fit with young people's daily lives, including in schools, further education colleges and other youth settings.

Dementia: Carers

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available to carers of those diagnosed with dementia. [253942]

Phil Hope: The National Dementia Strategy, published in February 2009, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, highlights the need to support carers of those diagnosed with dementia. We will do this by taking forward the Carers' Strategy.

The Carers' Strategy, "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities", published in June 2008, recognises the increasingly important role that carers play in our society and acknowledges that all carers, including carers of those diagnosed with dementia, need more help and support than has been available in the past. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The strategy contains a number of commitments including information and advice, new break provision and a recognition that family carers should be involved in decisions about treatment and support.

Dementia: Expenditure

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on medical research on *(a)* Alzheimer's disease and *(b)* dementia in the latest year for which figures are available; and what proportion of his Department's budget this represents. [253997]

Phil Hope: National health service support for degenerative neurological disorder research and National Institute for Health Research investment in dementia research amounted in 2007-08 to £22.2 million. The Medical Research Council (MRC) spent £10.2 million on dementia research in the same year. This total expenditure of £32.4 million amounts to some 2.5 per cent. of the combined departmental research and development and MRC expenditure for the year.

Details of expenditure on research specifically concerned with Alzheimer's disease are not available.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253270]

Mr. Bradshaw: In November 2007, the Department advised its staff via its intranet about the withdrawal of the added years facility as from 1 April 2008. They were also given details of the new added pension arrangements and directed to the pension reform pages on the Civil Service Pensions website, where they could get more detailed information and could access an added pension calculator.

Via its intranet, the Department directed staff to the civil service website which provides detailed information on the options for increasing pension—including the option of added voluntary contributions. Staff are also given a civil service pensions email address and telephone number, that they can use to obtain further information, and who to contact if they want specific information booklets.

Doctors and Nurses: Manpower

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS doctors were working in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008; [253424]

(2) how many NHS nurses were working in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [253425]

Ann Keen: The following tables gives the number of national health services doctors and nurses working in England, the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and the primary care trusts (PCTs) that make up the requested constituency. There is no geographical definition for the Tees Valley.

National health service nurses by specified organisations and area in England, as at 1997 and 2007

		Headcount
	1997	*2007*
England	318,856	399,597
HCHS nurses	300,467	376,737
Practice nurses	18,389	22,860
North East Strategic Health Authority area	18,598	23,419
HCHS nurses	17,791	22,296
Practice nurses	807	1,123
Specified organisations with North East SHA		
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust		
HCHS nurses	2,077	2,300
Practice nurses	—	—
Middlesbrough PCT		
HCHS nurses	—	205
Practice nurses	—	78
Redcar and Cleveland PCT		
HCHS nurses	—	184
Practice nurses	—	70

Notes:
1. Data as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2007
2. Work force data are not available by parliamentary constituencies. *Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency is served by* the organisations presented here.
3. GP practice nurses are not available at a comparable level any lower than strategic health authority from 1997 to 2007.
4. In 2001 Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust and South Tees Acute Hospitals NHS Trust merged to form South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust. Figures for 1997 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.

Data quality:
Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[1] and all general practitioners (excluding retainers) by specified area in England, as at 1997 and 2007

		Number (headcount)	
		1997	*2007*
England		89,619	127,645
North East	Q30	5,033	7,090
Middlesbrough PCT	5KM	n/a	113
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5QR	n/a	105
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTR	526	770

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part-time in hospitals.

Notes:
GP data in 1997, as at 1 October 1997. All other data as at 30 September 2007

Data quality:
Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Driving Under Influence: Health Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of treatment of people involved in drink-driving incidents in the last year for which figures are available. [251745]

Dawn Primarolo: The Cabinet Office report "Alcohol misuse: How much does it cost?" published in 2003[1] estimated that the cost of medical and ambulance treatment for injuries as a result of drink-driving offences recorded as crimes in England and Wales in 2001 was £31.5 million. In addition, for the same year, the Department of Transport[2] estimated that the medical and ambulance costs of fatalities from drink-driving accidents was a minimum of about £0.35 million, based upon an average of £740 for each of the estimated 480 fatalities for Great Britain in 2001.

Drugs: Exports

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will undertake an assessment of the potential effects on the *(a)* availability of medicines and *(b)* budgetary provision for the NHS of the transition of the UK from being a net importer to a net exporter of medicines. [253568]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is in regular contact with the national health service, pharmaceutical companies and wholesalers, and continues to monitor the availability of medicines. The Department and the pharmaceutical industry have published joint best practice guidelines in order to help manage the availability of medicines. A copy of these guidelines has been placed in the Library and can also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Medicinespharmacyandindustry/Discontinuedmedicines/index.htm

Health Services: Standards

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition his Department uses of a quality standard, as referred to in the NHS Next Stage Review. [253709]

Mr. Bradshaw: As set out in High Quality Care for All, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE'S) role will be expanded to set quality standards. The Department is currently working with stakeholders, including NICE, to develop a commonly agreed definition of a quality standard. This definition will be considered by the National Quality Board at its first meeting in March 2009.

HIV Infection: Blood

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 962W, on blood: contamination, and with reference to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 362-3W, on HIV infection: blood, what analysis his Department has made of the reasons for the rate of reported deaths of haemophiliacs who contracted HIV as a result of taking contaminated blood products under the NHS between 2007. [251167]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made any analysis of the reasons for the rate of reported deaths of haemophiliacs who contracted HIV as a result of contaminated blood products between 2007 and January 2009.

The figures reported in the answer given on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 362-3W (399 haemophiliacs alive in 2007) came from the United Kingdom haemophilia centre doctors' organisation (UKHCDO). The figures reported in the answer given on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 962W (345 haemophiliacs alive at the end of 2008), came from the MacFarlane Trust. Neither source can be sure their information is complete and accurate. UKHCDO acknowledge that their figures are likely to be an overestimate, while not all patients will have registered with the MacFarlane Trust.

These figures do not mean that over 40 patients died during the period in question, because the organisations source their data in different ways.

The UKHCDO and the MacFarlane Trust are aware of these discrepancies, and both organisations have agreed to work together in order to try to harmonise relevant data while maintaining strict confidentiality.

Hospitals: Parking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct hospital trusts not to charge for hospital car parking for out-patients. [253423]

Mr. Bradshaw: Car parking arrangements, including charges, are a matter for individual national health service bodies, based on their own local circumstances. However, guidance from the Department to support trusts in implementing parking policies, issued in December 2006, strongly recommends NHS bodies to provide free or discounted car parking to those patients and their relatives or primary visitors who have to use the car park regularly. The Department reminded NHS bodies of this in November 2008.

Hospitals: Standards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the quality of hospital care services in all regions. [253126]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the NHS Next Stage Review each strategic health authority published a regional clinical vision. High Quality Care for All sets out that quality should be at the heart of the national health service and sets out a quality framework to enable quality improvement at a local level.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to reduce NHS waiting lists in *(a)* England and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [253113]

Mr. Bradshaw: From 1 January 2009, the operational delivery standards for the national health service in England are that 95 per cent. of non admitted and 90 per cent. of admitted patients will start treatment within 18 weeks of referral. These standards allow for patents who choose to wait longer or where it is clinically appropriate for patients to wait longer.

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[1] www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/work_areas/alcohol_misuse/background.aspx,annexes,table5.1

[2] www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/ea/highwayseconomicsnoteno12002?page=4

At a national level, figures for November 2008, which are the latest available, show the majority of patients are already being seen within 18 weeks of referral. 90 per cent. of patients whose treatment involved admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks and 96 per cent. of patients whose treatment did not involve admission to hospital started their treatment within 18 weeks. The median wait for in-patient treatment has fallen to 8.1 weeks from 18.8 weeks in 1997. November data are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/18WeeksReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/index.htm

Figures for November 2008, which are the latest available, covering the primary care trusts and NHS trusts within the NHS North East strategic health authority (SHA), which includes the Middlesbrough and Cleveland area are set out in the tables.

Delivery of the 18-week operational standard will reduce unnecessary delays and improve the experience that patients have of elective care and the quality of the service that they receive.

18 weeks monthly RTT collection: November 2008 Commissioner returns—RTT times for completed admitted pathways

SHA	*Name*	*Treatment function code*	*Treatment function*	*Total (all)*	*Total (known clock start)*	*Total (known clock start) within 18 weeks*	*Percentage within 18 weeks (column BI/column BH)*
Q30	North East SHA	AA999	Total	15,811	15,809	14,474	91.56

Notes:

1. Referral to treatment (RTT) times for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month with an in-patient/day case admission.
2. It is important to view this performance data in conjunction with the data completeness assessment score for each organisation.

18 weeks monthly RTT collection: November 2008 Commissioner returns—RTT times for completed admitted pathways

SHA	*Code*	*Commissioner*	*Treatment function code*	*Treatment function*	*Total (all)*	*Total (known clock start)*	*Total (known clock start) within 18 weeks*	*Percentage within 18 weeks (column BJ/column BI)*
Q30	5D7	Newcastle PCT	AA999	Total	1,316	1,316	1,134	86.17
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	AA999	Total	1,232	1,232	1,105	89.69
Q30	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	AA999	Total	580	580	550	94.83
Q30	5E1	North Tees PCT	AA999	Total	1,235	1,234	1,155	93.60
Q30	5J9	Darlington PCT	AA999	Total	633	633	607	95.89
Q30	5KF	Gateshead PCT	AA999	Total	970	970	879	90.62
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	AA999	Total	1,055	1,055	960	91.00
Q30	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	AA999	Total	1,846	1,845	1,654	89.65
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	AA999	Total	909	909	855	94.06
Q30	5ND	County Durham PCT	AA999	Total	3,280	3,280	3,030	92.38
Q30	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	AA999	Total	829	829	771	93.00
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care PCT	AA999	Total	1,926	1,926	1,774	92.11

SHA	*Code*	*Commissioner*	*Treatment function code*	*Treatment function*	*Total (all)*	*Total (known clock start)*	*Total (known clock start) within 18 weeks*	*Percentage within 18 weeks (column BJ/column BI)*
Q30	5D7	Newcastle PCT	NP999	Total	4,575	4,574	4,377	95.69
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	NP999	Total	3,234	3,234	3,078	95.18
Q30	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	NP999	Total	1,281	1,281	1,254	97.89
Q30	5E1	North Tees PCT	NP999	Total	2,612	2,611	2,578	98.74
Q30	5J9	Darlington PCT	NP999	Total	1,699	1,699	1,667	98.12
Q30	5KF	Gateshead PCT	NP999	Total	3,592	3,591	3,437	95.71
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	NP999	Total	3,023	3,023	2,924	96.73
Q30	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	NP999	Total	4,684	4,684	4,501	96.09
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	NP999	Total	2,155	2,155	2,115	98.14
Q30	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	NPX01	Other	586	586	578	98.63
Q30	5ND	County Durham PCT	NP999	Total	8,335	8,335	8,073	96.86
Q30	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	NP999	Total	2,121	2,121	2,102	99.10
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care PCT	NP999	Total	4,339	4,339	4,154	95.74

Notes:

1. Referral to treatment (RTT) times for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month with an in-patient/day case admission.
2. It is important to view this performance data in conjunction with the data completeness assessment score for each organisation.

Malnutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people in each age group *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital were malnourished in the last year in which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [247152]

Dawn Primarolo: The data we have provided in the following table are the latest available and includes both the number diagnosed with malnutrition[2] and this as a proportion of the total admissions and last episodes (discharges[1]) into hospital for the following age groups; 0-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85-120 where there was a primary or a secondary diagnosis of malnutrition in 2006-07.

Admission figures do not include patients showing signs of malnutrition, who subsequently undergo tests during their hospital stay to establish the cause of their symptoms.

Count and proportion of all admissions and last episodes (discharges[1]) in hospital where a patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition[2] during his/her stay in 2006-07, activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age at start of episode	*Total admissions where a patient received a diagnosis of malnutrition*	*Percentage of all admissions where a patient was diagnosed with malnutrition*	*Total discharges where a patient received a diagnosis of malnutrition*	*Percentage of all discharges where a patient was diagnosed with malnutrition*
Total	2,581	0.02	2,883	0.02
0-4	59	0.00	63	0.01
5-14	49	0.01	49	0.01
15-24	97	0.01	100	0.01
25-34	165	0.01	174	0.01
35-44	280	0.02	291	0.02
45-54	359	0.03	402	0.03
55-64	371	0.02	431	0.03
65-74	370	0.02	420	0.02
75-84	457	0.03	521	0.03
85-120	373	0.05	431	0.06
Age not known	1	0.00	1	0.00

[1] Discharges

A discharge episode is the last episode during a hospital stay (a spell), where the patient is discharged from the hospital (this includes transfer to another hospital).

[2] Malnutrition is classified between the following ICD-10 codes. The ICD-10 coding for under nutrition is the same as that for malnutrition:

E40 Kwashiorkor
E41 Nutritional marasmus
E42 Marasmic kwashiorkor
E43 Unspecified severe protein-energy malnutrition
E44 Protein-energy malnutrition of moderate and mild degree
E45 Retarded development following protein-energy malnutrition
E46 Unspecified protein-energy malnutrition
O25 Malnutrition in pregnancy.

Medical Treatments

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition is of directly observed treatment (DOT); under what circumstances DOT is *(a)* recommended and *(b)* mandatory; and if will make a statement. [253404]

Dawn Primarolo: Directly observed treatment (DOT) is one of the components of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) tuberculosis (TB) control strategy.

The Department recommends that TB services follow the guidelines developed by the national institute for health and clinical excellence (NICE). NICE define DOT as 'direct observation by a health professional or other person such as a family member, where swallowing of the medication is observed'. DOT may also include increased contact between the care provider and patient, support and provision of incentives (e.g. food vouchers).

NICE guidelines indicate that the use of DOT is not usually necessary in the management of most cases of TB, but all patients should have a risk assessment for adherence to treatment.

DOT is recommended for patients who have adverse factors on their risk assessment, in particular:

street—or shelter—dwelling homeless patients with active TB

TB patients with serious mental illness

TB patients with drug-resistances

TB patients with likely poor adherence, in particular those who have a history of non-adherence

In 2007, the Department initiated a 'Find and Treat' (F and T) project to actively look for cases of TB among the homeless and other vulnerable groups in London, and to promote the use of DOT, which provides supervised medication and support to patients to improve adherence to treatment. Currently, the F and T team is helping over 300 people with TB who have challenging lifestyles to complete their treatment.

DOT is not mandatory. The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 stipulates that a justice of the peace may, under certain circumstances, order that an individual undergo medical examination or be removed to or detained in a hospital. No-one can be forced to undertake medical treatment.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's review of anti-psychotic prescribing in care settings will be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [253865]

Phil Hope: The review of the prescribing of anti-psychotics for people with dementia will now be concluded in the spring.

Mentally Ill: Medical Treatments

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the issuing of NICE guidance on the pharmaceutical treatments for personality disorders. [253294]

Dawn Primarolo: We have had no such discussions.

MMR Vaccine

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged under 18 in each strategic health authority area who have not been immunised against measles, mumps and rubella; [252936]

(2) how many children in each strategic health authority area had not received measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in each of the last five years. [252937]

Dawn Primarolo: The Information Centre for Health and Social Care publishes annual reports which include tables of the percentage of children immunised with measles, mumps and rubella vaccine at two and five years of age in each strategic health authority. A copy of the most recent annual report, 'NHS Immunisation Statistics 2007-08', has been placed in the Library. Copies of the reports titled; 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2003-04', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2004-05', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2005-06', and 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2006-07' have already been placed in the Library.

Data on gender are not collected.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to take responsibility for developing clinical strategies; and if he will make a statement. [253710]

Dawn Primarolo: As set out in High Quality Care for All, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will be expanded to set and approve quality standards. A new National Quality Board will offer transparent advice to Ministers on clinical priorities, including the setting of quality standards.

NICE will not be responsible for developing clinical strategies. Any future strategies produced by the Department will be aligned where appropriate with the work of NICE on quality standards.

National Quality Board

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the first meeting of the new National Quality Board to take place; and whether the terms of reference and membership for the group have been *(a)* agreed and *(b)* published. [253708]

Mr. Bradshaw: The first meeting of the National Quality Board (NQB) is planned for the 30 of March 2009.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi) announced in early December the appointment of the chief executive of the NHS (Mr. David Nicholson) as chair of the NQB and the following *ex-officio* members representing the Department and the health care system:

NHS Medical Director, Department of Health (Sir Bruce Keogh);

Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health (Dame Christine Beasley);

Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health (Sir Liam Donaldson);

Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, Department of Health (Mr. David Behan);

Chair of the Care Quality Commission (Baroness Barbara Young);

Chair of Monitor. (Dr. William Moyes);

Chair of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Sir Michael Rawlins).

The Appointments Commission is in the process of recruiting a further four expert representatives and four lay representatives to the board.

We are continuing to work with stakeholders to develop the NQB terms of reference.

NHS: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations that are not being met routinely; and if he will make a statement. [253416]

Dawn Primarolo: National health service (NHS) bodies (including primary care trusts) are required by a statutory direction to fund health care interventions recommended in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals within three months of publication of final appraisal guidance. The Department has made it clear that if a particular NHS body is failing to comply with a statutory funding direction it will expect the relevant strategic health authority to ensure that action is taken to address the situation.

Clinical guidelines and public health guidance published by NICE are not covered by the statutory direction but NHS organisations should be working towards their implementation over time.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which trusts have chosen to procure and implement an IT system different from the one selected for them by their local service provider; and what costs each has incurred in that process, broken down by cost category; [254157]

(2) what his Department's policy is on trusts which choose to implement IT systems not provided by the local service provider for their region. [254158]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's Health Informatics Review report, published in July 2008 was in support of the Next Stage Review. A copy has been placed in the Library. It confirmed the national health service's continuing commitment to, and belief in, the strategic information services being developed and provided by local service providers. However, it recognised and supported the wish on the part of certain trusts to realise benefits earlier by implementing interim initiatives where there is a business case to do so. Such initiatives should support the aim of enabling patient information to be available across different IT systems, different care providers and different care settings ahead of the delivery of strategic systems.

[illegible] on software requirements and system deployment plans became a responsibility of local NHS trusts from April 2007 to provide greater local ownership of the planning and deployment process. Comprehensive information of the kind requested is therefore not collected centrally.

NHS: Management

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve the quality of management in the NHS. [253102]

Ann Keen: The steps that my Department is taking to improve the quality of leadership and management in the national health service are set out in chapter five of High Quality Care for All, the final report of the Next Stage Review (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library). This report sets out a number of commitments which start early and continue throughout the career path. A new National Leadership Council, chaired by the NHS chief executive, is being established to oversee the implementation of the commitments.

NHS: Translation Services

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS interpreters in Waltham Forest primary care trust cost for *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [253753]

Ann Keen: The data requested are not collected centrally. National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Nurses

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what conditions each type of specialist nurse is trained to deal with; [253573]

(2) how many specialist nurses there were in each specialty in each year between 2001 and 2008. [253574]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. national health service organisations are responsible for the skill mix of their work force. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local community and must have the freedom to train and deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

Thalidomide

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has discussed with his German counterpart the matter of culpability on the part of the manufacturers in relation to the impairments caused by thalidomide in the last five years. [254622]

Dawn Primarolo: We have had no such discussions in the last five years.

A private compensation settlement was agreed with Distillers, now part of Diageo plc, the company that marketed the drug in the United Kingdom, and the Thalidomide Trust, the charitable trust established to administer annual payments to victims.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of animals bred for use in animal scientific procedures but not used for such purposes and put down in 2008. [253996]

Meg Hillier: We do not record the number of animals bred for use in procedures regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act but not used for such purposes and then put down. We have made no estimate of numbers for 2008. Other statistical data on animal use in 2008 under the 1986 Act are currently being collected and, when completed, will be laid before Parliament.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-human primates from each overseas country were imported into the United Kingdom for use in research and testing in 2008. [253995]

Meg Hillier: The number of non-human primates acquired during 2008 from each overseas country for use in scientific procedures or breeding under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is as follows:

	Number
Netherlands	100
Israel	50
Mauritius	1,456
Vietnam	1,036

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a report from the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis on the number and location of anti-Semitic incidents in London since December 2008; and if she will make a statement. [252975]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The police are keeping a close eye on anti-Semitic incidents. However, the Home Secretary has not commissioned a specific report on this issue.

The Minister for policing and tackling violent crime (Vernon Coaker) has discussed this issue with the Community Security Trust (CST) and chief police officers. The CST have confirmed they are satisfied with the level of police co-operation and response to the matter.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the economic effects of anti-social behaviour in each of the last five years. [253124]

Mr. Alan Campbell: An assessment of the economic effects of antisocial behaviour over the past five years has not been made. However, a one-day count undertaken by the Home Office to understand the effect of antisocial behaviour on key service providers estimated that the cost to government agencies of responding to reports of antisocial behaviour in England and Wales was approximately £3.4 billion per year. The costs related only to the financial costs to agencies of dealing with antisocial behaviour and did not include indirect costs to local communities and businesses, as well as emotional costs to victims and witnesses.

The cost of not taking action against antisocial behaviour is much higher.

The National Audit Office report in 2006 found that nine out of 10 people stop behaving antisocially after three interventions. Many of these were warning letters and antisocial behaviour contracts which are voluntary measures. The success of these interventions would have prevented escalation of behaviour and the possibility of consequential court costs.

Arrests: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* West Lancashire and *(c)* South Ribble in each quarter of the last three years. [253729]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The data requested are not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) recorded by the police forces in England and Wales. Data are not available below the police force area level.

Burglary: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* theft and *(b)* burglary have been reported in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [251843]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information on the number of offences recorded by the police is given in the following table. Recorded crime statistics are not collected at constituency level, therefore figures have been provided at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) level.

Number of offences recorded by the police in the Yorkshire and Humber region, by crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) in 2007-08

CDRP	*Burglary*[1]	*Offences against vehicles*[2]	*Other theft offences*
Barnsley	2,348	3,070	3,868
Bradford	8,592	7,964	10,505
Calderdale	2,475	3,016	3,443
Craven	278	283	522
Doncaster	5,472	5,645	7,651
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,157	1,771	3,942
Hambleton	578	428	867
Harrogate	996	702	2,007
Kingston upon Hull	5,330	4,198	9,413
Kirklees	6,073	5,387	8,599
Leeds	14,575	11,450	19,318
North East Lincolnshire	3,376	3,710	4,791
North Lincolnshire	2,455	2,101	3,376
Richmondshire	213	209	344
Rotherham	3,131	3,937	5,086
Ryedale	339	199	514
Scarborough	879	685	2,108
Selby	688	582	932
Sheffield	8,696	10,890	13,657
Wakefield	4,433	4,190	6,784
York	2,324	2,509	5,420
Yorkshire and Humber region total	73,410	72,926	113,147

[1] Includes burglary in a dwelling and burglary in a building other than a dwelling.

[2] Includes theft of motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

Business: Crime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of levels of crime against businesses; and if she will make a statement. [250355]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Crimes against business that are reported to the police are recorded in national crime statistics. Some of these, such as robbery of business property, shoplifting, and theft by an employee are counted and recorded separately. The latest published statistics for these offences are for the year 2007-08 and show:

Shoplifting decreased 1 per cent. from 2006-07 to 2007-08, from 294,282 to 290,625 offences.

Robbery of business property decreased 3 per cent. from 2006-07 to 2007-08 from 9,454 to 9,141 offences.

Theft by an employee decreased by 3 per cent. from 2006-7 to 2007-8 from 16,323 to 15,838 offences.

We continually monitor trends in these crime types through the monthly submissions from police forces to the Home Office. Many crimes committed against business are, however, grouped with other un-related crimes and we are therefore planning to increase the range of business crimes which are counted separately. The separate recording of commercial burglary, for example, is being trialled in some police forces later this year.

We recognise, however, that some business crime may not be reported to the police and so are undertaking a scoping exercise to investigate the possible scope and methodology for a new survey of commercial victimisation. Previous surveys in 1994 and 2002 have provided a fuller and more accurate assessment of levels of crime against specific sectors (small and medium sized enterprises in the retail and manufacturing sectors).

The Government take very seriously crime committed against businesses and we are working closely with key business organisations, police and other Government Departments to tackle it. We have made it clear in our public service agreement 'Make Communities Safer', and in the policing Green Paper 'From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing Our Communities Together' that crimes against businesses should be addressed by forces and their local partners. This is backed up by the reforms set out in the Green Paper to empower local communities, which will strengthen the voice of local businesses who are at the heart of many communities, in how their neighbourhoods are policed. The National Police Improvement Agency will shortly be publishing practical guidance for police forces on how to identify and address the specific needs and priorities of local businesses.

Crime: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Merseyside Police have *(a)* closed premises that are being used for drug dealing or use causing disorder or serious nuisance, *(b)* issued penalty notices for truancy, *(c)* designated an area with a history of anti-social behaviour, *(d)* used the new controls to tackle the misuse of air weapons and replica guns, *(e)* used their new powers for dealing with public assemblies and trespassers, *(f)* used their new power to move on trespassing encampments where a relevant site is available, *(g)* used their new powers to intervene in neighbourly disputes regarding high hedges, *(h)* issued penalty notices to 16 and 17 year olds for disorder and *(i)* used their extended stop and search powers where reasonable suspicion is held that articles made, adapted or intended for use in offences of criminal damage are being carried in the last 12 months. [251344]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested covers the operations of a number of different Government Departments and would require consultation between them, therefore providing the information requested would entail disproportionate cost.

Crime: Retail Trade

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the members of the National Retail Crime Steering Group are; and what its terms of reference are. [253146]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The current members of the National Retail Crime Steering Group are as follows:

Alan Campbell MP (chair): Home Office

Stephen Robertson (co-chair): Director-General, British Retail Consortium

Jane Milne: Director of Business Environment, BRC

Catherine Bowen: Crime Policy Adviser, BRC

Alan Brown: Group Security Director, Tesco

Phillip Wilsoner: Head of Operational Risk, Co-op

Peter Kaye: Head of Business Protection, John Lewis

Mike Cherry: Home Affairs Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses

Rosina Robson: Senior Policy Adviser, FSB

James Lowman: Chief Executive, Association of Convenience Stores

John Curtis: Deputy Director, Government Office West Midlands

David Fuller: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

ACC Allyn Thomas: ACPO Business Crime lead

Doug Russell: USDAW

Its terms of reference are as follows:

The purpose of a National Retail Crime Steering Group will be to drive a National Retail Crime Reduction Strategy focusing on reducing retail crime. This strategy will be based on the Terms of Reference agreed by the membership and will improve the co-ordination and delivery of retail crime reduction initiatives by all stakeholders.

1. Assess and improve the tools available to measure the scale of retail crime nationally, and encourage CDRPs to evaluate retail crime reduction initiatives locally

2. Identify and document initiatives currently being undertaken by Government, police, local business crime reduction partnerships and retailers to combat crime.

3. Identify and promote good practice for retailers to adopt in working with Government, police and local partnerships, to reduce retail crime (and the underlying causes of crime.)

4. Assess and improve local engagement between retailers and neighbourhood police, taking into account local crime reduction plans.

5. Investigate the opportunities for improving retailer involvement in Home Office and Ministry of Justice policy development.

6. Encourage the retail sector to include crime prevention at the heart of all its business policies and practices.

Driving Under Influence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for drink driving in each of the last 12 months; [251529]

(2) how many people in Leicester were *(a)* arrested on suspicion of and *(b)* convicted of drink driving in each of the last 12 months. [251742]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The offence of drink driving is not a notifiable offence and does not form part of this collection.

Available information provided by the Ministry of Justice on convictions at all courts for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the year 2007 (latest available) is provided in the following table. Data for 2008 should be available in the autumn of 2009.

The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be provided separately.

It is not possible to separately identify data for Leicester, thus data for Leicestershire police force area have been provided in lieu.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by Leicestershire police force area and England and Wales, 2007[2, 3]

Police force area	*Number of offences* *Findings of guilt*
Leicestershire	1,520
England and Wales	89,223

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).
[2] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
The Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 19 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1076W, on driving under the influence, when she expects the statistics for the number of breathalyser tests by *(a)* month and *(b)* region for (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 to be published. [254110]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistics relating to 2007 for the number of breathalyser tests by month and region will be published within the annual statistical bulletin covering Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales. This bulletin is due for publication in spring 2009. No date has yet been set for the release of the 2008 data.

Police: Recruitment

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former police community support officers were recruited as police officers in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [252774]

Mr. Coaker: The requested data are not collected centrally.

Theft

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* theft and *(b)* retail theft have been reported in (i) England and (ii) North Yorkshire in each year since 2000. [253145]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of police recorded crimes for the main offence groups of 'offences against vehicles' and 'other theft offences (excluding shoplifting)', and separate figures for shoplifting, are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of offences recorded by the police, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
England			
Offences against vehicles	1,046,121	985,250	1,018,942
Other theft offences (excluding shoplifting)	800,529	791,889	866,451
Shoplifting	278,243	279,198	291,689
North Yorkshire PFA			
Offences against vehicles	9,807	8,725	9,216
Other theft offences (excluding shoplifting)	10,466	10,117	11,657
Shoplifting	4,053	3,949	4,303

Note:
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Number of offences recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2007-08

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England						
Offences against vehicles	[illegible]	[illegible]	770,157	745,016	718,990	617,815
Other theft offences (excluding shoplifting)	[illegible]	[illegible]	894,673	864,305	822,600	770,177
Shoplifting	[illegible]	[illegible]	265,789	279,908	278,241	274,168
North Yorkshire PFA						
Offences against vehicles	[illegible]	[illegible]	7,463	7,938	7,057	5,597
Other theft offences (excluding shoplifting)	[illegible]	[illegible]	11,114	10,343	9,613	9,022
Shoplifting	[illegible]	[illegible]	3,607	3,725	3,629	3,692

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Roads: Accidents

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on the procedure to be followed by *(a)* police forces in England and Wales and *(b)* prosecutors in England and Wales in seeking to obtain access to data stored on vehicle data recording devices when investigating causes of road traffic collisions; and if she will make a statement. [253092]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: Accident investigation is an operational matter for the police. The Home office has issued no guidance in this area.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 February 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which websites are operated by his Department in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for these websites is. [251306]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office operates no websites other than its main departmental website.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which websites were operated by his Department in addition to its main website in the last five years. [251309]

Ann McKechin: Until 2006 the Scotland Office also operated a website on behalf of the Commission on Boundary Differences and Voting Systems, chaired by Professor Sir John Arbuthnott.

Since completion of the Arbuthnott Commission's work it has only operated the departmental website: www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254246]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State for Scotland is responsible for appointing two commissioners to the Boundary Commission for Scotland. The commission is an independent and impartial advisory body, responsible for reviews of constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament, and constituencies in Scotland for the Westminster Parliament. One of the current commissioner appointments will run until 31 December 2010, the other until 6 June 2011. The posts are part time and require around one to two days work per month during the period of a boundary review. Commissioners are paid a daily fee, currently £486, for attending commission meetings and for meeting preparation. Applicants are expected to have a good understanding of the social geography of Scotland, the structure of constituencies for the Westminster and the Scottish Parliaments, and the electoral system. There are no statutory political restrictions, but it is recognised that commissioners are expected to be politically neutral. Appointments are made following Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and other relevant guidance.

The Secretary of State may also appoint, at the request of the commission, assistant commissioners, to "inquire into, and report to the Commission upon, such matters as the Commission think fit". In practice, assistant commissioners are appointed to conduct public inquiries into the commission's provisional recommendations. In Scotland, it is customary for Sheriffs Principal who preside over the relevant areas to be appointed for this purpose given their unquestioned independence and impartiality, and their local connection to the areas under consideration. These appointments are unpaid, and made for the duration of the inquiry process, typically a few months.

The Scotland Office retains all official records relating to the appointment of both commissioners and assistant commissioners.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy to reduce the impact of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254063]

Ann McKechin: As one would expect, the Secretary of State for Scotland has regular engagements with outside organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251265]

Ann McKechin: The information requested is as follows:

£

	PressData (web-based press cuttings)	*PA Mediapoint (web-based news wire)*	*Newslink (broadcast transcription)*
2003-04	18,215	0	0
2004-05	19,817	0	0
2005-06	18,000	0	0
2006-07	18,572	0	0
2007-08	12,150	5,651	2,892

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Harry Cohen: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) was of defending the legal action challenging the decision to drop the investigation into allegations of bribery and corruption against BAE Systems plc in relation to Saudi Arabia; how much was paid to the legal team acting for the SFO in the case; what the fees were of Jonathan Sumption QC for representing the SFO in the appeal to the House of Lords; and from which budget these costs were met. [252134]

The Solicitor-General: The total cost to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) of defending the legal action challenging the decision to drop the investigation into BAE Systems plc, as far as relating to Saudi Arabia, was £372,099.67. These costs comprise counsel fees, Treasury Solicitor fees and associated printing costs, and relate to both the hearing in the Divisional Court and the appeal in the House of Lords.

The legal team acting for the SFO (that is, external counsel and Treasury Solicitors) was paid £344,144.37.

Jonathan Sumption QC was paid £53,377 to represent the SFO in the appeal to the House of Lords.

All the above costs were met from the normal SFO budget.

All costs stated are exclusive of VAT.

WALES

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254066]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular engagements with outside organisations on a range of issues relating to the Welsh economy.

I have recently met the Federation of Small Businesses Wales, the CBI and the Wales Trades Union Council. In addition I attend the regular meetings of the National Economic Council and the All Wales Economic Summits.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the Answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 458W, on non-domestic rates: Wales, whether the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales was revenue-neutral excluding the effect of transitional relief. [253518]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2180W. The 2005 council tax revaluation and rebanding exercise was revenue-neutral in that increases in council tax receipts during the year of the revaluation and subsequently arose from councils' decisions on raising council tax, rather than the revaluation. The rises were in line with increases in previous years.

The increase in band D council tax was 3.8 per cent. between 2004-05 and 2005-06; 4.5 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07, and 4.4 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Shellfish: Dredging

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on legislation to establish powers to prohibit scallop dredging in Welsh waters. [254264]

Mr. David: I recently discussed with the Welsh Assembly Government provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill that will abolish Sea Fisheries Committees and provide Welsh Ministers further powers to manage fisheries, including scallop dredging, in Welsh waters.

At present local authority Sea Fisheries Committees are taking the lead role in managing scallop fisheries, within six nautical miles of the Welsh Coast. The Welsh Assembly Government have existing powers to regulate scallop dredging in Welsh waters—principally section 5 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967.

I understand that discussions are taking place between WAG and other relevant organisations to develop a joint approach to seek to manage the situation in Cardigan bay.

Welsh Assembly Government

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library copies of correspondence between officials and Ministers in his Office and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and officials on the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order in the last two years. [254618]

Mr. Paul Murphy: We have had frequent exchanges with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and officials on the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order. To make all such exchanges available in the Library would restrict our ability to conduct business effectively.

However, the Wales Office has released some information relating to exchanges on the proposed order. It is available on the Wales Office website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk/foi/disclosures

Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish all legal opinions and advice obtained by his Department relating to the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order. [254735]

Mr. Paul Murphy: We have received legal opinions and advice relating to the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order from a number of sources. To make such advice available would restrict our ability to conduct business effectively.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* features, *(b)* rights and *(c)* sanctions will accrue to the Welsh language when it acquires official status under the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order. [254737]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Legislative Competence Order on the Welsh Language, when made, will confer legislative competence on the National Assembly for Wales in respect to the matters specified in the order. It will not confer official status on the Welsh language.

The explanatory memorandum accompanying the proposed order explains its scope and content in detail. I have today laid these documents as a Command Paper before the House for pre-legislative scrutiny. Copies have been placed in the Library and can be found in the Vote Office.

PRIME MINISTER

China

Mr. Evans: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has held with the Chinese Prime Minister on *(a)* human rights in China and *(b)* increasing British exports to China. [254573]

The Prime Minister: Premier Wen visited the UK on 31 January-2 February for the annual UK-China summit, during which time we held a series of discussions.

I refer the hon. Member to the 'UK-China Summit: Key Outcomes 2009' which is available on the number 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18214

I also refer the hon. Member to the 'UK-China joint statement', issued on 2 February, which is also available on the website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18220

Copies of both web pages have been placed in the Library of the House.

Personal Care Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office has incurred any expenditure on his behalf for *(a)* haircuts, *(b)* make-up, *(c)* hairdressers and *(d)* make-up artists. [253657]

The Prime Minister: No.

DEFENCE

Absent Without Leave

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of service personnel *(a)* went absent without leave and *(b)* deserted in each of the last 10 years. [254034]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Records held centrally on service personnel who have gone absent without leave (AWOL) relate to the number of incidents reported, not to the number of personnel. Therefore, individuals with multiple periods of absence are recorded more than once. For this reason the percentage of service personnel who went absent without leave in each of the last 10 years cannot be provided. The following table shows absence without leave statistics for each service by calendar year for each of the last 10 years:

	Incidents of reported AWOL		
	Royal Navy[1]	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
1999	35	2,055	15
2000	95	2,710	25
2001	90	2,645	25
2002	110	2,950	25
2003	120	2,820	35
2004	185	3,030	55
2005	195	2,715	35
2006	155	2,330	10
2007	115	2,290	25
2008	125	2,105	5

[1] Over this period there have been a number of changes to the criteria for reporting absentees in the RN.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. While the figures reflect the number of reports of AWOL, it may come to light later that there are extenuating circumstances and therefore does not reflect the number of personnel who went on to be formally charged with AWOL.

The following table shows the number of service personnel convicted of desertion in each of the last 10 years:

	Convictions of desertion
1999	18
2000	8
2001	3
2002	7
2003	3
2004	3
2005	6
2006	8
2007	2
2008	[1]4

[1] This figure does not include the last quarter of 2008 for the RN.

Afghanistan: Official Visits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* delays and *(b)* cancellations of VIP visits there have been in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [251649]

Mr. Hutton: Every effort is made to ensure that VIP visits to operational theatres proceed smoothly. However, on occasion, there are inevitably difficulties due to adverse weather, equipment serviceability and competing operational requirements for finite air and aviation resources. Visits are also on occasion cancelled for reasons without the control of my Department. We do not collate detailed statistics on the number of VIP visits delayed or cancelled and generating robust statistics could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long it will take to modify Merlin helicopters for use in Afghanistan; and how much this will cost. [254831]

Mr. Hutton: It is expected to cost around £50 million to modify the Merlin helicopters for use on operations in Afghanistan. We are doing all we can to ensure a swift transition to Afghanistan. Nevertheless, we envisage a short period of around four months for the Merlin force to prepare for operations in Afghanistan after extraction from Iraq.

Air Force: Contracts

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what multi-activity contracts (MACs) the Royal Air Force has; and what the *(a)* scope, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* date of expiry of each MAC is. [254361]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The scope of each individual multi-activity contract (MAC) is different, covering a range of services that support the operation of the station. These services may include, for example, cleaning, waste disposal, transport and supply and management of consumables. For large training units the MAC is often linked directly with the contract to provide the training output.

The monetary value and date of expiry of each RAF multi-activity contract is contained in the following table.

Location of MAC	*Expiry date*	*Current estimated annual monetary value (£ million)*
RAF Valley	March 2012	13.8
RAF Cranwell	March 2013	13.2
RAF Northolt/ Uxbridge	March 2010	9.7
RAF Brampton/ Wyton/Henlow	March 2011-March 2012	7.9
RAF Shawbury	March 2012	6.3
RAF Brize Norton	March 2010	5.4
RAF Lyneham	March 2012	4.5
RAF Cosford	December 2011	4.4
RAF High Wycombe	March 2010	4.2
RAF Halton	March 2010	4.0
RAF Linton	March 2010	2.0
Air Surveillance and Control System (ASACS)/RAF Fylingdales	March 2009	2.6

Armed Forces: Parades

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military tattoos are held each year in the UK; and at which locations they are held. [254926]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all military tattoos and locations are not retained centrally by the MOD. The MOD does not currently run any tattoos; they are operated by commercial organisations who will hold their own records.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with representatives from the defence industry about the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. [255007]

Mr. Hutton: I have regular discussions with representatives of the defence industry and defence trade associations on a range of issues, but to date have not specifically discussed the proposed Arms Trade Treaty.

The Ministry of Defence fully supports the Government's effort to establish an Arms Trade Treaty that will help prevent the irresponsible trade in conventional weapons. The Department is an active member of the cross-Whitehall team led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that is taking forward this work within the United Nations. The cross-Whitehall team maintains a dialogue with the defence industry through regular stakeholder group meetings. During 2009 this work will support the UN process, which is considering elements that might be included in an eventual legally binding treaty.

Defence Intelligence Staff

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the size of the Defence Intelligence Staff was in each year since 1997. [253716]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1384W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker), which provides the size of the Defence intelligence staff (DIS) for the years 1997 to 2006. The information for subsequent years is: April 2007—4,748; April 2008—4,308 staff; and is forecast as 4,365 staff for April 2009.

Defence: Industry

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on measures to retain *(a)* skills and *(b)* employees vital to the defence industry in the current economic climate; [253465]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the economic climate on the defence industry, with particular reference to the industry's capacity to *(a)* retain skilled workers and *(b)* meet procurement deadlines. [253464]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) promotes a sustainable and competitive UK defence industrial base. This ensures the retention of the specialist skills necessary to deliver the capabilities needed by our armed forces. Defence Ministers have regular discussions with representatives from the defence industry both individually and in the forum of the National Defence Industries Council on a wide range of issues including the effect of the current economic climate on the industry.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W, on departmental catering, which ethically traded products the defence food services integrated project team has introduced; and if he will make a statement. [254100]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Ethically traded products purchased by defence food services integrated project team, which is responsible for the procurement of food for the armed services on operations and on exercises overseas, are set out in the following list:

90 per cent. of tea and coffee from fair trade sources

100 per cent. of pork from British sources

100 per cent. of milk from British sources

100 per cent. of eggs from British sources

100 per cent. of whole gammons from British sources

100 per cent. of fish from managed sources

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W, on departmental catering, what recommendations the Sustainability Working Group has made on the procurement of Fairtrade goods for use in *(a)* his Department's London headquarters and *(b)* the military establishment; and if he will make a statement. [254101]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Sustainability Working Group was established within the Defence Food Service Integrated Project Team (DFS IPT) to identify opportunities to extend sustainable procurement of food for the armed services on operations and on exercises overseas. The procurement of catering for MOD's London headquarters and for all military establishments is therefore outside the scope of the Working Group.

Where, however, the DFS IPT identifies Fairtrade products that meet MOD quality requirements and offer value for money, they may be listed on the core range of products supplied for operational feeding to UK armed forces personnel "in barracks" not covered by the Pay As You Dine programme.

Catering in MOD's London headquarters is provided as part of a multi-activity contract. An extensive range of Fairtrade products is available that includes all coffee served in the deli bar, coffee bar and in the vending machines. A range of other Fairtrade beverages, fruit juices, snack bars and cakes is also available.

For those military establishments where catering is provided through the Pay As You Dine programme, or as part of a multi-activity contract, the catering contractor may choose to offer Fairtrade products as part of his strategy, although the requirement does not specify that he must. There are a wide variety of such contracts in place across the Department and information on Fairtrade products on offer is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Financial Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253597]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD and its defence agencies and trading funds have no statutory powers to levy such penalties.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's procurement practices on British defence manufacturers. [253732]

Mr. Quentin Davies: MOD procurement practices are designed to ensure that our armed forces have the best equipment available while at the same time ensuring value for money for the taxpayer. The defence industrial strategy recognises the crucial role that the UK defence industry plays in delivery of capability to the front line and promotes a sustainable and globally competitive UK defence industrial base. Defence Ministers have regular discussions with representatives from the defence industry both individually and in the forum of the National Defence Industries Council.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 90 of the Explanatory Memorandum of 11 December 2008 on the French Presidency Report on European Security and Defence Policy, European Union Document No. 16686/08, *(a)* how many troops and *(b)* what military assets the UK has contributed to the Force Catalogue. [254422]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2348W.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Veteran's Badges have been issued to residents of Bolton. [254610]

Mr. Kevan Jones: According to our records, a total of 1,679 veterans who have applied giving Bolton as part of their address, have been issued with HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge.

HMS Endurance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what reports he has received of the recent flooding incident on HMS Endurance; and if he will make a statement; [251893]

(2) what plans he has for transporting HMS Endurance to the United Kingdom; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such transportation; [251895]

(3) when he expects repairs to HMS Endurance to be completed; and when he expects HMS Endurance to be operational. [251894]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Ministers were notified of the flooding incident in HMS Endurance's engine room on 16 December 2008 and officials have kept us informed of the situation to date.

A contract has now been signed with Dockwise who will return HMS Endurance to the UK by the heavy lift vessel MV Target. It is currently estimated that the ship will return to the UK around 20 March 2009, weather permitting. Subject to detailed survey, our intention is that the ship will then be repaired prior to her return to service at a date yet to be agreed. I am withholding the cost of the heavy lift contract and the projected repair costs as they are commercially sensitive.

Service Accommodation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps the Government have taken to improve service accommodation. [252615]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* In addition to the increased investment in service accommodation in recent years, over £8 billion will be spent in the next decade, including some £3 billion on improving and upgrading accommodation. The MOD is restrained in much of the work on SFA by the contract with Annington Homes signed in 1996.

Since 2003, some 29,000 new or improved single living accommodation bed-spaces have been delivered with a further 30,000 planned by 2013.

Regarding service family accommodation (SFA), over 13,000 properties have been upgraded to the highest standard for condition since 2001, with a further 600 planned in this financial year (FY) and 800 in each year thereafter.

In addition to upgrading SFA, around £32 million was spent in FY 2007-08 on improvements such as new kitchens or bathrooms, improving the quality of life for service families.

Service Personnel: Retention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to increase levels of retention of service personnel. [252613]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Taking the armed forces as a whole, retention rates are relatively stable and we have seen no unexplained peaks of personnel leaving in the last 10 years. There is real concern, however, that in some important areas exit rates are too high and appear to be increasing, if only slightly, year on year. These pinch point trades are continuously monitored and specific action is taken to improve retention and indeed recruitment. The recent Command Paper (July 2008) set out over 40 measures aimed at addressing many of the disadvantages of service life while the Government's response to the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces has now been presented to Parliament detailing how we have accepted the majority of recommendations. In addition, a wide range of measures are in place to improve retention, including career management, improvement to conditions of service and work/life balance, commitment bonuses and targeted financial retention initiatives.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1554W, on approved premises; how many bail hostels other than those operated by ClearSprings *(a)* operate and *(b)* are planned to open in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) England. [254096]

Mr. Hanson: The properties provided by ClearSprings are not bail hostels. What were known as approved hostels, probation hostels and bail hostels are now approved premises. There are 97 approved premises in England, and four in Wales. None is in Eastbourne, and there are no plans to open one there or to expand the number of approved premises in England or Wales. The core purpose of approved premises is to protect the public from offenders who pose a significant risk of harm, and, at 30 November 2008, only 157 of the 2,205 places were filled by defendants on bail.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions wasted costs have been ordered against the defence in Crown courts in each of the last five years; and what the total sum awarded was in each case. [254258]

Bridget Prentice: Information on wasted costs orders against the defence in the Crown court and the total sum awarded in each case is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses: Costs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of the 2006 recruitment campaign for a Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses. [254024]

Mr. Straw: The total cost of the 2006 recruitment campaign for the role of Victims' Commissioner was £96,625.

The recruitment exercise for the role of Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses was carried out according to the code of practice for public appointments. The recruitment exercise included the use of an executive search agency specialising in public appointments which targeted individuals perceived to be of the right calibre for the role and public advertisements in relevant publications. However, we were not successful in identifying a candidate with all of the appropriate skills necessary for the proposed role and Ministers decided not to appoint.

Coroners: Leicestershire

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average time taken for a coroner to hold a treasure inquest, once requested, was for finds from Leicestershire in 2007; and if he will make a statement; [254575]

(2) what the longest time taken by a coroner to hold a treasure inquest, once requested, was for cases reported in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [254576]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the number of finds under the Treasure Act 1996 reported to coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, the number of treasure inquests concluded during the year and, of these, the number of verdicts of treasure returned. Information is not collected on the time taken to conduct treasure inquests.

Informal figures are, however, collated by the British Museum. These show that in 2007, the British Museum requested that coroners in Leicestershire hold seven treasure inquests. An average time taken between the inquests being requested and a verdict being returned is not available because one of these inquests is still ongoing, although the time taken for the other six ranged from 82 days to 515 days. A statistical average based on such a small number of cases would be very volatile and heavily dependent on the particular circumstances of each case.

The longest time taken by a coroner to hold a treasure inquest for cases reported in 2006, 2007 and 2008 is not yet known from the British Museum figures, because some inquests from each of these years have still not reached a conclusion.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254235]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for 40 public bodies which have over 9,000 members. These appointments are not centrally co-ordinated and therefore the activity required to provide an answer to the question raised exceeds the acceptable cost parameters.

Ministerial appointments to public bodies are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in accordance with the Public Appointments Order in Council 2002 and conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commission for Public Appointments Code of Practice. Appointments to these bodies and the records pertaining to them are subject to audit conducted by external auditors engaged by the Commissioner.

Duchy of Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the constitutional status of the Duchy of Cornwall; and if he will make a statement. [255056]

Mr. Wills: The Duchy of Cornwall is a private estate that funds the public, charitable and private activities of the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince William and Prince Harry.

Information Commissioner: Finance

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to announce the Information Commissioner's budget for 2009-10. [255445]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner is funded by a combination of grant in aid from the Ministry of Justice to pay for his freedom of information responsibilities and notification fees paid direct to the Commissioner by data controllers to pay for his data protection work.

Discussions are continuing with the Commissioner on the level of his grant in aid for 2009-10. A decision is expected shortly and will be notified to the Commissioner. The final figure will be published in the Main Estimate 2009-10 in April.

Following consultation last year, secondary legislation will shortly be introduced to Parliament to provide for tiered notification fees payable by data controllers. This will increase the Information Commissioner's funding in line with his estimate of the cost of meeting both his existing and proposed new statutory data protection responsibilities. The tiered notification fees will come into effect from October this year.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1125-6W, on magistrates' courts at Lyndhurst, for what reason any closure of Lyndhurst magistrates' court would be temporary; what criteria would be used to decide when to re-open it following such a temporary closure; and if he will make a statement. [251267]

Bridget Prentice: As part of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), HMCS Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HMCS HIOW) has to make efficiency savings over the next three years. The proposal to close Lyndhurst temporarily and transfer its work to Southampton, a modern purpose-built magistrates court is one of a series of measures identified by local management to improve efficiency and reduce the running costs of the area during this period.

No decision has yet been made but consideration will be given to the needs of those who live and work in the New Forest area and their ability to access justice.

A decision to re-open a court following temporary closure would depend on the prevailing factors at that time. All decisions to close individual courts permanently are for Ministers.

Magistrates Courts: Wisbech

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans HM Courts Service has for Wisbech magistrates court. [254005]

Bridget Prentice: Wisbech magistrates court is a two criminal court room building in an accessible part of Wisbech. The building is co-located alongside the local police station (Cambridgeshire Constabulary) and its custody suite which is accessed by the courthouse. Cambridgeshire Constabulary are the tenants of HMCS. Many of the building services are linked to the adjacent police station. The courthouse has the use of two cells under a shared arrangement with the police and the Prisoner Escort Service (PECS). Recently Cambridgeshire Constabulary has made public its intention to move custody arrangements to a new county facility in March, Cambridgeshire from the end of March 2009 and will no longer provide this at Wisbech police station. The Wisbech police station will remain as an operational unit. HMCS have been actively involved in discussions with both the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the PECs delivery organisation (GSL) as to how HMCS can ensure practical occupation of the cell area in order for the HMCS business to continue to operate as usual. Without the use of an available and suitable on-site custody suite the use of the courthouse would be considerably reduced which is why the local HMCS area has been working proactively alongside both Cambridgeshire Constabulary and PECs to resolve this situation successfully. There are no current plans or proposals to change or reduce the use of this courthouse.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each year since it was established. [251173]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. The cost for press monitoring services in 2007-08 was £103,385.63.

Media monitoring services include clippings of newspaper articles on subjects relevant to the Department that are compiled on a daily basis and summaries of broadcast news programmes throughout the day. It is important to monitor the climate of opinion so policy development can take place in the fullest context. Media monitoring is one way to do this and also provides useful instant feedback on policy announcements.

In common with other Government Departments of a similar size, the Ministry of Justice also monitors a wide range of media to ensure Government policy is reported accurately to the public to enable clear understanding of the work of Government and that inaccuracies are spotted and corrected.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. I. Laing. [253874]

Mr. Straw: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 30 January. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

National Identity: Languages

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the United Kingdom has an official language. [254736]

Mr. Wills: The UK does not have an official language defined in statute, although English is the predominant language by custom and usage. In addition, under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages the UK Government have recognised Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish, Scots, Ulster Scots and Cornish as minority languages within the UK.

Offenders: Personal Records

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 918W, on offenders: personal records, whether the Offenders Index is updated regularly; and when it was last updated. [254832]

Mr. Hanson: The Department no longer uses the Offenders Index to provide routine data on reoffending and criminal history. We are currently analysing the final cohorts of offenders extracted from the Offenders Index which are based on data up to December 2006. The Ministry of Justice has no plan for further updates.

Since 2005, the Ministry of Justice has been using data extracted from its police national computer database to provide the published figures on reoffending. This database is updated weekly.

Reoffenders

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average adult reoffending rate was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women ex-prisoners after their release in the last five years for which figures are available. [254010]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the one-year reoffending rates for offenders leaving custody in the first quarter of the years 2002 to 2006, by gender. The table shows the proportion of offenders who committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

One-year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody by gender, 2002-06

			Number of offenders	Actual reoffending rate (Percentage)	Number of offences per 100 offenders
Males	2002	Q1	14,385	55.0	283.8
	2003	Q1	13,202	53.9	276.8
	2004	Q1	14,359	51.8	249.9
	2005	Q1	13,353	49.1	227.0
	2006	Q1	13,178	46.6	207.5
Females	2002	Q1	1,193	55.8	340.9
	2003	Q1	1,156	54.1	305.1
	2004	Q1	1,402	53.7	285.2
	2005	Q1	1,242	49.1	244.8
	2006	Q1	1,202	45.0	218.6

Further information on the one-year rates of reoffending can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Reparation by Offenders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reparation orders under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have been issued by each court in each year since 2005. [254179]

Maria Eagle: The available information is contained in the following table.

Number of reparation orders[1] issued in England and Wales by court type and force area, 2005-07

	Year/court type					
	2005			2006		
	Magistrates court	Crown court	Total	Magistrates court	Crown court	Total
Avon and Somerset	61	—	61	74	—	74
Bedfordshire	8	—	8	16	—	16
Cambridgeshire	28	1	29	40	—	40
Cheshire	36	—	36	16	—	16

Number of reparation orders[1] issued in England and Wales by court type and force area, 2005-07

	Year/court type					
	2005			*2006*		
	Magistrates court	*Crown court*	*Total*	*Magistrates court*	*Crown court*	*Total*
Cleveland	45	—	45	49	—	49
Cumbria	8	—	8	4	—	4
Derbyshire	44	—	44	39	—	39
Devon and Cornwall	86	—	86	98	1	99
Dorset	35	—	35	34	—	34
Durham	41	—	41	67	—	67
Essex	51	—	51	69	—	69
Gloucestershire	8	—	8	14	—	14
Greater Manchester	190	1	191	212	2	214
Hampshire	68	—	68	48	—	48
Hertfordshire	45	—	45	64	—	64
Humberside	125	—	125	118	—	118
Kent	88	—	88	114	—	114
Lancashire	100	—	100	160	—	160
Leicestershire	44	—	44	66	—	66
Lincolnshire	16	—	16	29	—	29
Merseyside	80	—	80	90	—	90
Metropolitan Police	202	1	203	311	2	313
Norfolk	26	—	26	70	1	71
North Yorkshire	69	—	69	55	—	55
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	429	—	429	479	—	479
Nottinghamshire	152	—	152	162	1	163
South Yorkshire	130	—	130	168	—	168
Staffordshire	70	—	70	88	—	88
Suffolk	87	—	87	86	—	86
Surrey	70	—	70	69	—	69
Sussex	89	—	89	144	—	144
Thames Valley	74	—	74	85	—	85
Warwickshire	34	—	34	63	—	63
West Mercia	41	—	41	41	—	41
West Midlands	116	—	116	96	—	96
West Yorkshire	185	—	185	170	—	170
Wiltshire	16	—	16	33	—	33
Dyfed-Powys	5	—	5	6	—	6
Gwent	45	3	48	47	—	47
North Wales	52	—	52	69	—	69
South Wales	112	—	112	75	—	75
Total	3,211	6	3,217	3,738	7	3,745

Number of reparation orders[1] issued in England and Wales by court type and force area, 2005-07

	Year/court type		
	2007		
	Magistrates court	*Crown court*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	87	—	87
Bedfordshire	22	—	22
Cambridgeshire	49	—	49
Cheshire	21	—	21
Cleveland	49	—	49
Cumbria	9	—	9
Derbyshire	40	—	40
Devon and Cornwall	97	—	97
Dorset	53	—	53
Durham	91	—	91
Essex	56	—	56
Gloucestershire	33	—	33
Greater Manchester	295	—	295
Hampshire	56	—	56
Hertfordshire	56	—	56
Humberside	134	—	134
Kent	134	—	134
Lancashire	177	—	177
Leicestershire	63	—	63

Number of reparation orders¹ issued in England and Wales by court type and force area, 2005-07

	Year/court type		
	2007		
	Magistrates court	*Crown court*	*Total*
Lincolnshire	20	—	20
Merseyside	106	—	106
Metropolitan Police	31[illegible]	1	317
Norfolk	72	—	72
North Yorkshire	50	—	50
Northamptonshire	56	—	56
Northumbria	491	—	491
Nottinghamshire	157	—	157
South Yorkshire	147	—	147
Staffordshire	88	—	88
Suffolk	80	—	80
Surrey	66	—	66
Sussex	183	—	183
Thames Valley	81	1	82
Warwickshire	82	—	82
West Mercia	50	—	50
West Midlands	85	—	85
West Yorkshire	197	—	197
Wiltshire	17	—	17
Dyfed-Powys	5	—	5
Gwent	44	—	44
North Wales	66	—	66
South Wales	71	1	72
Total	4,052	3	4,055

¹ Reparation orders are only given to young offenders aged under 18

Notes:

1. The statistics given are on a principal offence and primary disposal basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences the offence selected are the offences for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe A defendant could be issued with more than one disposal for a committed offence. The statistics do not include number of reparation orders given as secondary disposal.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

[Ref IOS 86-09]

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many suspended possession orders granted by county courts to mortgage lenders were re-activated and enforced during 2008 in cases where lenders obtained warrants for eviction after *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 10 years or more had elapsed since the original possession order was made in a suspended form; [254071]

(2) for what reasons HM Courts Service automatically disposes of all court records of suspended possession orders after six years of inactivity. [254072]

Bridget Prentice: There were 866 cases which involved a warrant of possession being issued in 2008 and which followed the original suspended mortgage possession order being made three to five years previously. There were also 103 cases which involved a warrant of possession being issued in 2008 and which followed the original suspended mortgage possession order being made 6-10 years previously.

The Ministry of Justice does not currently hold statistical information relating to lags between suspended mortgage possession orders made and warrants of possession issues of more than 10 years.

These figures do not indicate the number of homes actually being repossessed. Issuing a warrant of possession does not necessarily result in repossession.

HM Courts Service automatically disposes of all possession action files including those involving suspended possession orders after three years' inactivity. Electronic records specifying the incidence and associated dates of suspended possession orders are still available for orders made within the last 10 years. However, record retention and disposition policies do not affect the enforcement of suspended possession orders. It is the duty of claimants to supply the order documents when applying for a warrant of possession to be issued.

Record retention and disposition policies fall within the remit of the Departmental Records Officer and Head of Record Information and Management Services for the Ministry of Justice. Retention periods are determined by (a) any legislative requirement and (b) the business need of the area to which the schedule relates. No special provisions are made for the retention and disposal of records involving suspended possession orders.

Repossession Orders: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [252569]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and Humberside region are not available. However, the following tables show the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in each county court within Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts in the Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region may cover areas other than the parliamentary constituencies of this region. Therefore not all possession actions at these courts necessarily relate to Yorkshire and Humber constituencies.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.iustice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Table 1: Mortgage¹ possession claims issued in the county courts of Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region, 1988 onwards

	1988	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Barnsley	319	375	417	500	392	331	274	248	315	230	342
Bradford	761	942	1,171	1,065	1,182	996	864	870	967	782	987
Bridlington*	32	27	114	120	110	106	91	103	107	79	—
Dewsbury	418	330	471	767	526	402	361	423	371	347	426
Doncaster	564	478	594	826	571	445	482	471	560	541	652
Goole*	66	50	91	135	96	82	97	122	76	—	—
Grimsby	582	447	954	1,028	649	505	436	486	477	470	512
Halifax	468	290	394	649	551	390	425	370	372	338	368
Harrogate	0	113	244	467	338	249	184	200	184	157	163
Huddersfield	223	198	382	442	457	341	331	370	334	307	414
Keighley	173	174	296	372	268	206	210	169	168	154	223
Kingston-upon-Hull	596	750	994	1,268	822	721	720	640	685	589	743
Leeds	807	983	1,068	1,463	1,146	937	831	761	896	816	903
Otley*	77	62	119	188	129	124	101	83	—	—	—
Pontefract	287	241	311	423	286	276	276	242	250	247	264
Rotherham	448	346	525	675	483	413	325	289	345	231	337
Scarborough	128	101	177	271	198	137	129	149	117	140	359
Scunthorpe	159	171	359	435	285	231	239	215	243	364	224
Sheffield	492	664	899	1,211	847	810	632	543	562	533	600
Skipton	72	79	104	175	127	113	93	125	119	92	107
Thorne*	72	68	90	163	102	63	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	253	194	297	366	259	223	160	191	171	173	217
York	327	368	505	577	456	346	358	332	330	291	368
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	7,384	7,380	10,434	14,146	10,280	8,447	7,619	7,402	7,649	6,881	8,209
Other HMCS North East region	4203	3,894	4,243	5,952	5,192	3,969	3,236	3,264	3,493	3,015	4,298
HMCS North East region total	11,587	11,274	14,677	20,098	15,472	12,416	10,855	10,666	11,142	9,896	12,507

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 (Jan-Sep)²*
Barnsley	348	314	247	263	220	255	407	521	615	570
Bradford	1,105	1,000	927	882	770	763	1,099	1,235	1,437	1,342
Bridlington*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dewsbury	481	391	370	300	293	363	552	671	735	698
Doncaster	702	652	616	514	458	550	847	1,195	1,389	1,087
Goole*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grimsby	555	405	429	390	333	405	630	670	749	599
Halifax	466	351	360	290	252	304	419	510	585	529
Harrogate	167	164	155	118	133	156	233	232	205	160
Huddersfield	424	363	319	272	240	289	446	533	545	543
Keighley	227	187	153	142	145	155	213	241	308	264
Kingston-upon-Hull	800	704	632	534	529	579	833	1,011	1,181	956
Leeds	843	773	743	678	661	708	1,078	1,258	1,520	1,328
Otley*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pontefract	298	266	230	206	197	255	475	534	617	572
Rotherham	436	391	382	277	258	284	484	615	704	672
Scarborough	255	325	244	131	156	195	292	350	441	359

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 (Jan-Sep)*[2]
Scunthorpe	284	219	246	217	212	240	380	448	484	450
Sheffield	632	625	536	481	478	509	863	997	1,181	972
Skipton	99	76	95	67	63	51	85	105	133	105
Thorne*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	266	232	189	149	166	204	342	373	418	364
York	388	341	300	240	303	291	405	463	510	440
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	8,796	7,759	7,073	6,090	5,867	6,556	10,083	11,962	13,757	12,010
Other HMCS North East region	3,964	3,958	3,463	3,245	3,055	3,441	5,540	7,079	8,061	7,028
HMCS North East region total	12,760	11,717	10,536	9,335	8,922	9,997	15,623	19,041	21,818	19,038

[1] Mortgage data include all types of lender.
[2] Figures for the latest year are provisional.
* County court closed or merged with other county courts.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Mortgage[1] possession orders made[3,4] in the county courts of Yorkshire and Humberside Government office region, 1988 onwards

	1988	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Barnsley	218	199	242	407	337	292	285	240	249	166	182
Bradford	241	313	716	1048	970	1141	561	639	821	771	967
Bridlington*	37	32	93	111	77	111	82	99	98	53	—
Dewsbury[5]	287	179	378	521	588	516	261	344	276	307	448
Doncaster	313	335	415	589	548	343	328	362	428	476	507
Goole*	52	21	69	118	101	78	86	114	73	—	—
Grimsby	391	379	546	824	579	522	457	362	516	319	582
Halifax[5]	249	225	442	565	469	294	279	389	384	282	341
Harrogate[5]	26	87	112	254	330	213	142	195	148	123	144
Huddersfield	109	100	362	451	548	296	321	277	338	277	343
Keighley[5]	134	102	208	283	247	181	148	149	164	115	166
Kingston-upon-Hull	430	421	547	1,400	556	538	476	390	531	378	779
Leeds	726	350	531	1,101	854	759	463	497	684	752	707
Otley*	47	42	66	142	94	95	66	71	—	—	—
Pontefract[5]	211	137	221	311	264	189	192	168	138	216	295
Rotherham[5]	314	236	336	503	426	333	236	304	299	306	392
Scarborough	75	68	125	173	170	128	92	132	85	127	185
Scunthorpe[5]	114	110	241	277	272	196	237	155	263	158	194
Sheffield	497	324	545	797	649	517	285	497	389	398	516
Skipton	54	53	71	123	127	107	56	73	75	84	88
Thorne*	36	33	52	132	91	81	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield[5]	247	114	162	259	232	186	147	132	190	221	177
York	238	193	314	455	405	316	274	237	253	258	355
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	5,046	4,053	6,794	10,844	8,934	7,432	5,474	5,826	6,402	5,787	7,368
Other HMCS North East region	3,112	2,521	3,011	4,815	5,309	4,361	3,553	3,129	3,202	2,551	3,469
HMCS North East region total	8,158	6,574	9,805	15,659	14,243	11,793	9,027	8,955	9,604	8,338	10,837

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 (Jan-Sep)*[2]
Barnsley	278	251	198	188	148	160	268	351	435	423
Bradford	814	769	732	590	543	500	679	825	935	987
Bridlington*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dewsbury[5]	426	323	325	230	197	256	336	497	—	—
Doncaster	380	523	465	376	324	331	540	819	982	882
Goole*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grimsby	281	385	390	271	223	236	431	515	524	498
Halifax[5]	380	270	297	198	193	161	274	362	—	—
Harrogate[5]	127	128	115	77	63	90	157	169	—	—
Huddersfield	322	278	274	178	163	174	317	385	370	376
Keighley[5]	172	164	101	115	83	91	127	169	—	—
Kingston-upon-Hull	703	553	508	414	353	390	559	705	835	688
Leeds	684	611	600	437	448	410	682	876	1,049	997
Otley*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 (Jan-Sep)*[2]
Pontefract[5]	260	197	190	137	156	159	276	375	—	—
Rotherham[5]	347	297	262	189	185	191	304	431	—	—
Scarborough	219	152	187	106	88	119	184	227	309	289
Scunthorpe[5]	218	152	233	158	145	150	250	335	—	—
Sheffield	496	451	359	299	295	303	446	738	803	734
Skipton	72	64	66	46	42	41	52	73	95	92
Thorne[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield[5]	172	167	157	119	97	157	199	297	—	—
York	299	267	221	139	172	172	268	333	338	298
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	6,650	6,002	5,680	4,267	3,918	4,091	6,349	8,482	—	—
Other HMCS North East region	3,305	3,216	2,935	2,249	2,088	2,145	3,290	5,128	—	—
HMCS North East region total	9,955	9,218	8,615	6,516	6,006	6,236	9,639	13,610	15,087	13,178

Notes:

[1] Mortgage data include all types of lender.

[2] Figures for the latest year are provisional.

[3] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[5] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data. Only those county courts who do not have direct on site access to PCOL were affected. Consequently, upward adjustment has been made to estimate the effects of missing data. The figures for these courts are adjusted at HMCS regional level.

[6] County court closed or merged with other county courts.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Landlord[2] [3] possession claims issued and orders made[4] [6] in the county courts of Yorkshire and Humberside region, 1999[7] onwards

	1999		*2000*		*2001*		*2002*		*2003*	
	Claims issued	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*
Barnsley	472	368	498	378	420	379	577	427	995	448
Bradford	1,085	731	1,166	940	1,251	944	1,202	872	949	761
Dewsbury[5]	658	538	691	610	710	637	672	523	819	654
Doncaster	904	752	739	707	817	699	1,085	889	1,077	917
Grimsby	304	171	312	167	263	218	384	277	427	312
Halifax[5]	395	310	463	325	452	308	569	386	626	442
Harrogate[5]	215	185	210	178	215	164	179	145	181	119
Huddersfield	557	492	551	484	648	532	683	543	687	550
Keighley[5]	169	122	152	128	155	138	153	121	131	100
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,691	944	1,699	862	1,544	938	2,534	1,654	2,025	1,208
Leeds	1,306	1,110	2,078	1,508	2,862	2,587	2,056	1,831	1,155	767
Pontefract[5]	288	258	354	317	306	274	287	246	247	219
Rotherham[5]	394	325	529	348	757	606	774	658	795	614
Scarborough	442	300	402	289	443	339	371	300	357	286
Scunthorpe[5]	574	276	622	374	533	511	532	422	492	429
Sheffield	2,664	1,704	2,271	1,601	2,321	1,553	2,808	2,245	2,334	1,592
Skipton	47	32	62	53	70	66	78	57	95	69
Wakefield[5]	268	216	256	266	279	258	267	180	286	245
York	758	605	739	558	689	554	838	632	711	521
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	13,191	9,439	13,814	10,093	14,735	11,705	16,049	12,408	13,989	10,253
Other HMCS North East region	9,042	6,674	8,387	6,705	7,915	6,182	8,959	6,733	8,819	6,521
HMCS North East region total	22,233	16,113	22,201	16,798	22,650	17,887	25,008	19,141	22,808	16,774

	2004		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008 (Jan-Sep)*[2]	
	Claims issued	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*
Barnsley	585	454	688	498	744	536	600	509	423	382
Bradford	1,039	920	1,020	843	934	791	790	595	401	355
Dewsbury[5]	789	596	720	605	461	378	552	—	394	—
Doncaster	1,034	903	814	764	876	719	809	769	592	580
Grimsby	469	364	361	309	424	322	483	536	310	264

	2004		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008 (Jan-Sep)*[2]	
	Claims issued	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*	*Claims issued*	*Orders made*
Halifax[5]	495	414	494	377	485	333	449	—	274	—
Harrogate[5]	172	125	174	141	184	148	143	—	150	—
Huddersfield	655	533	725	530	603	478	612	489	393	414
Keighley[5]	148	108	172	153	166	139	169	—	56	—
Kingston-upon-Hull	1,520	948	1,448	1,066	1,700	1,122	1,359	1,036	914	714
Leeds	1,496	1,060	1,583	1,181	1,215	1,134	1,163	1,002	872	941
Pontefract[5]	399	312	321	281	310	261	277	—	205	—
Rotherham[5]	819	659	614	456	795	594	556	—	321	—
Scarborough	327	229	330	293	360	281	309	283	227	200
Scunthorpe[5]	418	364	389	337	384	309	357	—	294	—
Sheffield	2,486	1,823	2,294	1,724	2,048	1,368	2,012	1,779	1,451	1,671
Skipton	73	62	95	74	59	58	71	55	39	34
Wakefield[5]	358	347	218	175	282	239	279	—	190	—
York	872	588	754	525	677	571	642	513	404	292
Yorkshire and Humber GOR	14,154	10,809	13,214	10,332	12,707	9,781	11,632	—	7,910	—
Other HMCS North East region	9,512	6,495	8,244	6,070	8,855	6,120	8,022	—	5,393	—
HMCS North East region total	23,666	17,304	21,458	16,402	21,562	15,901	19,654	15,756	13,303	10,981

[1] Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether social or private.

[2] Figures for the latest year are provisional.

[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enable the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence and shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[5] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data. Only those county courts who do not have direct on site access to PCOL were affected. Consequently, upward adjustment has been made to estimate the effects of missing data. The figures for these courts are adjusted at HMCS regional level.

Notes:

The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Court level data are not available for all landlord possession actions prior to 1999.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Road Traffic Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vehicles have been seized from *(a)* disqualified and *(b)* uninsured drivers in each of the last two years. [254265]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. Available information is held on the Motor Insurance Database maintained by the Motor Insurers' Information Centre and relates to vehicles seized from those reasonably believed to be driving without appropriate insurance. In 2007 there were approximately 150,000 vehicles seized and in 2008 approximately 185,000.

Shoplifting: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to limit shoplifting offences in relation to which a penalty notice for disorder can be issued to first time offences. [253684]

Mr. Straw: There are already limits on the issue of penalty notices for disorder for shoplifting offences. Operational guidance makes it clear among other things that the disposal will be appropriate for first-time offences and not those who repeatedly offend. However the length of time since a previous shoplifting offence has been committed should be taken in account in considering whether a second penalty notice may be appropriate.

Following representations form the hon. Lady and from retail organisations, operational guidance covering shoplifting is being reviewed; a revised version will be issued shortly.

Television: Licensing

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* the City of Southampton were prosecuted for not having a television licence in each of the last five years. [254017]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of persons proceeded against for television licence evasion in the Hampshire police force area from 2003 to 2007 (latest available), is in the following table.

From information held centrally, it is not possible to provide borough or city level data.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against for television licence evasion in Hampshire police force area, 2003-07[1, 2, 3]

	Number
2003	1,891
2004	1,889
2005	2,520
2006	2,269
2007	2,269

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in section 363 of the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what level of financial support he expects the private sector to provide to the Creativity and Business International Network in each of the next three years; [254380]

(2) how many organisations have agreed to become a strategic partner of the Creativity and Business International Network to date; and when he expects to announce these partnerships. [254388]

Andy Burnham: Discussions about financial support from the private sector, including strategic partnerships, are ongoing, and details will be announced in due course.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what offers of support his Department's Creativity and Business International Network has received; and how many organisations have pledged to support the initiative with *(a)* technology and equipment and *(b)* travel. [254438]

Andy Burnham: The Creativity and Business International Network has been offered support from a large number of creative and business organisations, including the commitment of 24 international 'ambassadors'. A range of public sector bodies, trade organisations, businesses and individuals have also offered help and advice.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations have provided his Department with media training services in each of the last five years. [254607]

Barbara Follett: In each of the last five financial years the following organisations have provided media training services for DCMS.

2008-current

Angela Coles

2007-08

Angela Coles

2006-07

No media training services provided.

2005-06

No media training services provided.

2004-05

No media training services provided.

Heathrow Airport: Listed Buildings

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of listed buildings which will be lost as a result of the construction of a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [253693]

Barbara Follett: Based upon the information provided by the Department for Transport from its consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" (2007), English Heritage estimates that six listed buildings will be lost as a result of the construction of a third runway at Heathrow airport. The consultation document is available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrow consultation/consultationdocument.

Malvern St. James School

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to make a decision on the listing of the Edinburgh Sports Dome at Malvern St. James School. [254708]

Barbara Follett: Additional advice had to be sought from English Heritage before the assessment process on the Edinburgh Sports Dome could be completed. Consequently, it did not prove possible to reach a decision by the end of November 2008. The case is given high priority, and the Secretary of State will reach a decision as soon as possible. I will notify the hon. Member as soon as a decision has been made.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 28 January 2008 on behalf of Mr. Richard Cleaver in respect of Pandora Radio, a second copy of which was faxed to his office on 18 June 2008. [254292]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* I offer the hon. Member an apology for the administrative error in dealing with this correspondence. The issues raised in the letter are the policy responsibility of the Intellectual Property Office, and I understand that a reply will be sent soon from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Memorials: World War II

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Second World War pillboxes have been given statutory designation; and if he will make a statement. [254923]

Barbara Follett: A total of 148 individual second world war pillboxes have been given statutory designation.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to *(a)* record and *(b)* preserve defence structures from the Second World War; and if he will make a statement. [254924]

Barbara Follett: The Defence of Britain Project (1995-02) has recorded nearly 20,000 20th century military sites in the United Kingdom, including pillboxes. As well as recording the 20th century militarised landscape of the United Kingdom, the project also informs heritage agencies at local and national level with a view to the future preservation of surviving structures. Full details of the project are at:

http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/projects/dob

English Heritage has undertaken a series of research projects to improve our understanding of second world war defences in the context of the many other sites that represent our defence heritage. Options for preservation include statutory designation, although it would not be appropriate to designate all of the many thousands of surviving pillboxes—careful selection is necessary. Alternatively, many of these structures have local significance and their recording on local authority Historic Environment Records is another way of improving understanding and protection.

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many mentors have taken part in the music mentoring programme in each of the last three years. [254434]

Barbara Follett: The pilot music mentoring programme began in 2006-07 and is led by Youth Music. Youth Music advises that the number of mentors that have taken part in the programme is as set out in the following table.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Adult mentors	70	70	40
Peer mentors	170	170	50

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people took part in the music mentoring programme in each year since 2006. [254437]

Barbara Follett: The pilot music mentoring programme began in 2006-07. This is led by Youth Music and has engaged over 1,000 young people in one to one, small group and large-scale mentoring activity in 14 areas in England. More than 700 positive outcomes have been recorded from the pilot phase, with around 180 of those linked to further education, training or employment or other transferable skills.

Music: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government have taken to promote access to music for young people in the north-east. [249576]

Barbara Follett: In November 2007, the Department for Children, Schools and Families announced a £332 million investment in music education. A share of that is automatically allocated to local authorities in the north-east. Since September 2005, the Government have also provided time-limited funding of £1.26 million to the Sage Gateshead to work in partnership with local authorities and other music education providers to enhance opportunities for children and young people across the north-east through its 'Access to Excellence' work. A significant proportion of the 'Access to Excellence' programme has been delivered through Redcar Community College.

Since September 2006, the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Music and Dance Scheme (which provides means-tested support for children with exceptional potential in music and dance) has invested £638, 000 to enable children to access specialist provision via the Sage Gateshead.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides financial support for the arts through Arts Council England which has supported a number of projects that have helped promote music to young people in the north-east. This includes Youth Choir at Brinkburn Music Festival 2008 (Grants for the Arts Award of £22,000); Monumental Music CIC, Sunderland Music Club (Grants for the Arts Award of £13,420); and Interopera (Grants for the Arts Award of £13,420).

Since 1999, Youth Music, a regularly funded organisation of Arts Council England, has invested £4,583, 071 in the north-east, through open programmes, the Youth Music Action Zone (CoMusica) and the MusicLeader network for the region. Youth Music has provided a further £40,000 of direct investment in the north-east through Sing Up, the Music Manifesto National Singing Programme, of which Youth Music and the Sage Gateshead are partners.

Support has also been provided via other Arts Council England regularly funded organisations. This includes Jazz Action, which has set up the Milestones Project providing talented young musicians from the north-east with the opportunity to showcase their music in front of a live audience, and Monster Productions, based in the north-east, which run early year musicals throughout the country, including the north-east area.

Newspapers: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to provide financial support to local newspapers in the north-east. [254896]

Andy Burnham: My Department has no plans at present to provide financial support to local newspapers in the north-east. The Digital Britain Interim Report, published on 29 January 2009, recognised that at a local level, the challenges for news organisations are intense. One of the actions recommended in the report is for Government to invite the Office of Fair Trading, together with Ofcom and other interested parties, to undertake an exploratory review across the local and regional media sector and make appropriate recommendations. I will consider any findings or further recommendations arising from this action.

Religious Buildings

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of English Heritage's performance in facilitating the conservation of churches and places of worship. [253910]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides financial support for the historic environment through English Heritage, which makes funding decisions independently of Government. It is for English Heritage to determine where money is spent depending on its assessment of relative need across the wider historic environment. The Department is satisfied with English Heritage's performance on facilitating the conservation of churches and places of worship.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of *(a)* awards and *(b)* payments made from the New Opportunities Fund for physical education and sport initiatives was in each year since the fund was established. [250695]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund has indicated that the value of awards and payments made by BIG and its predecessor body, the New Opportunities Fund, for physical education and sport initiatives are shown in the following tables. The figures are UK wide.

Awards Made:

	PE and sport in schools (NOPES)	*Spaces for sports and arts*	*School sports coordinators*	*Community sports programmes*	*Football foundation*	*Total value of awards (£ million)*
2001-02	0.0	10.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6
2002-03	36.5	11.8	10.3	0.0	30.0	88.6
2003-04	193.3	0.2	8.9	0.0	0.0	202.4
2004-05	330.6	0.0	7.5	57.1	0.0	395.2
2005-06	66.3	1.6	15.8	23.8	0.0	107.5
2006-07	19.2	0.2	12.0	9.3	0.0	40.7
2007-08	4.9	-0.2	13.1	-0.1	0.0	17.7

Payments made

	PE and sport in schools (NOPES)	*Spaces for sports and arts*	*School sports co-ordinators*	*Community sports programmes*	*Football foundation*	*Total value of payments (£ million)*
2001-02	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2002-03	1.3	1.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	4.8
2003-04	16.3	8.1	4.9	0.0	3.1	32.4
2004-05	67.2	-0.8	7.1	5.8	5.7	85.0
2005-06	198.1	3.4	13.2	27.2	8.4	250.2
2006-07	172.8	11.6	10.4	24.2	6.7	225.8
2007-08	88.5	0.0	16.3	15.0	6.1	125.9

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department has paid to Fast Track to date for its work on the Medal Hopes scheme; and how much he expects to pay in each of the next three years; [254397]

(2) how much his Department has paid to Fast Track for its work on the Medal Hopes scheme to date; and how much he expects to pay to Fast Track for such work in each of the next three years. [254781]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 February 2009]*: To date, the Department has made no payment to Fast Track, who are contracted on a commission-only basis.

Teachers: Music

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on the scheme to fund professional development of music teachers in each of the last three years. [254394]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

Since September 2006, when the contract was let, £3.3 million has been spent to develop and deliver a programme of professional development for those working with children at Key Stage 2 in music. This breaks down as follows: £1.1 million in 2006-07, £1.3 million in 2007-08 and £0.9 million to date in 2008-09.

Television: Licensing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will provide free television licences for poor families. [254898]

Andy Burnham: The Government looked at television licence fee concessions for a wide range of groups during the BBC Charter review process. There was little consensus as to who should receive concessions, the criteria on which they should be allocated, or how they should be funded. As a result there were no changes to the existing range of concessions.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what subjects were discussed at his

Department's most recent tourism summit; and if he will place a copy in the Library of the minutes of the meeting. [250242]

Barbara Follett: There are no official minutes from the Department's most recent tourism summit. However, the transcripts of the Prime Minister's and the Secretary of State's speeches are on Visit Britain's website including a transcript of the question and answer session. Details can be viewed at the following web link:

http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/aboutvisitbritain/corporate events/tourismsummit.asp

Additionally, a number of outcomes stemmed from the summit including:

VisitBritain to compile a list of the industry's 'top five asks' of Government.

To explore ideas on a graduate job scheme for tourism and a development bank focused on supporting investment in the tourism industry.

The establishment of a cross-Whitehall ministerial group on tourism and high-level tourism advisory group, to be chaired by the Minister for Tourism.

To explore the feasibility of a British City of Culture, potentially every four years.

To maximise the tourism potential of forthcoming sporting events under the banner of a Decade of Sport.

Meet with all regional development agencies to discuss the support given to tourism in each region.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister for Tourism last met the head of tourism in each of the nine regions of England. [254453]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 5 February 2009]*: The Secretary of State and I have met a number of representatives and received various representations from the regional development agencies and from the wider tourism sectors in the regions. Last summer the Secretary of State, Minister for Tourism and Minister for Sport met all the chairs of the regional development agencies and I plan to meet each of the regions in the spring to follow up on the fruitful discussions held at the tourism summit in Liverpool last month.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* UK tourists visiting overseas destinations and *(b)* overseas tourists visiting UK destinations in each of the last 10 financial years. [254557]

Barbara Follett: The amounts spent by UK tourists visiting overseas and overseas tourists visiting the UK in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available are as follows[1]:

		£ million
	UK visits overseas	*Overseas visits to UK*
1998	19,489	12,671
1999	20,020	12,498
2000	24,251	12,805
2001	25,332	11,306
2002	26,962	11,737
2003	28,550	11,855
2004	30,285	13,047
2005	32,154	14,248
2006	34,411	16,002
2007	35,013	15,960

Source:

[1] This information was taken from the International Passenger Survey and relates to calendar years.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of global tourism the UK has received in each of the last 10 years. [254558]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that the percentage of global tourism the UK has received, in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, is as follows;

	UK share of global tourist arrivals (percentage)
1997	3.92
1998	3.88
1999	3.68
2000	3.41
2001	3.08
2002	3.18
2003	3.30
2004	3.37
2005	3.49
2006	3.62
2007	3.40

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the wish list his Department has requested from VisitBritain in relation to helping tourism to Britain during the economic downturn. [254560]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 5 February 2009]*: VisitBritain has provided some initial thoughts on the industry's main needs, pending its final submission. When it is received, Ministers will give it full consideration with a view to how best to achieve the full potential of tourism to the British economy during the period of the global economic downturn.

Tourism: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to promote London as a tourist destination over the next 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [247214]

Barbara Follett: Visit London has advised that it undertakes a range of tourism marketing campaigns to promote the capital internationally, nationally and to Londoners themselves.

In December last year, Visit London, in partnership with the London Development Agency and the Mayor of London, launched a four-month marketing campaign to stimulate visits to the capital in the build-up to Christmas 2008 and the new year. This will run across the capital's key visitor markets including Britain, Europe and North America and will last until the end of March 2009.

Including match funding from the private sector, Visit London will in total spend £3.25 million in the four months to March on promotional campaigns, which it believes should deliver £70 million in economic benefit to the city. Further marketing activity to promote the capital beyond the end of March 2009 is due to be launched in February.

In addition, promotion of London will be included in the £6.5 million 'Value for Money Campaign' launched by VisitBritain and VisitEngland at the tourism summit held in Liverpool on 8 January. This will build on the current domestic and international Enjoy England campaign, which positions England and Britain as good value destinations.

Tourism: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on additional funding for tourism to harness the marketing opportunities of the Olympics. [254559]

Barbara Follett: There have been no direct discussions between DCMS Ministers and HMT on additional funding for tourism to harness marketing opportunities of the Olympics. However HMT has been invited to attend a cross-Whitehall Ministerial Group on Tourism to discuss priorities within the tourism industry.

World Creative Business Conference

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1210W, on the World Creative Business Conference, how much his Department has paid to *(a)* Edelman and *(b)* Acclaim to date; and how much he expects to pay each company in each of the next three years. [250317]

Andy Burnham: The cost of Edelman and Acclaim is included within the £1 million allocated towards the running of the World Creative Business Conference in each of the next three years, including 2008-09.

World Heritage Sites

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of which World Heritage Sites he has submitted a progress report to the World Heritage Committee for examination at its 2009 session; and on what dates such reports were submitted. [255601]

Barbara Follett: My Department has submitted State of Conservation reports to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre for the City of Bath World Heritage Site on 30 January 2009; Edinburgh Old and New Towns World Heritage Site on 30 January 2009; Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site on 30 January 2009; and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site on 2 February 2009.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which World Heritage Sites he expects to be considered by the World Heritage Committee for inclusion on its list of world heritage in danger in 2009. [255602]

Barbara Follett: My Department has no plans to put forward any UK World Heritage Sites for consideration by the World Heritage Committee for inclusion on the World Heritage in Danger List in 2009.

OLYMPICS

CompeteFor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether there was an open tender process for the CompeteFor website contract. [251304]

Tessa Jowell: The London Development Agency used an existing list of approved companies who had successfully tendered for selection on the Office of Government Commerce's Catalist Framework for CompeteFor. The OGC framework is itself developed through an open competitive process. Its framework agreements are let using an Official Journal of the European Union procurement process that shortlists suppliers by category, which any business can tender for, and which helps to speed up the procurement process.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255243]

Tessa Jowell: I have received no representations from any of the noble Lords in question.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many officials work directly for her. [254041]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* In my Private Office I have five officials and a special adviser.

In addition, the Government Olympic Executive which reports to me through the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, comprises 87.3 full-time equivalent staff, a total which includes both established civil servants and agency and interim staff.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the job description is of each official who works for her in her capacity as Minister for the Olympics. [254454]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* My Private Office comprises five officials and a special adviser. In addition, the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) which reports to me through the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, comprises 87.3 full-time equivalent staff, a total which includes both established civil servants and agency and interim staff.

The GOE is responsible for ensuring the Games are delivered on time, on budget and to the benefit of the whole of the UK. It works extensively with other organisations, such as the London Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), providing important oversight, management and accountability for the games as a whole. GOE is the only body overseeing the entire Olympic project.

There are five teams within GOE:

Build and finance—responsible for ensuring the delivery of the Games infrastructure and venues remains on time, and that the whole programme remains on budget and provides value for money;

Staging—responsible for the myriad Government commitments and legislative changes necessary to host the world's largest sporting event and assurance of LOCOG's plans and finances in Government's role as funder of last resort;

Legacy—responsible for ensuring that the Government's ambitious legacy commitments are delivered, including getting 2 million people more active, transforming the heart of east London and inspiring a generation of young people;

Operations—responsible for overseeing the entire Olympic Project, identifying risks and issues across organisations, managing the Olympic Board and ensuring we are accountable to Parliament and the public; and

Communications—a small team responsible for working across Government to ensure events and activities are co-ordinated to avoid duplication and wasted resource.

Job descriptions for each official in my Private Office and in the GOE could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the average cost is of the units being built in the Olympic Village. [254843]

Tessa Jowell: Confidential commercial negotiations are continuing about the costs of the various elements of the Olympic Village. Therefore it is not possible to provide build cost information until those negotiations have concluded.

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much private sector funding for construction of the Olympic Village she expects. [254844]

Tessa Jowell: Confidential commercial negotiations are ongoing between the Olympic Delivery Authority, the preferred developer, Lend Lease, banks and Registered Social Landlords regarding investment for the Olympic Village. Therefore it is not possible to provide detail of the investment arrangements until those negotiations have concluded.

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* universities over proposals for the legacy use of the Olympics media centre as a university. [254847]

Tessa Jowell: My Department is working closely with the Mayor, the London Development Agency, London borough of Hackney and other partners to explore proposals for the legacy use of the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC) to ensure that we are able to leave a positive sustainable legacy for the site and for local communities. As part of this work programme, we are working with the Greater London Authority, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Higher Education Funding Council for England to undertake a feasibility study on the need, size, scope and specialisms for a potential new university on the IBC/MPC site, or elsewhere on the Park, as part of the legacy planning for the Park site.

Olympic Games 2012: Waste Disposal

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which sites have been used for disposal of materials and soil from the new Olympic stadium site in London; and if she will make a statement. [253644]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* In the construction of the Olympic Park, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will transform a previously contaminated site into an integral part of the long-term regeneration of east London and the wider Thames Gateway. Across the whole site the ODA continues to exceed its 90 per cent. target of reclaiming demolition material for reuse or recycling.

Where possible, all excavation and demolition waste from the Olympic stadium site is treated at source and the cleansed material, where appropriate, reused or recycled in the landscaping and foundations work of the Olympic Park.

Where this has not been possible, waste material has been transported off-site for landfill disposal at Environment Agency approved sites across the UK. The locations of those sites are:

Kings Cliff, Cambridgeshire (Augean Kings Cliff)

Dudley, West Midlands (Himley Quarry)

Teesside, North Yorkshire (Impetus Waste Management ICI 3)

Barling Magna, Essex (Barling Landfill)

Purton, North Wiltshire (Parkgate Farm Landfill)

Middlesbrough, Cleveland (Augean Middlesbrough)

In addition, a small amount of arisings from the stadium site were identified in summer 2008 as containing—or potentially containing—asbestos above the agreed levels. This waste was taken off-site for safe disposal to Powerday landfill facilities at Old Oak Sidings in London.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on the continuation of work undertaken by the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) in Northern Ireland; and what steps he is taking to ensure that casework initiated by the ARA in Northern Ireland is taken up by SOCA. [255271]

Paul Goggins: As chair of the Organised Crime Task Force I receive regular updates on the assets recovery work of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in Northern Ireland. Since the merger in April 2008 SOCA has adopted, and will continue to adopt, new civil recovery cases in Northern Ireland. Civil recovery is one of a number of tools at SOCA's disposal to tackle criminal finances and profits and it will ensure that the most effective and appropriate asset recovery powers (criminal, civil or tax) are used in each case.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions wasted costs have been ordered against the defence in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and what the total sum awarded was in each case. [254257]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Information on how many occasions wasted costs have been ordered against the defence in Crown court in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years was not centrally recorded prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior to this date.

There were no orders for wasted costs made against the defence between October 2006 and 31 January 2009 in Crown court in Northern Ireland.

The magistrates court in Northern Ireland has no power to make a wasted costs order.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions wasted costs have been ordered against the Public Prosecution Service in *(a)* Crown courts and *(b)* magistrates courts in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and what the total sum awarded was in each case. [254262]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

There were no orders for wasted costs made against the Public Prosecution Service in a Crown court in Northern Ireland over the last five years.

The magistrates court in Northern Ireland has no power to make a wasted costs order.

Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted for *(a)* sexual crimes involving minors, *(b)* rape, *(c)* arson, *(d)* fuel smuggling, *(e)* cigarette smuggling, *(f)* credit card fraud, *(g)* bank fraud, *(h)* burglary, *(i)* driving under the influence of alcohol and *(j)* vehicle theft in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [254939]

Paul Goggins: In 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available) there were:

(a) 36 convictions for sexual crimes involving minors. Court datasets do not include victim information in relation to an offence and it is therefore possible only to give the number of convictions for those offences which, by their definition, identify a child as the victim.

(b) 11 convictions for rape; and

(c) 66 convictions for arson offences.

(d) and *(e)* Data relating to prosecutions for fuel and cigarette smuggling are the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs from whom this information should be sought.

(f) and *(g)* The Northern Ireland court datasets do not contain background information in relation to an offence and it is not possible therefore to separate those convictions for fraud which related to credit card or bank fraud. It is, however, possible to determine the total number of convictions for fraud and forgery and in 2006 there were 333 such convictions.

(h) 532 convictions for burglary;

(i) 2,809 convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and

(j) 350 convictions for vehicle theft.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of the works was before occupation. [250554]

Paul Goggins: The total cost of the works is shown in the following table.

Office name	*Size (sq m)*	*Total cost of works, excluding VAT (£)*
Lisburn Chambers, Linenhall Street, Lisburn, County Antrim	2493	1,159,580
Linum Chambers, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast	2802	998,753
Ballymena Chambers, Parkway, Ballymena, County Antrim	2494	1,055,500
Omagh Chambers, 2 Townhall Square, Omagh, County Tyrone	2265	1,070,633
Foyle Chambers, 35 Limavady Road, Londonderry, County Londonderry	2364	[1]945,000

[1] Anticipated total cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254078]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its agencies have policies and procedures in place to deal with harassment and bullying. Staff in the NIO undergo mandatory training in equality and diversity, which includes guidance on appropriate behaviour in the workplace. The number of staff disciplined for bullying and/or harassment of work colleagues in each of the years requested is as follows:

	Bullying	*Harassment*	*Bullying and harassment*
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	1	1
2008	1	1	0

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* original expected delivery date, *(c)* actual cost incurred and *(d)* actual delivery date was of each ICT project undertaken and completed by his Department in each year since 1997; who the contractors for each project were; what the (i) initial estimated and (ii) outturn payment to each contractor was; and if he will make a statement. [251143]

Paul Goggins: The majority of ICT projects are relatively small and are developed in-house with minimum cost. To compile information to support all projects would be at disproportionate cost. Therefore the information contained in the following table relates only to projects costing in excess of £1 million.

	1998	*1999*	*1999*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2003*	*2008*
Project	Bloody Sunday Inquiry, Londonderry	OASIS Y2K Refresh	COMPASS	PRISM	CAUSEWAY	DPP Infrastructure	FLAX	PRISM, Technical Refresh
Purpose	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the inquiry	To upgrade NIO departmental infrastructure and make it Y2K compliant	To provide an e-human resources system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	To provide a prisoner record system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	A joint enterprise by criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland to share information electronically	To implement a modern ICT infrastructure for the DPP NI	Replace NIO IT infrastructure, provide internet and intranet and meet electronic document and records management targets	Refresh of the software and architecture
Original expected cost (£ million excluding VAT)	n/k	2.1	4.6	[1]3.61	42.7	1.2	8.5	1.3
Original expected delivery date	n/k	December 1999	April 2002	December 2005	December 2006	October 2003	December 2004	March 2010
Actual cost incurred (£ million excluding VAT)	33	2.2	5	4.66	33 to date	1.2	8.5	—
Actual delivery date	1998 to date	December 1999	September 2003	September 2005 to March 2008	Ongoing	October 2003	December 2004	2008-ongoing
Contractors	Bull Information Systems, International Computers Capital Computers, Diagonal Solutions, Deloittes, Fujitsu	HP	Pecaso Accenture	Sopra	Fujitsu	BT	BT	Sopra and further contracts to be awarded
Initial estimated payment to contractors (£ million)	n/k	2.1	3	3.61	42.7	—	8.5	1.3
Outturn payment to contractors (£ million)	33	2.2	3.4	4.66	22 to date	n/k	8.5	—

[1] The PRISM costs include the capital and recurring costs of the project and cover the period up to the completion of implementation in March 2008. The costs also include the provision of a range of additional functionality including biometric access controls.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-87W, on departmental official residences, who pays the council tax bills for the mainland Britain residential accommodation. [253641]

Mr. Woodward: My Department pays the council tax bills for residential accommodation used by staff based in London who are required to work away from their appointed office in Belfast.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in the provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252218]

Mr. Woodward: The following list gives the external organisations engaged by the Northern Ireland Office to provide training for fast stream staff in the past three years.

External provider

National School of Government

Eglinton

During the past three years, 29 staff from Northern Ireland Office have participated in the provision of training to external organisations.

Drugs: Smuggling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Irish nationals were convicted of drug trafficking offences in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [255015]

Paul Goggins: In 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), 14 persons with Irish nationality were convicted of drug trafficking offences.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251197]

Mr. Woodward: The following table details the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure, excluding agencies and Executive NDPBs, on contracts with press monitoring services in the last five years.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08	0
2006-07	2,600
2005-06	23,663
2004-05	0
2003-04	0

Offensive Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of knife crimes in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [254938]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested as it is not possible to separately identify the number of convictions for certain offences, for example murder, in which a knife was involved. It is only possible to provide conviction statistics for those offences which, in their definition, refer to an 'offensive weapon' (of which knives will be one sub-category) or 'article with blade or point'. These are:

Armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence;

Possessing offensive weapon in public place;

Possessing article with blade or point in public place;

Possessing instrument with intent to commit an offence;

Possessing article with blade or point on school premises;

Possessing offensive weapon on school premises.

In 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), there were 242 such convictions.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Prison Sentences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely effects of sentences of imprisonment for public protection on levels of discipline among the prison population in Northern Ireland. [255446]

Paul Goggins: Our assessment, based on analysis of experience in other jurisdictions, would indicate that in many cases prisoners subject to public protection sentences are more likely to co-operate with the sentencing planning process in order to demonstrate risk reduction. NIPS do not anticipate that the new sentencing arrangements will have any impact on levels of discipline among the prison population in Northern Ireland.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Trade

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his US counterpart on the US Administration's support for the Arms Trade treaty process; and if he will make a statement. [254030]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1194W.

Although the US voted against the resolution at the UN General Assembly vote in December 2008, the US delegation took part in the UN meeting in New York on 23 January 2009 preparing for the Opening Ended Working Group, which starts in March 2009. This is an encouraging sign, and shows that the US remains engaged in discussions on this issue.

We will be raising the Arms Trade treaty, alongside a wide range of other subjects with the new US Administration over the next few weeks, as both senior appointees and officials take up their new positions.

Bangladesh: Elections

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to Bangladesh to ensure that the elections scheduled for 29 December 2008 are free and fair. [243879]

Bill Rammell: The Department for International Development contributed £10 million to compile the new voters register, £1.1 million through the Asia Foundation to promote accountability and issue-based non-violent campaigning. We funded a country-wide scheme to motivate vulnerable groups to register to vote. The UK also made financial or human resources available to the EU and ANFREL (Asian Network for Free Elections) election observation missions.

In his statement of the 31 December 2008, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary commented on the successful elections. This is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=11710213.

Community Relations: Islam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the Government have provided for research on the ways in which Muslims are perceived in the UK; which Departments have allocated funds for this purpose; and which of the Government's international counterparts have co-operated with the UK in funding the research. [253702]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not commissioned any research solely for the purpose of investigating perceptions of Muslims within the UK. A number of pieces of Government research do provide evidence from which it would be possible to infer how Muslims 'may' be perceived. Examples of these include:

The Communities and Local Government Citizenship Survey; a large scale nationally representative survey intended to understand people's views on issues such as race equality, faith, feelings about community, volunteering and participation. It is possible to analyse responses by the faith of respondents. In addition, questions on perceptions of the subjects of discrimination include an option to select 'Muslim' as one of a number of responses.

The University of Kent 'Equality, Diversity and Prejudice in Britain' (commissioned by the Government Equalities Office, previously part of CLG); includes research on positive/negative perceptions of 11 social groups, one of which was Muslims.

The Department for Work and Pensions 'Barriers to employment for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Britain and Constraints'; looks at a number of issues, including perceptions towards two minority groups that are predominantly Muslim.

All of the above research projects were funded solely by the UK Government. It is not possible to attribute costs to the specific elements or questions which relate to perceptions of Muslims in the UK, as one question or interview can be analysed from a number of standpoints.

Cyprus: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which officer is in command of the Turkish army in northern Cyprus; what assessment he has made of that officer's *(a)* peacekeeping in that role and *(b)* peacekeeping record; and if he will make a statement. [251616]

Caroline Flint: The commander of the Turkish army in north Cyprus is Lieutenant-General Hilmi Akin Zorlu. He has served in a wide variety of assignments during his career, including as commander of the international security assistance force in Afghanistan in 2002 and 2003. In the UN Secretary-General's latest report on Cyprus, he reported that the situation in the buffer zone remained calm and stable and that the opposing forces extended in general good co-operation to the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). He also commended the cancellation by both sides of their annual military exercises. The UK welcomes such steps and would encourage further such confidence building measures.

Cyprus: Politics and Government

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to Turkey to reduce its troop numbers in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [251414]

Caroline Flint: The Government have not recently raised the issue of the number of Turkish troops in northern Cyprus with Turkey. This is a central issue that will need to be addressed in the course of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement. We would look to support any measure that helps build trust on the island. In this context, we welcomed both sides' recent cancellation of military exercises as an important confidence building measure.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the report by the UN panel of experts (S/2008/773), with particular reference to its allegation that the Rwandan Government have provided support to the rebel group the National Congress for the Defence of the People in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [246297]

Bill Rammell: Accusations that the Governments of Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are complicit in supporting rebels are serious, and should be considered carefully in light of the evidence presented. The UK broadly supports the recommendations of the UN Group of Experts in their most recent report.

However, whether these recommendations are followed, and whether sanctions will be applied against anyone as a result of the report, are questions for the DRC Sanctions Committee as a whole. Member states will need to consider collectively what the next steps will be.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the strength of the Lord's Resistance Army following the recent incidents of killing and abduction in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [250854]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* It is increasingly difficult to obtain accurate figures regarding the strength of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The Government of Uganda estimate that there are currently 400-450 LRA combatants split into small groups across the north of the Democratic Republic of Congo towards the borders with Southern Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as around 400 non-combatant women and children (grouped separately).

We have repeatedly condemned the actions of the LRA and the heinous crimes they have committed.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provide for staff. [249074]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no directly operated or franchised catering outlets.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which websites were operated by his Department in addition to its main website in the last five years. [251479]

Caroline Flint: In addition to the main website, www.fco.gov.uk, the following websites have been operated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) web team and the FCO's overseas posts during the last five years:

Afghanistan Conference 2006
Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
Britain USA (British Embassy Washington)
Britaus (British High Commission Canberra)
British Consulate General Hong Kong
British Consulate General, Hong Kong, Chinese
British Embassy Beijing
British Embassy Beijing - Chinese
British Embassy Berlin
British Embassy Berlin - German
British Embassy Copenhagen
British Embassy Copenhagen, Danish
British Embassy, Abu Dhabi
British Embassy, Addis Ababa
British Embassy, Algiers
British Embassy, Algiers, French
British Embassy, Amman
British Embassy, Ashgabat
British Embassy, Ashgabat - Russian
British Embassy, Ashgabat - Turkmen
British Embassy, Astana
British Embassy, Astana - Russian
British Embassy, Athens
British Embassy, Athens, Greek
British Embassy, Baghdad
British Embassy, Baghdad - Arabic
British Embassy, Bahrain
British Embassy, Baku
British Embassy, Baku, Azeri
British Embassy, Bangkok
British Embassy, Bangkok Thai
British Embassy, Beirut
British Embassy, Beirut Arabic
British Embassy, Belgrade
British Embassy, Belgrade - Serbian
British Embassy, Berne
British Embassy, Bogota
British Embassy, Bogota, Spanish
British Embassy, Bratislava
British Embassy, Bratislava Slovakian
British Embassy, Brazil
British Embassy, Brazil, Portuguese
British Embassy, Brussels
British Embassy, Brussels, Dutch
British Embassy, Brussels, French
British Embassy, Bucharest
British Embassy, Bucharest - Romanian
British Embassy, Budapest
British Embassy, Budapest, Hungarian
British Embassy, Buenos Aires
British Embassy, Buenos Aires, Spanish
British Embassy, Burma
British Embassy, Cairo
British Embassy, Caracas
British Embassy, Caracas - Spanish
British Embassy, Chisinau
British Embassy, Chisinau - Romanian
British Embassy, Chisinau - Russian
British Embassy, Dakar
British Embassy, Dakar, French
British Embassy, Damascus
British Embassy, Doha
British Embassy, Doha - Arabic
British Embassy, Dublin
British Embassy, France
British Embassy, France, French
British Embassy, Guatemala City
British Embassy, Guatemala City, Spanish
British Embassy, Harare
British Embassy, Havana
British Embassy, Havana, Spanish
British Embassy, Helsinki
British Embassy, Helsinki, Finnish
British Embassy, Helsinki, Swedish
British Embassy, Holy See
British Embassy, Italy
British Embassy, Italy - Italian
British Embassy, Jakarta
British Embassy, Kabul
British Embassy, Kathmandu
British Embassy, Kiev
British Embassy, Kiev, Ukrainian
British Embassy, Kigali
British Embassy, Kuwait - Arabic
British Embassy, La Paz
British Embassy, La Paz, Spanish
British Embassy, Lima
British Embassy, Lima - Spanish
British Embassy, Lisbon
British Embassy, Lisbon - Portuguese
British Embassy, Ljubljana
British Embassy, Ljubljana - Slovenian
British Embassy, Luanda
British Embassy, Luanda, Portuguese
British Embassy, Luxembourg
British Embassy, Madrid
British Embassy, Madrid, Spanish
British Embassy, Managua
British Embassy, Managua - Spanish
British Embassy, Manila
British Embassy, Mexico
British Embassy, Mexico - Spanish
British Embassy, Minsk
British Embassy, Montevideo
British Embassy, Montevideo - Spanish
British Embassy, Muscat
British Embassy, Muscat - Arabic
British Embassy, Oslo
British Embassy, Oslo - Norwegian
British Embassy, Panama City
British Embassy, Panama City - Spanish
British Embassy, Phnom Penh
British Embassy, Podgorica

British Embassy, Prague
British Embassy, Prague - Czech
British Embassy, Rabat
British Embassy, Rabat - Arabic
British Embassy, Rabat - French
British Embassy, Reykjavik
British Embassy, Riga
British Embassy, Riga - Latvian
British Embassy, Riyadh
British Embassy, Russia
British Embassy, Russia Russian
British Embassy, San Jose
British Embassy, San Jose, Spanish
British Embassy, San Salvador
British Embassy, San Salvador - Spanish
British Embassy, Sanaa
British Embassy, Sanaa - Arabic
British Embassy, Santiago
British Embassy, Santiago, Spanish
British Embassy, Sarajevo
British Embassy, Seoul
British Embassy, Seoul - Korean
British Embassy, Skopje
British Embassy, Sofia
British Embassy, Sofia, Bulgarian
British Embassy, Stockholm
British Embassy, Stockholm - Swedish
British Embassy, Sudan
British Embassy, Sudan - Arabic
British Embassy, Tajikistan
British Embassy, Tajikistan - Russian
British Embassy, Tallinn
British Embassy, Tallinn, Estonian
British Embassy, Tallinn, Russian
British Embassy, Tashkent
British Embassy, Tashkent - Russian
British Embassy, Tbilisi
British Embassy, Tegucigalpa
British Embassy, Tegucigalpa, Spanish
British Embassy, Tehran
British Embassy, Tehran - Farsi
British Embassy, Tel Aviv
British Embassy, The Hague
British Embassy, The Hague - Dutch
British Embassy, Tirana
British Embassy, Tirana, Albanian
British Embassy, Tripoli
British Embassy, Tripoli Arabic
British Embassy, Tunis
British Embassy, Tunis - French
British Embassy, Turkey
British Embassy, Turkey - Turkish
British Embassy, Ulaanbaatar
British Embassy, Ulaanbataar Mongolian
British Embassy, Vienna
British Embassy, Vietnam
British Embassy, Vietnam Vietnamese
British Embassy, Vilnius
British Embassy, Vilnius - Lithuanian
British Embassy, Warsaw
British Embassy, Warsaw - Polish
British Embassy, Yerevan
British Embassy, Yerevan, Armenian
British Embassy, Zagreb
British Embassy, Zagreb, Croatian
British Embassy,Quito
British Embassy,Quito, Spanish
British High Commission, Accra
British High Commission, Bandar Seri Begawan
British High Commission, Bandar Seri Begawan, Malay
British High Commission, Banjul
British High Commission, Belmopan
British High Commission, Bridgetown
British High Commission, Colombo
British High Commission, Dar es Salaam
British High Commission, Dhaka
British High Commission, Dhaka, Bangla
British High Commission, Freetown
British High Commission, Gaborone
British High Commission, Georgetown
British High Commission, Islamabad
British High Commission Islamabad, Urdu
British High Commission, Jamaica
British High Commission, Kampala
British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
British High Commission, Lilongwe
British High Commission, Lusaka
British High Commission, Maputo
British High Commission, Maputo Portuguese
British High Commission, Maseru
British High Commission, Mbabane
British High Commission, Nairobi
British High Commission, Nassau
British High Commission, New Zealand
British High Commission, Nicosia
British High Commission, Nigeria
British High Commission, Ottawa
British High Commission, Ottawa, French
British High Commission, Port Louis
British High Commission, Port Moresby
British High Commission, Port of Spain
British High Commission, Port Vila
British High Commission, Singapore
British High Commission, South Africa
British High Commission, Suva
British High Commission, Valletta
British High Commission, Victoria
British High Commission, Windhoek
British High Commission, Yaounde
British High Commission, Yaounde, French
British Office Pristina, Kosovo
British Trade and Cultural Office, Taiwan
British Trade and Cultural Office, Taiwan (Chinese)
Caribbean (demonstration site)
Consulate-General, Jerusalem
Consulate-General, Jerusalem Arabic
Crossroads For Ideas
Design UK Japan

Domican Republic Spanish
Dominican Republic
E-Media (best practice website for staff)
FCO Arabic website
FCO Urdu
Freedom Of Information
G8 Gleneagles 2005
Governor to the Cayman Islands
i-uk China
i-uk General Arabic
i-uk Germany
i-uk Germany German
i-uk Netherlands
i-uk.com
i-uk. com Finland
i-uk. com France
i-uk. com India
i-uk. com Malaysia
i-uk.com South Africa
Rugby World Cup 2007
Shanghai Expo 2010
UK Delegation to NATO
UK Delegation to the OECD
UK EU presidency 2005
UK EU presidency 2005, French
UK Food Japan
UK in India
UK International Policing
UK Japan 2008
UK Mission to the United Nations, Geneva
UK Mission to UN, New York
UK Now - Seoul
UK Now - Seoul, Korean
UK Permanent Representation to the Conference on Disarmament
UKNow - Japanese
UKNow Japan
UKvisas

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249867]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

2007: £2,201,790 on variable pay for 348 SCS/SMS staff;
2008: £2,435,100 on variable pay for 288 staff.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department are on secondment, broken down by *(a)* job title, *(b)* grade and *(c)* Department or institution from which they are seconded. [253707]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* As at 1 January 2009 there were 267 officials seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from a wide range of other Government Departments or institutions. The 267 officials comprise 29 senior management level, 11 at D7, 98 at D6, 31 at C5, 84 at C4, 13 at B3 and one at A2 level. For security reasons it would be inappropriate to provide a breakdown by job title and Department or institution.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252268]

Caroline Flint: We are not aware of any digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2008.

EU Countries: Carbon Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Polish and Czech counterparts on carbon dioxide emission reductions. [242468]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's discussions with EU partners on emissions reduction targets have been largely in the context of delivering the EU's 2020 climate and energy legislative package. The package represents the delivery phase of the commitments which were agreed by heads of Government at the 2007 spring European Council, and puts the EU on track towards a low carbon economy. We welcome the agreement of the ambitious 2020 package at the December European Council.

Throughout 2008, Government officials had good contact on the package with their Polish and Czech opposite numbers and the Foreign Secretary also discussed climate and energy issues with Polish Foreign Minister Sikorski and Czech Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg.

Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek the return to the UK of British residents detained in Guantanamo Bay. [249524]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* By December 2007 the Government had secured the return from Guantanamo Bay of four individuals previously lawfully resident in the UK. The UK has, since August 2007, sought the release and return of two further former residents, Mr. Shaker Aamer and Mr. Binyam Mohamed, who remain in detention at the facility.

We remain in ongoing discussions with the US regarding Mr. Mohamed's case and continue to press for his release and return at all levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has raised the case with former Secretary of State Rice, as has our Ambassador in Washington with senior members of the US Administration. Senior UK officials across Government have also raised with their counterparts in State Department, Department of Defence and NSC.

The US has not agreed to release and return Mr. Aamer to the UK in light of security concerns expressed in relation to his case. We maintain dialogue with them regarding Mr. Aamer's welfare but are no longer in active negotiations for his return to the UK. Our request for his release and return remains open should the US position change.

Israel: EU External Trade

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek a review at EU level of Israel's trade status with the EU. [247794]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* We do not believe that economic sanctions are the best way to engage or to influence Israel. We therefore have no plans to seek a review of Israel's trade status with the EU.

Languages

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 July 2008, how many of his Department's staff received language training in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07, broken down by language. [242669]

Gillian Merron: I will write to the hon. Member separately, and place a copy of that letter in the Library of the House.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to help bring an end to the conflict in Gaza. [248352]

Bill Rammell: We have been very active in seeking to bring an end to the conflict in Gaza. From the outset, we have called for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire. The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have spoken frequently to key leaders. Security Council Resolution 1860 was tabled by the UK, and the Foreign Secretary played a leading role in securing its adoption. We are now being similarly active in seeking to ensure that the ceasefire is built on.

Morocco: EU External Relations

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Morocco's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions calling for a referendum on self-determination have been raised in EU-Morocco discussions on granting advanced status to Morocco. [244338]

Bill Rammell: The issue of Western Sahara was discussed at the 13 October 2008 meeting of the EU-Morocco Association Council. Western Sahara remains part of the political dialogue between the EU and Morocco, which will be strengthened as part of the advanced status.

The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April 2008, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN in this respect and looks forward to the appointment of a new UN Secretary General Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, and the resumption of the Manhasset negotiations.

Palestinians: Diplomatic Relations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on holding discussions with elected Palestinian representatives in Gaza. [252125]

Bill Rammell: President Abbas is the elected leader of the Palestinian people. We work very closely with him and his Government.

We do not believe it is productive to talk to Hamas directly until it makes significant movement towards the Quartet principles of rejecting violence, accepting Israel's right to exist and recognising previous agreements. The Arab League has mandated Egypt to communicate with Hamas. We are in regular contact with both the Arab League and Egypt. Turkey, Syria, Qatar and others are also speaking to Hamas.

Peace

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* peace education, *(b)* mediation, *(c)* conflict prevention, *(d)* conflict resolution, *(e)* interfaith dialogue and *(f)* other peace development initiatives since January 2002; and if he will make a statement. [252109]

Gillian Merron: Most of this information is not held centrally in these specific categories, and obtaining it would incur disproportionate cost. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information on conflict-related programme activity funded through trilateral (FCO, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development) funds since 2002.

From 2000 to 2007, the FCO funded its conflict-related programme activity through the tri-departmentally managed and owned Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) and Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP). The Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) was established in April 2008 to replace the GCPP and ACPP. The CPP funds a broad range of conflict prevention work including education and mediation initiatives, and currently supports work in a number of regions (the Balkans, the Americas, Africa, South Asia, Middle East and North Africa and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States). A separate Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) was established in April 2008 to fund stabilisation and reconstruction activity in Afghanistan and Iraq.

From financial year 2001-02 to 2007-08, GCPP expenditure amounted to approximately £448 million, and ACPP expenditure amounted to approximately £341 million. For financial year 2008-09, £112 million has been allocated to the CPP, and £73 million has been allocated to the SAF.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Ethiopian counterpart on Ethiopia's announcement that it will withdraw its troops from Somalia by 31 December 2008. [243874]

David Miliband: My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Security and Counter-terrorism at the Home Office, Lord West, discussed Ethiopia's withdrawal from Somalia during his meeting with the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, on 12 December 2008 in Addis Ababa. At the meeting, Mr. Meles confirmed that Ethiopian forces would withdraw from Somalia by the end of the year.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment of the political situation in Sri Lanka is. [251996]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement issued on 21 January 2009 by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, *Official Report,* columns 29-32WS.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking on the Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka. [251998]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement issued by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 21 January 2009, *Official Report,* columns 29-32WS.

Sudan

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of child victims of the Darfur conflict being passed in to slavery with the complicity of the Sudanese Army; and if he will make a statement. [250380]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* We are aware that, in a report published in December 2008, the Darfur Consortium group of non-government organisations (NGOs) described the abduction of women and children in Darfur. While we do not have independent verification of these allegations, we are deeply concerned and join the report's authors in condemning all instances of abduction, people trafficking and other forms of slavery.

We agree with many of the report's recommendations, including the need for full deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), a comprehensive ceasefire and inclusive peace process for a sustainable resolution of the conflict in Darfur. We are working closely with UN, African Union and international partners to achieve these objectives, especially UNAMID's efforts to improve security for internally displaced persons and to ensure humanitarian agencies and NGOs can operate effectively in the region.

USA: Armed Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1795-96W, on USA: Central Asia, what the grade is of each of the two personnel from his Department contributing to the work of the American Central Command Assessment Team. [246311]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office participation in the American Central Command Assessment Team comprised one D7 grade officer and one Senior Management Structure officer. The UK was pleased to be able to contribute to the wide-ranging discussion on security, rule of law and issues of global concern.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 22 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 361W, on carbon emissions: waste disposal, whether the work on estimating dioxin emissions from domestic burning has been completed. [252211]

Jane Kennedy: No. The current contract should be completed by the end of this financial year.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248053]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has 230 properties in its portfolio, most of which have minor decorative work carried out as part of ongoing maintenance. These works are not always recorded separately from other associated works.

Gathering the data together would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252372]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No works or refurbishments have been carried out in offices allocated to DEFRA Ministers in the last 12 months.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, agencies and non-departmental bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251484]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In response to the economic downturn, DEFRA has with HM Treasury approval brought forward capital expenditure from 2010-11 into 2009-10 as shown in the following table.

£ million

Organisation	*Measure*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Environment Agency (non-departmental public body)	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	0	+20	-20
British Waterways (public corporation)	Waterways network infrastructure	0	+5	-5
Total		0	+25	-25

Domestic Waste: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 842W, on domestic waste: contracts, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* peer review of WR0106 and *(b)* the final report for WR0506. [252205]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA's arrangements for publishing peer reviews are set out in its science handbook. This requires peer reviews to be carried out on completed, published reports in certain defined cases.

In this case, a peer review was carried out on a draft research report before its completion or publication. In accordance with standard practice, therefore, it would not be appropriate to publish it.

Fisheries: Licensing

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many boats have been licensed for scallop dredging in England in each of the last five years. [254273]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of boats licensed for scallop dredging in England from 2004-08.

As at year ending 31 December	*Number of vessels*
2004	186
2005	183
2006	169
2007	172
2008	163

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the EU sea fishing quotas for 2008 on the profitability of the British fishing industry; and if he will make a statement. [254073]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has information on the monetary value derived from fish landings, rather than profitability, which is at best estimated.

DEFRA does not have all 2008 landings data, which should be available in May. On the basis of available 2008 information we understand that landings of quota species generated revenues of £459.2 million and revenues from all species landed amounted to £635.5 million. In 2007, for which we have a full year's worth of data, quota species generated £464.8 million in revenues, and all species landed generated £643 million.

Once all the data from 2008 are available DEFRA expects revenues generated in 2008 to exceed those generated in 2007.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution the Leader programme may make to reducing flood risk; what the budget for the next three years is; what type of project is eligible for consideration under the programme, and what criteria have to be met; and if he will make a statement. [253434]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Leader approach is a delivery mechanism for the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013. It is a method of harnessing local knowledge to enable a bottom-up, community-led approach to the delivery of funding in rural areas. The Leader approach is being implemented through local action groups, which represent public and private partners and local interest groups covering broad sectors of the local society and economy.

Local action groups are implementing local development strategies setting out their plans for their areas, including selection criteria for local projects. The regional development agencies are responsible for the overall management of the delivery of the Leader approach.

A minimum of 5 per cent. of the EU funds within the Rural Development Programme for England will be spent through Leader. This means a minimum of £105 million across the country until 2013.

Reduction of flood risk has not been identified as a national priority for Rural Development funding. However, individual local action groups may have identified environmental management activity as a priority for them and within that there is scope for small-scale interventions to encourage community engagement in flood management.

Floods: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will request that the North West Development Agency include in its plans for bringing forward major public works flood protection projects in Copeland constituency. [252556]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency north-west region is currently planning a number of flood risk studies within the borough of Copeland around the Whitehaven and Egremont area. These include Nor Beck in Cleator Moor, and Skirting Beck in Egremont. Once completed, these studies may lead to flood defence capital improvement works. There are currently no plans to bring the possible construction works forward as this would require additional grant in aid and other funding. In addition, a small scheme at Low Mill, near Egremont, is currently nearing completion.

Fly-tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates the Environment Agency's National Fly-tipping Prevention Group met in the last 12 months. [252199]

Jane Kennedy: The National Fly-tipping Prevention Group met on the following dates in the last 12 months:

4 March 2008;
24 June 2008;
24 September 2008; and
10 December 2008.

Inland Waterways

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to grant cruiseway status to the Kennet and Avon canal. [254678]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways has the discretion to apply to DEFRA for cruiseway status to waterways of remainder status, such as the Kennet and Avon canal. British Waterways has confirmed that it intends to submit its proposal for reclassification of the Kennet and Avon canal shortly. Ministerial consideration of the proposal will then be subject to the outcome of the consultation and other statutory procedures prescribed by the Transport Act 1968.

Joint Waste Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which bodies will underwrite the liabilities of joint waste authorities. [252384]

Jane Kennedy: The detail of liabilities will be set out on a case by case basis as agreed between the authorities involved.

Nappies: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to Environmental Resources Management Limited for its research on the environmental impact of nappies; and if he will place a copy of the final research report in the Library. [252623]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) paid a total of £45,787.50 (excluding VAT) to Environmental Resources Management Ltd. for the updated study into the environmental impact of nappies. DEFRA's share of the cost was £16,762.50. A copy of the study will be placed in the Library.

Nature Conservation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the European Commission's proposals for an EU-wide regulatory approach on non-native invasive species in its Communication entitled "Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species". [253810]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Commission's proposals are still at a very formative stage and detailed proposals have not yet been brought forward for thorough evaluation. I am aware that options are still being appraised by the Commission and we expect member states to be further involved in discussions soon. The UK has attended all previous meetings with the Commission on development of these ideas and as we now work to implement the "Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain", we are well placed to contribute to the development of an EU strategy. On 3 February I laid in Parliament an Explanatory Memorandum on the Commission's Communication.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Convention on Biological Diversity's proposals for a global approach on non-native invasive species. [253811]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Invasive alien species are a major global threat to biodiversity and the Government support the work done under the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote concerted efforts to tackle this. The "Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain" has at its core one of the key invasive species guiding principles agreed by the parties to the convention—advocating prevention, early detection with rapid eradication and finally, management or control as the most cost effective policy approach. The GB strategy will enable us to take forward many areas of work relevant to implementing the decisions of the parties.

At the ninth conference of the parties in Bonn in 2008, along with a small number of other parties, we signalled our commitment to tackling this issue under the convention with a signed ministerial commitment presented at an event hosted by the global invasive species programme. As part of implementing a more strategic approach, the Government are also supportive of current proposals to develop a stronger EU framework to help address key issues at that scale.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the cost to farmers of compliance with the new nitrate vulnerable zones. [253928]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Nitrates Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 came into force on 1 January 2009. An impact assessment was laid with the regulations on 4 September 2008. It included an assessment of the potential costs to farmers of compliance.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the nitrate vulnerable zone regulations on the sustainability of the farming industry; and if he will make a statement. [253929]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The regulations came into force on 1 January 2009. An impact assessment covering the impact on the farming sector was laid with the regulations on 4 September 2008.

Noise: Pollution

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what amendments have been made to local authority powers to tackle noise since 2001; and what his Department's policy is on noise from church bells. [252324]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 2001, the following amendments have been made to local authority powers to tackle noise.

The Noise Act 1996 has been amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 so that the Noise Act powers are easier for local authorities to use.

The Noise Act 1996 has been amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which extended the Noise Act to licensed as well as domestic premises. Local authorities have a discretionary power to prosecute or issue a fixed penalty notice for night noise above the 'permitted level' emitted from a dwelling or licensed premises between 11 pm and 7 am.

Sections 69-81 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 introduced new powers for local authorities to deal with audible intruder alarms in their area. A local authority may designate its area (or parts of it) as an alarm notification area. The occupier or owner in respect of any premises that are fitted with an audible intruder alarm in the designated area must nominate a key holder for those premises and notify the local authority of the contact details of that key holder.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 also introduced powers for local authorities to enter premises in order to silence audible intruder alarms where key holders cannot be reached, or where the alarm is not in an alarm notification area. These powers of entry apply to audible intruder alarms sounding for 20 minutes continuously or one hour intermittently, and likely to cause annoyance to those in the vicinity.

Section 80 (2A) of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 introduced a discretionary power for local authorities to take such other steps as it thinks appropriate to persuade the appropriate person to abate a statutory nuisance from noise within a seven-day period without serving an abatement notice. An abatement notice must still be served after the seven-day period if the local authority thinks that a statutory nuisance still exists, or is likely to occur or recur, and the abatement notice can be served at any point within the seven days.

Complaints about noise from church bells would be subject to part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), but we would expect common sense to be applied to the handling of complaints not least because church bells are part of our culture and heritage.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Housing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Cabinet Office has issued on the provision of housing allowances for second homes as remuneration to staff in *(a)* the Civil Service and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies. [249919]

Mr. Watson: The rules and guidance for Departments on civil servants' pay and allowances are set out in the Civil Service Management Code. General guidance on terms and conditions for NDPB staff is set out in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies: A Guide for Departments" and in the HM Treasury publication "Managing Public Money". Copies of all publications are available in the Library of the House.

Civil Service: Pensions

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what changes he intends to make to payments from the Civil Service Pension Scheme from April 2009; and whether savings are expected from these changes. [253982]

Mr. Byrne: Pensions paid by the civil service scheme are adjusted in April by the same amount as the state second pension. Pension payments will therefore be increased from April, based on the retail prices index for September 2008.

I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I gave to the House on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1431W, on the Civil Service: pensions, for what reason the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme resource accounts were not laid before Parliament after the House returned in the autumn of 2008; and when he plans to publish them. [249002]

Mr. Byrne: The accounts were laid before Parliament on 22 January 2009 [HC60].

In my written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, I referred to some overpayments made to pensioners of public sector pension schemes, including the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

The Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts contain reference to these overpayments. The decision was taken not to publish the accounts until such time as we had sufficient information to be able to inform those pensioners affected. Critical to this decision was the need to avoid unnecessary public concern among the vast majority (95 per cent.) of civil service pensioners who were entirely unaffected, but who would not have known that had a general announcement been made. Letters were sent to affected pensioners on 15 December and the statement, formally notifying Parliament of the overpayments, was made on 16 December.

Community Assets Programme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster according to what criteria funds are allocated from the Community Assets Fund for councils to renovate community assets in preparation for the transfer of their management or ownership to community groups. [253713]

Kevin Brennan: To be eligible to apply for the Community Assets programme, applications had to be made by either the local authority that owned the asset to be transferred, or a third sector organisation that the asset would be transferred to. In each case the application had to be endorsed by the other partner, and supported by the wider community. The transfer could be in the form of a registered freehold or a registered and assignable lease of at least 20 years without a break.

Applications had to address the three programme outcomes to be considered for funding:

1. Local third sector organisations have greater security and independence, and are better able to meet the needs of the communities they serve.
2. Communities have more access to better quality facilities that respond to their needs.
3. There is more effective partnership working between local authorities and the third sector.

Subject to meeting the initial eligibility criteria, projects were then assessed against the two following criteria:

1. The proposed project outcomes meet an identified need and help to achieve the programme outcomes.
2. The organisation can deliver the project well and achieve the proposed outcomes.

On the basis of assessment against these criteria, 38 in-principle grants were awarded in April 2008. A full breakdown of the above criteria and published guidance on the Community Assets programme can be found at:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

Departmental Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Cabinet Office posts have been relocated away from London and the south-east since the adoption of relocation targets arising from the 2004 Spending Review; and when he expects these targets to be met. [249960]

Mr. Watson: The Lyons Review set relocations to be achieved by 2010-11. Details of the numbers of Cabinet Office posts relocated in relation to SR 2004 Lyons Review were last reported in Cabinet Office Autumn Performance Report 2008 which is available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Departmental Manpower

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are employed in No. 10 Downing Street. [255677]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minster gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of Cabinet Office staff are members of a Civil Service final salary pension scheme. [249907]

Mr. Watson: The total number of Cabinet Office employees in a civil service final salary pension scheme was, as at November 2008, 1,234 or 73.3 per cent. of staff. These figures include ex-HMSO employees with reserved rights who are no longer Cabinet Office staff but are included within the Department's pension administrator's database.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects his Department to publish the next edition of "Public Bodies". [249922]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the statement I made on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242605]

Mr. Byrne: My official travel is undertaken in line with the requirements of the Ministerial Code. The last rail journey I undertook on official business was 8 January 2009.

Employment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people flowed from jobseeker's allowance into paid employment in each year since 2001; [255649]

(2) how many people flowed off jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2001; [255682]

(3) how many people flowed off jobseeker's allowance on to incapacity benefit in each year since 2001. [255686]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking: how many people flowed from Jobseeker's Allowance to paid employment in each year since 2001, how many people came off Jobseeker's Allowance in each year since 2001, and how many people flowed off Jobseeker's Allowance onto incapacity benefit in each year since 2001. (255649, 255682, 255686)

The table shows a breakdown of the destination of off-flows recorded by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 2001.

Information on the destination of off-flows from Jobseeker's Allowance comes from a form completed by Jobcentre Plus employees when terminating a claim. Although effort is made to complete the termination as accurately as possible for each claim, there are a significant proportion of off-flows that fall into non-specific categories such as ceased claiming, not known and failed to sign.

Table 1: Destination of off-flows from jobseeker's allowance

	Into paid employment[1]	*Claimed incapacity benefit*	*All other specified reasons*	*Not known*[2]	*Total*
2001	1,402,480	128,410	434,590	848.085	2,813,565
2002	1,324,640	118,725	466,660	892,095	2,802,120
2003	1,239,685	112,075	465,940	895,200	2,712,900
2004	1,107,175	102,150	440,430	883,925	2,533,680
2005	984,225	93,045	405,130	913,115	2,395,515
2006	983,495	97,450	415,990	1,041,685	2,538,600
2007	955,120	102,405	469,355	1,091,420	2,618,300
2008	938,735	85,045	484,050	1,109,925	2,617,755

[1] Either found work or increased work to 16+ hours per week.

[2] Includes ceased claiming and failed to sign.

Note:

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

Government Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the total cost to the Government of *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* job advertising in the last year for which figures are available. [248494]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore it could be provided only at disproportionate cost with no guarantee of accuracy.

Government Information: Public Participation

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he plans to repeat the data mash up competition Show Us a Better Way in 2009. [248188]

Mr. Watson: The Show Us A Better Way competition generated a strong public response, with over 450 entries. The Power of Information Task Force will be concluding its work shortly. The Government are committed to harnessing the power of social media in order to spread innovation across the public sector.

Higher Civil Servants: Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 885W, on the recording of hospitality received by senior civil servants in 2007, how he plans to publish the list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards during 2007; and what timetable he has set for publication. [245315]

Mr. Watson: Hospitality received by members of departmental boards will be published shortly and copies placed in the Library of the House.

Horizon Scanning Forum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Horizon Scanning Forum led by his Department was established; what its role and composition is; how often it meets; and what the role of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in the forum. [246279]

Mr. Watson: The first meeting of the Horizon Scanning Forum (HSF) was held in September 2008. The HSF works closely with the new Cabinet Office Strategic Horizons Unit to meet the National Security Strategy commitment to

> "strengthen the Government's capacity for horizon-scanning, forward planning and early warning."

The HSF acts as the main commissioning and co-ordinating body for national security-related horizon scanning work. The HSF will sit quarterly at working level, improving cross-government co-ordination between those involved in horizon scanning, identifying emerging themes and building an effective community that can share products, expertise and experience. For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to make public the precise composition of the HSF, but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is represented.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings he has attended with Mr. Speaker on the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford and the search of his office; what was discussed; if he will place in the Library a copy of records held by his Department of such meetings; and whether he has received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from the hon. Member for North Essex for this information. [248924]

Mr. Byrne: I have not attended any meetings with Mr. Speaker on the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) and the search of his office. I can also confirm that my Department has received a request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, from the hon. Member for North Essex asking for this information. A response confirming the position set out in this answer has been sent to the hon. Member for North Essex.

Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will rank the UK among other EU member states in terms of net migration in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [254538]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how the UK ranks among other EU member states in terms of net migration in (a) 1997 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available. (254538)

Eurostat publish net migration figures for all EU member states. These may differ from the estimates produced by individual national statistics institutes as Eurostat make adjustments to improve comparability across member states. These show that the UK had the fourth highest levels of net migration in 1997 and third highest in 2007, the latest year for which complete data are available. However care should be taken when comparing net migration estimates as a small net migration figure may mask large immigration and emigration flows.

Non-profit Associations

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of the national survey of third sector organisations was; and what percentage of surveys were returned completed. [254481]

Kevin Brennan: The national survey of third sector organisations closed with a final national response rate of 47 per cent. The cost of the survey is commercially confidential, and the release of this information would adversely affect Government's commercial interests in contracting future work of this sort.

Property: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the cost of the property database being created for the 2011 census. [253765]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the cost of the property database being created for the 2011 Census. (253765)

The cost of developing an Address Register for the 2011 Census is now estimated to be about £12m over the years 2008 - 2011. The additional estimated cost since my reply to your previous question in November 2008 (Hansard reference 235103) is due to a decision following successful piloting to match fully the two key national address lists - the Royal Mail Postal Address File and Local Government's National Land and property Gazetteer.

It is misleading to refer to this as a 'property database' since the Address Register will contain a list of household and communal establishment addresses linked to higher level geographic areas. The pre-requisite for a successful strategy of post-out of Census questionnaires as the primary delivery method, is the availability of a comprehensive, high quality address register for all areas of England and Wales. The Office for National Statistics is developing an address register that meets Census requirements in terms of quality and coverage and which local authorities can be confident will effectively underpin Census enumeration and outputs.

Roads: Taxation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consideration the Office for National Statistics has given to the classification of *(a)* local and *(b)* national road pricing schemes for the purposes of taxation statistics. [252473]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what consideration the Office for National Statistics has given to the classification of (a) local and (b) national road pricing schemes for the purposes of taxation statistics (252473).

ONS produces the United Kingdom's National Accounts. The National Accounts are an internationally comparable accounting framework that describes the activities in a national economy, including the transactions that take place between sectors of that economy. The relevant international manuals are the System of National Accounts 1993(SNA93) and the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95) in particular.

As part of the process of producing the National Accounts, ONS decides on the classification of institutions and transactions within the economy. This well-established process is set out in Annex A of the National Statistics Protocol on Statistical Integration and Classification available at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/ns-standard/cop/protocols/index.html

Whilst ONS has not considered the classification of any proposed national road charging scheme, some other government schemes have been examined. Those examined include the London Low Emission Zone (LEZ); the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames emissions based parking charge, the London congestion charge and road/bridge toll charges.

Government revenue is mainly divided into taxes or service charges. Taxes are compulsory unrequited payments, where unrequited means that the payer does not receive anything directly in return. Service payments are requited in that they include the delivery of a service in exchange for a payment. In some instances the classification of these receipts can be difficult to interpret and the international statistical manuals recognise that "the borderline between taxes and payments for services rendered is not always clear cut in practice". As a result ONS consider the nature of the receipts carefully before reaching a decision.

The London congestion charge and road/bridge toll charges are payments made for vehicles to use the roads within a defined zone. The charges are judged to be requited payments in line with international guidance and are therefore classified as payments for a service.

The LEZ and the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames emissions based parking charge are classified as taxes. The LEZ charge is a compulsory payment for specific vehicles to drive within the LEZ. Although the vehicles gain access to roads within the LEZ, the charging policy relates to vehicles polluting the air within the zone rather the use of the roads. The LEZ charge on the use of the non-compliant vehicle is judged to be unrequited and classified as a tax on pollution.

Similarly, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames's charge for a permit to park in a Controlled Parking Zone, which was implemented on 2 April 2007, is based on the emissions of the vehicle concerned. The decision to classify the charge as a tax on pollution is similar to the LEZ: the charge relates to the vehicle emissions rather than the direct consumption of a service.

Security Commission

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many reports the Security Commission has produced since May 1997; and on what issues. [250319]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 581W.

Suicide

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group committed suicide in the last year for which records are available. [255546]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females in each age group committed suicide in the last year for which records are available. (255546)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death for persons aged 15 and over, for (a) males and (b) females by five year age group for 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, by sex and 5-year age group, 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

		Deaths
Age	*Male*	*Female*
15-19	96	32
20-24	227	40
25-29	268	56
30-34	343	90
35-39	431	91
40-44	418	106
45-49	311	124
50-54	284	98
55-59	268	83
60-64	196	79
65-69	126	53
70-74	84	43
75-79	91	40
80-84	89	38
85+	64	37

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) under the age of 18, (ii) aged between 18 and 25 and (iii) over the age of 25 years committed suicide each year since 1992. [255551]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in (i) under the age of 18, (ii) aged between 18 and 25 and (iii) over the age of 25 years committed suicide in each year since 1992. (255551)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death for persons aged 15 and over, for *(a)* males and *(b)* females by five year aged (i) 15 to 17 years, (ii) 18 to 25 years and (iii) over 25 years for 1992 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, by sex and age group, 1992-07[1,2,3,4]

	Male			*Female*		
	15-17	*18-25*	*Over 25*	*15-17*	*18-25*	*Over 25*
1992	33	616	3,393	13	133	1,270
1993	41	617	3,150	14	121	1,222
1994	48	563	3,164	13	111	1,169
1995	24	549	3,268	19	106	1,145
1996	38	478	3,143	19	124	1,096
1997	41	537	2,987	23	103	1,123
1998	60	548	3,431	16	124	1,153
1999	42	465	3,455	24	110	1,137
2000	39	461	3,270	18	123	1,158
2001	50	427	3,216	15	97	1,086
2002	45	380	3,108	16	113	1,089
2003	40	413	3,127	19	93	1,104
2004	39	391	3,146	16	107	1,172
2005	32	356	3,093	21	97	1,103
2006	36	327	3,017	18	91	1,015
2007	39	332	2,925	15	65	930

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1988 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2007.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Unemployment

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds resident in each *(a)* region, *(b)* parliamentary constituency and *(c)* local authority area were (i) unemployed and not in full-time education and (ii) economically inactive and not in full-time education in each (A) year since 1997 and (B) each month of the last five years for which figures are available. [252908]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of 16 to 24 year olds resident in each (a) region, (b) parliamentary constituency and (c) local authority area were (i) unemployed and not in full-time education and (ii) economically inactive and not in full-time education in each (A) year since 1997 and (B) each month of the last five years for which figures are available. (252908)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many households contained no one in *(a)* work and *(b)* full-time work in each quarter of the last two years. [255125]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question how many households contained no one in (a) work and (b) full-time work in each quarter of the last two years. (255125)

The information available is provided in the attached table.

Estimates are only available for the April to June and October to December quarters in the source used; the Labour Force Survey household data set. Estimates for October to December 2008 will be available on 25th February 2009.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

The figures given for the April-June quarters are consistent with those published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release—see web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf

It is vital to note that, as with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty, as different samples give different results.

Number of working-age households where no-one is in work and no-one is in full-time work[2] United Kingdom, not seasonality adjusted

Thousand

	No-one in work	*No-one in full-time work*
Oct-Dec 2006	3,074	4,782
Apr-Jun 2007	3,071	4,792
Oct-Dec 2007	3,054	4,747
Apr-Jun 2008	3,056	4,766

[1] A working-age household is a household containing at least one man aged 16 to 64 or women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Where no member aged 16 or over is in employment/full-time employment.

Note:

Figures have been adjusted to include estimates for households with unknown economic activity.

Source:

Labour Force Survey households datasets

Unemployment: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged between 18 and 24 years old were claiming jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years in Sutton and Cheam. [255371]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 18 and 24 years old were claiming jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years in Sutton and Cheam. (255371)

Table 1 shows the number of 18-24 year olds, resident in Sutton and Cheam parliamentary constituency, who were claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance in each month from January 2004 to December 2008.

Table 1: Number[1] of claimants of jobseeker's allowance aged 18 to 24 years in Sutton and Cheam parliamentary constituency

	Number
January 2004	155
February 2004	170
March 2004	165
April 2004	140
May 2004	155
June 2004	145
July 2004	150
August 2004	155
September 2004	150
October 2004	155
November 2004	155
December 2004	150
January 2005	180
February 2005	190
March 2005	195
April 2005	175
May 2005	165
June 2005	170
July 2005	210
August 2005	220
September 2005	220
October 2005	240
November 2005	225
December 2005	215
January 2006	210
February 2006	220
March 2006	215
April 2006	230
May 2006	220
June 2006	215
July 2006	225
August 2006	205
September 2006	240
October 2006	215
November 2006	185
December 2006	160
January 2007	165
February 2007	180
March 2007	190
April 2007	185
May 2007	155
June 2007	150
July 2007	175
August 2007	185
September 2007	195
October 2007	175
November 2007	165
December 2007	150
January 2008	170
February 2008	175
March 2008	170
April 2008	135
May 2008	135
June 2008	140
July 2008	165
August 2008	200
September 2008	210
October 2008	205
November 2008	205
December 2008	235

[1] Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

Voluntary Work

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1126-27W, on v, how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* short-term opportunities have been created by v to date; and how many volunteers on average have filled each of these opportunity types. [254099]

Kevin Brennan: Up to the end of January 2009 v had created over 875,000 opportunities to volunteer and 311,000 had been completed by volunteers. This is an increase from the 251,000 volunteers that had completed opportunities by the end of September 2008.

The following table provides a breakdown of opportunities commissioned and completed by the type of opportunity:

Type of opportunity	*Opportunities commissioned*	*Opportunities completed*
Full-time	17,000	5,000
Part-time	400,000	165,000
Short-term	458,000	141,000
Total	875,000	311,000

Volunteering opportunities can play a hugely important role in enabling people to develop new skills and improve their employment prospects. In recognition of this, today the Government are publishing 'Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises', a £42.5 million plan to support the third sector to deliver real help to people, communities and businesses during the recession. The plan contains a volunteer brokerage scheme for unemployed people which will create over 40,000 opportunities to learn new skills and give back to communities through volunteering. Copies of 'Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises' have been placed in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the funding allocated to Chorley Borough Council for concessionary bus travel in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 was used on (a) concessionary travel, (b) subsidy to bus routes and (c) other purposes. [254732]

Paul Clark: In 2006-07 and 2007-08 funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. local authorities are free to spend it on any services provided (not just transport services) that meet their statutory obligations. This enables local authorities to decide on their own priorities based on local requirements.

It is not possible to identify how much formula grant has been allocated to a local authority for any particular service. This single pot of non-ring fenced funding allows local authorities to decide on their own priorities and provides an incentive for them to maximise value for money.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received a request for a meeting with representatives of Chorley Borough Council to discuss the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [253681]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* No request has been received from representatives of Chorley borough council. However, departmental officials have recently been to Lancashire county council to discuss the council's issues with funding for concessionary travel.

The Secretary of State will shortly be meeting with a north-west MP (the right hon. Member for Fylde (Mr. Jack)), and I have also met a number of parliamentary colleagues to discuss this issue. I will be happy to meet with any other members who are concerned about funding for concessionary travel in their area.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much grant Chorley Borough Council received for the national concessionary bus travel scheme for 2008-09. [253682]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Chorley borough council will receive special grant funding of £280,000 in 2008-09 for the improvement to statutory concessionary travel to England-wide, which was implemented on 1 April last year. This additional grant represents 33 per cent. increase on outturn expenditure by Chorley in 2007-08 on concessionary fares. This is in addition to its existing funding for concessionary travel which is provided through formula grant. It is not possible to identify the precise amount received by each authority for concessionary fares from formula grant.

Bypasses: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which bypasses his Department funded the construction in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [252061]

Paul Clark: The following table lists bypass schemes which have been completed in each of the last 10 years by either the Highways Agency or the relevant local highway authorities.

	Scheme
1999	Dudley Southern Bypass, West Midlands
	Coalfields Link Road Phase 1, Barnsley
	Leeds Inner Ring Road, Stage 6, Leeds
	A30/A35 Puddletown Bypass (DBFO)
	A564 Derby Southern Bypass Contract B
2000	A617 Rainworth Bypass, Nottinghamshire
2001	A174 Skelton and Brotton Bypass
	Burntwood Bypass Phase 1 and 2, Staffordshire
	A151 Weston Bypass , Lincolnshire
	C541 Adderthorpe Bypass and Bends Improvement, Lincolnshire
2002	A143 Broome-Ellingham, Essex
	A131 Great Leighs, Essex
	A6023 Denaby Main Diversion, Doncaster

	Scheme
	A511 Ashby Bypass Stage 2, Leicestershire
	A27 Polegate Bypass, East Sussex
	A43 Silverstone Bypass (A43 M40 to B4031 Dualling), Northamptonshire
	A43 Whitfield Turn to Brackley Hatch Improvement (A43 M40 to B4031 Dualling), Northamptonshire
	A6 Clapham Bypass, Bedfordshire
	A66 Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass, Cumbria
	Wyre Piddle Bypass, Worcestershire
	A428 Crick Bypass, Northamptonshire (Developer Funded)
2003	A350 Semington-Melksham Diversion, Wiltshire
	Barnsley Coalfields Link Road (aka Shafton Bypass)
	A6 Great Glen Bypass, Leicestershire
	A53 Hodnett Bypass, Shropshire
	A5 Nesscliffe Bypass, Shropshire
	A500 Basford, Hough and Shavington Bypass, Cheshire
	A6 Rothwell-Desborough Bypass, Northamptonshire
	A6 Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass, Northamptonshire
	A6 Alvaston Bypass, Derbyshire
	A650 Bingley Relief Road, Yorkshire
	A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Bypass (Northern Section), Buckinghamshire
	A41 Aston Clinton Bypass, Buckinghamshire
	A527 Biddulph Inner Bypass, Staffordshire
	Ashton-under-Lyne Northern Bypass Stage 1, Tameside
2004	St. Clements Way, Thurrock (aka West Thurrock Marshes Relief Road)
	A607 Rearsby Bypass, Leicestershire
	Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route, Nottinghamshire
	A63 Selby Bypass, North Yorkshire
	A10 Wadesmill to Colliers End Bypass, Hertfordshire
2005	A167 Chilton Bypass, Durham
	A21 Lamberhurst Bypass, Kent
	A47 Thorney Bypass, Norfolk
	A142 Fordham Bypass, Cambridgeshire
	Gloucester South West Bypass (Castlemeads section)
	A5 Weeford-Fazeley Improvement, Staffordshire
	A158 Coastal Access Improvement Phase 1—Partney Bypass, Lincolnshire
	A428 West Haddon Bypass, Northamptonshire (Developer Funded)
	A57 Cadishead Way (Brinell Drive to City Boundary), Salford
	Burntwood Bypass Phase 3, Staffordshire
2006	A505 Baldock Bypass, Hertfordshire
	South Lowestoft Relief Road, Suffolk
	A421 Great Barford Bypass, Bedfordshire
2007	Barford Bypass, Warwickshire
	A58 Blackbrook Diversion, St. Helens, Merseyside
	A197 Pegswood Bypass, Northumberland
	A1198 Papworth Everard Bypass, Cambridgeshire
	A612 Gedling Integrated Transport Scheme, Nottinghamshire
	A429 Barford Bypass, Warwickshire
	Barnstaple Western Bypass, Devon
	A38 Northfield Regeneration Relief Road, Birmingham
	Rugeley Eastern Bypass Stage 2, Staffordshire
	A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass, Buckinghamshire
	Cradley Heath Town Centre Relief Road, Sandwell
	Sheffield Northern Inner Relief Road, Sheffield
	A158/C541 Coastal Access Improvement Scheme, Phase 2—Burgh Le Marsh Bypass, Lincolnshire
	A165 Reighton Bypass, North Yorkshire
	Ridgmont Bypass and Woburn Link Road, Bedfordshire
	A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Improvements at Winderwath, Cumbria
2008	Tunstall Northern Bypass, Stoke
	A590 High and Low Newton Bypass, Cumbria
	A38 Dobwalls Bypass

This updates the table provided in my answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 415-17W.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Road Traffic

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of projected levels of traffic on the Dartford Crossing in each of the next 10 years. [254675]

Paul Clark: Projected traffic level figures for individual years are not available but existing forecasts suggest that traffic levels may rise to between 170,000 and 190,000 vehicles per day by 2016.

Departmental Equality

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of staff in his Department have recorded their ethnicity *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each bargaining unit. [253567]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following percentage declared ethnicity *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each bargaining unit as set out in the following table:

Staff in post on 31 March 2008	*Percentage of staff who have declared their ethnicity*
Central Department	86.4
Driving Standards Agency	94.4
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	93.3
Government Car and Dispatch Agency	99.3
Highways Agency	81.0
Marine and Coastguard Agency	89.5
Vehicle Certification Agency	100.0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	80.7
DFT (total)	88.7

Dredging: Thames Estuary

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the dredge in the Thames Estuary for the London Gateway Port channel is proposed to start; for what reason the dredge is to be carried out; what safeguards against disturbances of munitions will be in place; what the shortest distance is between the wreck of SS Richard Montgomery and the area affected by the dredge; who is to carry out the dredge; and what consultation took place with *(a)* communities affected and *(b)* users of the Thames Estuary before the proposal was finalised. [254478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The timing of the proposed dredge is a matter for London Gateway Port Ltd., subject to completion of the statutory consent process. The dredge is required in order to accommodate deep sea container vessels serving the new London Gateway port.

Standard dredging practice in the Thames Estuary established by the Port of London Authority covers matters such as handling the incidental lifting of munitions left on the sea bed. Magnetometer surveys have also been conducted in order to provide the best advance information.

The shortest distance from the wreck of the SS Richard Montgomery to the southern edge of the proposed channel is just over 2.2 kilometres. The shortest distance from the channel to the edge of the wreck exclusion zone is 2.1 kilometres.

The choice of dredging contractor is an operational matter for London Gateway Port Ltd.

A public inquiry took place in 2003. Subsequently London Gateway Port Ltd. has set up a Marine Ecological Advisory Group which includes representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Port of London Authority and the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee, to consider among other matters the impacts of dredging.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254064]

Mr. Hoon: I have had regular engagements with outside organisations, including relevant Government Departments, on a range of issues relating to the economy.

First Capital Connect: Opening Hours

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to oppose the application by First Capital Connect to reduce the opening hours of the ticket offices it operates; and if he will make a statement. [254713]

Paul Clark: First Capital Connect has submitted their proposals under the procedures of the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement, which is the approved industry process for such matters.

First Capital Connect's proposals are currently under consultation. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to make any comment on them at present which may fetter the discretion of the Secretary of State if the proposals are referred by the operator for arbitration.

Freight: Grants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the economic model against which freight facilities grant applications are assessed; when this economic model was last updated; and if he will make a statement. [254519]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The principles of the economic model used for the assessment of freight facilities grant applications are outlined in Department for Transport publication "Guide to Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) in England" which was published in November 2006 and is currently being reviewed. The document can be downloaded free of charge from:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/railfreight/rfg/freightfacilitiesgrantguide.pdf.

The purpose of the economic model is to ensure that grants are only awarded when there is a financial need for funding. Annex 4 of the aforementioned guide deals with the financial appraisal of FFGs and, in its first paragraph, states that:

> "The main financial requirement for a FFG is that compared with the road alternative, the proposed rail or water scheme would not be financially justified without grant.... This can only be a general guide; it may not cover the entire issues specific to each application. The Department can offer help and advice on specific cases."

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length of time taken to process a freight facilities grant application is; how many applicants waited *(a)* more than six months, *(b)* more than nine months and *(c)* more than one year in the most recent five year period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [254520]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has aimed to assess standard freight facilities grant (FFG) applications within four months and more complex applications within six months. However the time taken to assess applications depends on many factors, including the completeness of the initial data supporting the application. There is also the potential for further information being received from the applicant through the course of the assessment and the potential need by the Department for clarification, which inevitably takes time.

In the past three years, the Department has assessed the following cases:

Year application received	*Cases assessed within six months*	*Cases assessed within nine months*	*Cases assessed within one year*
2006	3	1	0
2007	3	0	0
2008	1	1	0

In addition, a further application was received in October 2008 which is currently being assessed.

The process of applying for FFGs is currently being reviewed, with a view to shorten the time taken to assess applications and make the process clearer for applicants.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many grant applications were made to the freight facilities grant scheme for each year since 2000; how many of those applications were successful; and what the average value was of each *(a)* application and *(b)* grant. [254521]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and the then Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) do not keep details of every application submitted. Details are retained for each offer of grant made to successful applicants.

The number of successful applications and the average value of grants awarded for each year since 2000 are set out in the following table.

	Successful applications	*Average value of grant awarded (£)*
2000	35	711,944
2001	28	797,076
2002	33	989,859
2003	7	822,188
2004	2	2,514,083
2005	4	565,978
2006	5	359,000
2007	3	843,483
2008	1	1,325,578

The SRA suspended the FFG programme for most rail projects in 2003, although grants continued to be available for aggregate-based facilities through the aggregates levy sustainability fund. FFGs were reintroduced for all rail schemes by the Department in 2007.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total public resource allocated to the freight facilities grant scheme was for each year since 2000. [254522]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and the then Strategic Rail Authority has allocated the following budget for Freight Facility Grants (FFGs) since 2000.

Freight facility grants: Budget

	£ million
2000-01	32
2001-02	61.8
2002-03	50.5
2003-04	32.5
2004-05	9.7
2005-06	7
2006-07	7
2007-08	7
2008-09	4
2009-10	7
2010-11	10
2011-12	16
2012-13	20
2013-14	25

The SRA suspended the FFG programme for most rail projects in 2003, although grants continued to be available for aggregate-based facilities through the aggregates levy sustainability fund. FFGs were reintroduced for all rail schemes by the Department in 2007.

Funding for the FFG programme was boosted in September 2008 with the announcement of a long-term increasing budget to provide certainty for potential applicants. This included £61 million of capital funding over three years from April 2011.

Heathrow Airport: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flight hours were expended by commercial aircraft in 2007-08 in stacking while awaiting clearance to land at Heathrow; and how much carbon dioxide was emitted by those aircraft while stacked. [254720]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's report, 'Improving the Air Passenger Experience', provides appropriate estimates of aircraft stacking above Heathrow in Figure 27 on page 25. This report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/airports/improve airpassenqer.pdf

Data for 2007-08 are not available. However, in 2006-07, aircraft were held in aggregate for 18,679 hours. This is based on 56 per cent. of arriving aircraft being held in a stack and an average 8.5 minute hold for those held. This equates to roughly 50,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted by aircraft stacking at Heathrow.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals he estimates will live within the 57 decibel contour when the Heathrow third runway is expected to open. [253848]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Estimates of populations within the 57 decibel noise contour with a three-runway airport were presented in the November 2007 consultation document and supporting technical report on noise. Around 242,000 people are predicted to be within the 57 decibel contour in 2020 with around 605,000 annual movements, the maximum capacity we have supported initially. The new runway could open sooner with a lower capacity, but the timing and capacity will depend on the planning process and the mechanism we are establishing to ensure that local environmental limits, including noise limits are met, and will continue to be met.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which groups of people are exempt from paying tolls for crossing the Humber Bridge; what estimate he has made of the annual revenue forgone as a result of such exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [255662]

Paul Clark: Concessions and exemptions are a matter for the Bridge Board. Exemptions are offered on a voluntary basis for certain disabled users (those on higher rate disability living allowance). Emergency services also receive exemption from tolls when on official duties.

In addition, on 28 July 2006, the Humber Bridge Board announced that it would discount toll charges for the local bus service (the X1) by 45 per cent. until the end of March 2008 to ensure it would continue to offer a service over the bridge. This concession remains in place and is subject to periodic review.

No estimation has been made by the Department for Transport for the amount of annual revenue forgone as a result of these exemptions.

M42: Lorries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the findings were of the trial of heavy goods vehicle overtaking restrictions on the M42; what assessment he has made of those findings; and if he will make a statement. [254966]

Paul Clark: The trial overtaking restriction for HGVs introduced on the M42 between junctions 10 and 11 has shown that light vehicle journey times have reduced and that HGV journey times remained unchanged in the morning peak but decreased at other times. The proportion of HGVs using lane 2 has reduced significantly.

Although the results of the trial have not offered dramatic journey time savings, the Government believe that it would be beneficial to make the M42 restriction permanent as a useful tool in helping the Highways Agency to meet journey time reliability targets.

M48 Severn Crossing

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the M48 Severn Crossing; and if he will make a statement. [254369]

Paul Clark: Legislation provides for the concession to last a maximum of 30 years and is due to end in 2022. But it may end sooner if certain financial objectives are met. Current estimates are that those objectives will have been met around 2016, when costs are expected to have been recovered.

Once the concession ends the undertaking will pass to the Government, which then has the power to charge tolls for up to a further five years. No decisions have been taken with regard to tolls beyond 2016, or whenever the concession period ends.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the European Commission in relation to the alleged breaches of its legal duties referred to in paragraph four of his Department's letter to consultees in respect of its Consultation on Replacement Pollution Control Devices for Motor Vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [255493]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no discussions with the European Commission on the delay to implementation of the EU legislation referred to the Department's letter.

The Department for Transport regrets the delay which has occurred in implementing the necessary point of sale controls and is seeking to remedy this. It is worth noting, however, that the EU regulations which set the standards to be met by new replacement pollution control devices for cars and vans have direct applicability on manufacturers.

Parking Offences

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles which have been impounded by the police because of accurate insurance details not being held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database. [254581]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All motor vehicle insurance details are held on the insurance industry's motor insurance database (MID) and it is the insurance industry's responsibility to provide data to it.

The number of vehicles wrongly identified by the police as being driven uninsured based on information from the MID and impounded is not known. However, such cases are thought to be rare. The MIB supplements the database with a dedicated police helpline which the police can use in cases of doubt, e.g. if a driver claims he took out insurance very recently. This enables a direct check to be made with the claimed insurer.

Railway Network

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to identify corridors for potential future rail use; and what steps he is taking to safeguard the routes of disused railway lines. [253903]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Network Rail's strategic review of the case for new rail lines is considering five of Network Rail's strategic routes north and west of London: Chiltern, East Coast, West Coast, Great Western and Midland main lines. Initial results from this review suggest a future need for a new line between London and the West Midlands. To take forward the detailed work needed to make a firm decision on this, the company "High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd." has been created.

Local and regional authorities can use planning processes to protect sites or alignments if they deem this appropriate. In addition, we have used our national safeguarding powers in cases such as Crossrail and consideration will be given to more specific use of these powers as our long term transport planning advances.

Railways: Disabled

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to provide high-quality and integrated disabled passenger assistance on the rail network. [254440]

Paul Clark: The Railways for All strategy, published in March 2006, identifies the importance of improved information, ticketing and assistance to improving access to the railway network.

Front-line railway staff are trained in disability awareness and will always endeavour to help disabled customers. Assistance can also be booked in advance using the Assisted Passenger Reservation Service (APRS) which is owned and maintained by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC).

Access for All funding of £280,000 has already been provided to ATOC towards development of staff training materials, and a programme of station access audits to improve the quality of information available through the National Rail Enquiry Service.

In addition the £370 million Access for All programme is making enhancements to railway stations which help to promote independent travel for disabled people.

In light of passenger feedback, and in particular the recent Passenger Focus report into Assisted Passenger Reservation Service bookings, published in September 2008, the Department for Transport intends to work with the industry to address potential areas for improvement to the Assisted Passenger Reservation Service system, and to identify what resources may be available to support this.

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 148, which rail fares have reduced because of the capping system. [254171]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does however track all rail fares, and reports on the high level results on a quarterly basis. The ORR can be contacted for more information at the following address:

Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London WC2B 4AN

Railways: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department provides to regional and local authorities to plan and implement expenditure on new rail stations and lines. [253691]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not provide any funding to regional and local authorities specifically for the purposes of identifying and investing in opportunities for new rail stations and lines.

However, local authorities are free to use their revenue support grant for studies into new stations and lines and financially support new services. They can also use Local Transport Plan (LTP) integrated transport block funding for investing in new stations or lines. The region can also prioritise rail schemes for capital funding from within their regional funding allocation.

Railways: South East

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have held with the South West Regional Development Agency on rail transport in the last 12 months; and with what outcomes. [253689]

Paul Clark: Neither the Secretary of State nor any other Minister in the Department for Transport has had discussions with the South West Regional Development Agency on rail transport in the last 12 months.

Railways: Tickets

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the ticketing and settlement agreement produced by his Department. [255364]

Paul Clark: The ticketing and settlement agreement is a commercial document and is the property of the Association of Train Operating Companies. For this reason, there are no plans to place a copy in the Library of the House of Commons.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the number of (i) minor, (ii) serious and (iii) fatal road accidents where speed was a contributory factor which drew on (A) UK and (B) international research; and if he will make a statement. [253011]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2005 a report on the contributory factors, including speed, reported by police officers who attend personal injury collisions has been published as part of "Road Casualties Great Britain". The DFT-funded "On The Spot (OTS)" study involves additional non-police investigation of road collisions to explore the characteristics of personal injury collisions in depth. The OTS study is currently examining the characteristics of crashes that involve excessive or inappropriate speed.

In addition, there is a wide range of research on the link between speed and casualties which may be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/

For example, the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) published a review of non-UK studies in 1994 which established a link between vehicle speed and the risk of a collision. This indicated that, in broad terms, a 1 mph reduction in average speed can reduce accident risk by around 5 per cent. In 2000 TRL published a report investigating whether this general rule could be applied to different types of UK roads and to further understand the relationship between vehicle speed and accident frequency. The report concluded that the percentage reduction in accident frequency for a 1 mph reduction in average speed is between 2 per cent. and 7 per cent. depending on vehicle speeds and the nature and layout of the road.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts have been signed for new rolling stock in each month since the Rolling Stock Plan was published; what the *(a)* value of each contract and *(b)* company with which each contract was held was; and how much additional rolling stock each contract represented. [253311]

Paul Clark: Please see the table for detail of contracts:

	Number	*(a) Estimated value (£ million)*	*(b) Company*	*Rolling Stock*
January 2008	1	11	Bombardier	8 DMU vehicles
February 2008	0	—	—	—
March 2008	1	57	Bombardier	44 EMU vehicles
April 2008	0	—	—	—
May 2008	0	—	—	—
June 2008	0	—	—	—
July 2008	0	—	—	—
August 2008	0	—	—	—
September 2008	1	269	Alstom	106 EMU vehicles
October 2008	0	—	—	—
November 2008	0	—	—	—
December 2008	0	—	—	—

255 of the HLOS carriages were on order when the rolling stock plan was published in January 2008, bringing the total now in order to 423.

Speed Limits

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many roads in *(a)* Leicester East constituency and *(b)* England have a speed limit of 20 mph. [253858]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and have had powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones without seeking the approval of the Secretary of State since 1999. There is no requirement for local authorities to inform the Department when a speed limit is changed.

Speed Limits: Advertising

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government has spent on television and radio advertisements to reduce speeding in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [253859]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Speeding is a major factor in road safety, contributing to 727 deaths in 2007. Measures to prevent speeding on our roads are in the fields of enforcement, engineering and education including advertising.

The following table provides the amount spent on television and radio advertisements to reduce speed in each of the last five years.

TV and radio media spend

		£000
	TV	*Radio*
2004-05	1,186	477
2005-06	1,223	496
2006-07	1,492	547
2007-08	1,853	783
2008-09[1]	1,815	459

[1] Forecast expenditure.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what alternatives to enforcement cameras are available to reduce the speed of motor vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [253012]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Speeding is a major factor in road safety, contributing to 727 deaths in 2007.

Traffic calming measures are available to local highway authorities to reduce vehicle speeds on their roads. It is for the local authority to decide which measure would be the most effective in achieving safe and appropriate vehicle speeds in their area based on their knowledge of the local road network.

The Department for Transport provides guidance to local highways authorities on a wide range of traffic calming measures designed to reduce vehicle speeds in a variety of circumstances. The Department's latest technical guidance on traffic calming, Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/07 Traffic Calming, was published in March 2007. This provides local authorities with advice on the design and use of traffic calming measures and brings together in one comprehensive document a summary of relevant research.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are in use in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend. [254136]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 537-38W. It should be noted that separate information for Southend is not held.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of speed cameras in improving road safety in Southend. [254138]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Department for Transport has not assessed the effectiveness of speed cameras in improving road safety in Southend. However, cameras operated by the Essex Safety Camera Partnership under the National Safety Camera Programme which ended on 31 March 2007 have proved to be very effective. Fatal casualties decreased by an average of 43 per cent. at fixed camera sites and killed or seriously injured casualties decreased by an average of 51 per cent. At mobile camera sites fatal casualties reduced by 42 per cent. and killed or seriously injured casualties decreased by an average of 22 per cent.

SS Richard Montgomery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the state of the wreck of SS Richard Montgomery in the Thames Estuary. [254477]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent assessment of the wreck was made in October 2008 using a high resolution multibeam sonar survey and laser scanning techniques. The data gathered during this exercise are now being analysed.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on proposals to dredge the River Thames in the vicinity of the wreck of SS Richard Montgomery; and if he will make a statement. [254530]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* It is not proposed to dredge the River Thames in the vicinity of the wreck of the SS Richard Montgomery.

Taunton-Penzance Railway Line: Electrification

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of *(a)* the advantages and *(b)* the disadvantages of electrification of the main railway line between Taunton and Penzance; and if he will make a statement. [253694]

Paul Clark: Electrification makes most sense on busier routes, such as the Midland main line and parts of the Great Western main line, where the high cost of installing new electrification infrastructure can be offset by the lower costs of running electric trains.

A cross-industry working group led by Network Rail is assessing the case for electrifying a wide range of lines. The group is expected to publish its conclusions at the end of March.

Train Operating Companies

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations have been made to him by the Association of Train Operating Companies in support of changes to franchise service level commitments that would allow a reduction in services; [253344]

(2) what subjects were discussed at his meeting with representatives of the Association of Train Operating Companies on 20 January 2009. [253345]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State has regular meetings with representatives of the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and the train operating companies themselves. The 20 January meeting, as is usually the case, covered a range of issues that affect the railway. ATOC have made no representations to reduce services by way of alterations to existing franchise service level commitments.

Transport: Costs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much transport infrastructure maintenance cost the public purse in each year from 2003 to 2008. [253182]

Paul Clark: The following details Department for Transport grants to local authorities for maintenance of local roads and detrunking programmes.

	£ million
2007-08	818
2006-07	757
2005-06	742
2004-05	715
2003-04	622

In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 DfT also provided Nexus with capital grants of £4.180 million, £4.305 million, £4.391 million respectively for maintenance and renewals on the Tyne and Wear Metro. For previous years, funding was provided as a single grant for revenue with no separately identifiable maintenance element.

In addition to the funding detailed, local authorities receive other funding through various Government grants, business rates and council taxes. How much of this funding is spent on maintaining transport infrastructure or other public services is a matter for local decisions. The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes a set of tables detailing local authority expenditure using information collected directly from local authorities.

DfT also provides revenue and capital support to the rail industry, which is in the private sector. This funding is not generally linked to particular areas of spending, and so it is not possible to produce a figure for the amount of the funding support that is for infrastructure maintenance.

Highways Agency

	£ million
2007-08	879
2006-07	850
2005-06	852
2004-05	732
2003-04	726

The expenditure figures are for maintenance on the strategic road network managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. This includes renewal of the road surface and repairs to structures, as well as routine maintenance such as gully clearing, white lining, cleaning and winter maintenance. Costs excluded are those associated with our PFI contracts and our traffic and incident management service.

Expenditure figures have been adjusted to account for spend relating to roads trunked or detrunked in the financial year.

Transport: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projects his Department has undertaken to extend public transport infrastructure since 2003; and what measures have been taken to ensure that the infrastructure is adequately maintained over that period. [253183]

Paul Clark: The following table gives a breakdown of all Local Major Public Transport schemes supported by the Department for Transport. It does not include improvements to, or extensions of the road network, unless these are specifically for the purposes of public transport. Officials are in regular communication with local authority counterparts and measures are included in agreements of funding to ensure that maintenance is satisfactory. My earlier answer (UIN 235182) also showed the considerable amount of money that the Department provides for maintenance of the existing network.

Scheme	*Promoter*	*Total (£ million)*	*DfT Cont. (£ million)*	*Status*
A612 Gedling Integrated Transport Scheme (mainly road but includes bus plug)	Nottinghamshire CC	11.664	7.490	Complete 2007
A638 Quality Bus Corridor	Doncaster MBC	20.410	15.319	Under Construction
A64 Guided Bus	Leeds CC	10.000	5.000	Complete 2001
A641 Guided Bus	Bradford MDC	10.500	5.800	Complete 2002
Barnsley Interchange	South Yorkshire PTE	24.300	18.330	Complete 2007
Birmingham International Airport/NEC	Solihull MBC	11.800	11.113	Full Approval Granted—due to commence construction
Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway Emergency Works	Blackpool BC	11.700	10.600	Complete 2008
Cambridgeshire Guided Busway	Cambridgeshire CC	116.27	92.5	Under Construction
CentreLink	Nexus/Gateshead	29.0	17.3	Completed 2005
Coleshill Parkway	Warwickshire CC	8.514	4.100	Completed 2007
Coventry Bus Network (Primelines)	Coventry Council	30.880	24.480	Completed 2008
Doncaster Interchange	South Yorkshire PTE	PFI	PFI	Complete 2006
Durham Park and Ride	Durham CC	11.3	9.2	Completed 2005
Eldon Square Bus Station	Nexus (T and W PTE)	16.7	11.0	Completed 2008
Fastrack	Kent CC	15.00	14.50	Completed 2006
Fastway	West Sussex CC	28.86	19.46	Completed
Four Lane Ends Interchange	Nexus (T and W PTE)	7.6	7.6	Completed 2004
Getting Northampton to Work	Northamptonshire CC	12.48	7.98	Under Construction
Greater Bristol Bus Network	West of England	70.310	42.343	Under Construction
Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control	Greater Manchester Authorities	13.600	13.600	Under construction.
Hagley Road Bus Showcase	West Midlands	14.145	9.640	Under Construction
Integrated A3 Bus Priority Corridor	Hampshire CC	34.215	25.10	Completed 2008
Liverpool South Parkway	Merseytravel	32	6.320	C[illegible]d 2006
Manchester Metrolink Phase 1 and 2 Capacity and Renewals	GMPTE	102	58	Un[illegible]ction
Manchester Metrolink Phase 3a	GMPTE	575	244.3	Under Construction
Masshouse Circus	Birmingham CC	19.834	19.834	Completed 2003
North West Taunton Package (scheme includes a Park and Ride facility)	Somerset CC	15.339	11.667	Under Construction
Northern Orbital QBC	GMPTE	9.400	4.300	Completed
Norwich Bus Station and Improved public transport connections to Rail station	Norfolk CC	9.553	9.553	Completed 2005
Nottingham Express Transit Line 1	Consortium (including Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire CC)	PFI	PFI	Completed 2004
Nuneaton Development Project	Warwickshire CC	6.541	6.210	Completed 2008
Outer Circle/Radial Routes	West Midlands	11.099	10.443	Completed 2007
Plymouth Northern Corridor	Plymouth City Council	14.287	11.250	Completed
Quay Link	Nexus (T and W PTE)	7.7	4.7	Completed 2004
Red Routes Package 1	West Midlands	28.000	28.000	Under Construction
Ryde Interchange	Isle of Wight Council	8.564	6.20	Fully Approved but main construction not yet commenced.
Salisbury Park and Ride	Wiltshire CC	4.181	3.200	Under Construction
Scarborough Integrated Transport Scheme	North Yorkshire CC	31.436	29.786	Under Construction
Sheaf Square	Sheffield CC	23.180	6.780	Complete 2006
South East Manchester Quality Bus Corridor Network	GMPTE	23	23	Under Construction. DfT approved bid in 2003. Corridors are being delivered on an individual basis.
Stephenson's Link	Nexus (T and W PTE)	12.6	6.4	Construction substantially complete -final completion due 2009
Sunderland Direct	Nexus (T and W PTE)	103.0	37.5	Completed 2002
Turning Point	Nottingham City Council	11.7	11.7	Completed 2007
Walsall Town Centre Transport Package	Walsall MBC	26.210	16.622	Under Construction
Warrington Urban Traffic Control	Warrington BC	5.100	1.050	Completed 2006

Scheme	*Promoter*	*Total (£ million)*	*DfT Cont. (£ million)*	*Status*
Warrington Bus Interchange	Warrington BC	8.500	1	Completed 2006
West Midlands UTC	West Midlands	26.600	26.600	Full Approval Granted -due to commence construction
Wolverhampton Centre Access Scheme	Wolverhampton CC	17.500	13.000	Under Construction
Yellow Bus	West Yorkshire PTE	18.704	18.704	Completed 2008
Yorcard Pilot	South Yorkshire PTE	9.316	4.000	In Progress

Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of leisure journeys by *(a)* rail, *(b)* car and *(c)* bus or coach were made by people aged (i) under 16, (ii) between 18 and 19, (iii) between 20 and 24, (iv) between 25 and 34, (v) between 35 and 44, (vi) between 45 and 59, (vii) between 60 and 64, (viii) between 65 and 69 and (ix) 70 years and over in each year since 1997. [253844]

Paul Clark: The figures provided as follows are from the National Travel Survey and reflect the percentage of leisure journeys made in Great Britain by age and main mode from 1996-98 to 2006. The National Travel Survey is readily available from:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/personal/mainresults/nt S2006/

Leisure trips by age and main mode, Great Britain, 1996-98 to 2006

Percentage/number

					Years						
	0-16	*17-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70+*	*Total*	*Unweighted sample size (trips)*
Surface rail											
1996 to 2001	16	6	15	21	13	13	3	4	8	100	2,165
2002 to 2006	14	7	14	20	13	15	4	4	7	100	5,798
Car (driver and passenger)											
1996-98	20	4	8	18	14	19	5	5	7	100	80,001
1997-99	20	4	7	18	14	20	5	5	7	100	77,714
1998-2000	20	3	6	17	15	20	5	5	8	100	78,801
1999-2001	21	3	6	16	15	20	6	5	8	100	82,776
2002	22	3	6	14	16	21	5	5	8	100	60,998
2003	22	3	5	14	16	20	6	5	8	100	68,477
2004	22	4	6	12	16	20	6	5	9	100	67,817
2005	23	3	6	13	15	19	6	5	9	100	72,046
2006	23	3	6	12	15	20	6	6	8	100	70,165
Bus and coach											
1996-98	22	6	7	13	9	11	6	8	20	100	5,318
1997-99	21	6	7	13	10	11	7	7	18	100	5,040
1998-2000	20	8	7	11	9	12	7	8	18	100	5,057
1999-2001	20	8	8	11	9	14	7	7	17	100	5,237
2002	23	10	11	14	7	11	5	5	15	100	3,889
2003	23	8	10	11	9	12	6	5	15	100	4,874
2004	21	9	10	10	9	14	5	6	16	100	4,685
2005	20	8	11	12	9	13	6	6	14	100	4,703
2006	22	9	9	11	8	12	5	7	16	100	4,859

Notes:

1. Leisure includes: Visiting friends at private home, visiting friends elsewhere, entertainment/public activity, sport: participate, holiday: base, day trip and other inc. just walk.

2. The sample size of the National Travel Survey was increased from 2002 which enables single years to be presented. Prior to 2002 data are shown for three year periods because of the smaller sample sizes, and for surface rail a larger number of survey years have been aggregated due to the small number of these types of trips.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated for agricultural research and development in each of the last five years. [254714]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is a major funder of international agricultural research. Details for the last five years are as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	29.6

	£ million
2004-05	37.7
2005-06	35.6
2006-07	35.3
2007-08	38.3

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* recent humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(b)* adequacy of the (i) UK's and (ii) international community's long-term aid efforts; and if he will make a statement. [254115]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation remains grave with up to 1.3 million displaced in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and many conflict affected communities in need of emergency assistance. According to the UN, almost 130,000 people in Province Orientale have been recently displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacks and almost 300 killed in January as Joint DRC/Ugandan/South Sudan military operations are underway. There are also Joint Rwandan and DRC military operations in North Kivu to tackle the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR). Humanitarian access and protection of civilians remain key areas of concern. John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator will be visiting DRC between 6-10 February to assess the humanitarian response and protection concerns in North Kivu and Province Oriental.

The UK Government are a major donor to DRC and will provide £230 million between 2009-10 and 2010-11. We have developed a development programme which responds to the needs and constraints of the country, balancing meeting short-term needs (e.g. humanitarian assistance) with helping to lay the foundation for long-term development. We have worked closely with the international community to develop a joint donor framework and donor co-ordination is slowly improving. Given the high levels of poverty DRC remains under-funded overall. However, there are currently significant operational constraints to absorbing further aid.

Departmental Overtime

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to staff in overtime payments in each of the last three financial years. [254028]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The cost of overtime payments paid to DFID staff in each of the last three financial years is as follows:

	Cost of overtime payments to DFID staff (£)
2005-06	406,602.71
2006-07	392,890.25
2007-08	482,712.51

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254059]

Mr. Thomas: Ministers and Officials at the Department for International Development (DFID) have regular engagements with outside organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Equality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who in his Department *(a)* has line management responsibility for the Director General Diversity Champion and *(b)* is responsible for making diversity plans publicly available. [253736]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Line management responsibility for the Director General Diversity Champion in the Department for International Development rests with the Permanent Secretary. A diversity team in Human Resources Division is responsible for ensuring that the Department's diversity plans are published on our external website.

India: Irrigation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has given to major irrigation projects in the Andhra Pradesh region of India. [254619]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any funding in direct support of major irrigation projects in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

However, DFID has provided £39 million to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for community-based water management through the Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (June 1999 to December 2007). Technical support, worth a further £147,000, has been provided to increase the ability of the Andhra Pradesh state Government irrigation department to effectively manage irrigation systems in the state.

Inland Waterways

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which UN-sponsored conventions on watercourses the UK *(a)* is and *(b)* is not a signatory; and what plans he has to sign such conventions to which the UK is not presently a signatory. [253851]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are two principal UN sponsored conventions that deal with freshwater: the UN Conventions of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997); and the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992).

The UK has not signed, ratified or acceded to the UN Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses Convention and has no current plans to do so. To date, 16 countries have signed this convention (out of 35 required for it to enter into force) and there are 15 parties to the convention. DFID is currently working with WWF-UK to review the international architecture that supports water resources management, including the potential role for the convention.

The UK is a signatory to the UN Economic Commission for Europe, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1992, but has not ratified it. Ratification would be led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Other key conventions that make specific reference to water include the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD). The UK signed the UNCCD in 1994 and ratified in 1996.

Malawi: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the entertainment allowance was for his Department's office in Malawi in the last financial year for which figures are available. [254029]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's Malawi office forecasted spend on office entertainment was £3,000 for the financial year 2007-08. Of this, £2,384 was spent.

TREASURY

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the UK's net financial contribution to funding the Common Agricultural Policy in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009 to 2011. [256103]

Ian Pearson: The United Kingdom makes its contributions to the EC Budget as a whole and not to individual expenditure areas within it. The Government publish forecasts of UK gross, after taking account of the UK abatement, and net contributions to the EC Budget in their annual European Community Finances White Paper. The 2009 White Paper will be published later this year and will include forecasts for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 434W, on apprentices, what progress has been made in increasing the number of apprentices in his Department and its agencies; and how many apprentices his Department and its agencies employ. [251925]

Angela Eagle: Since the previous question raised by the hon. Member, HM Treasury and its agencies have had no apprenticeships or advanced apprenticeships in place. Efforts are made to raise awareness of the programmes available and HM Treasury and its agencies will continue to seek to attract potential candidates to apprenticeship schemes including with our outsourced suppliers.

Methods used to promote the advantages of the apprenticeships and trying to recruit to the Government Pathway scheme include circulating literature and holding promotional events with external suppliers. The lack of take-up can be attributed to the highly skilled workforce that is already in place. A recent sample of HM Treasury and Office of Government Commerce colleagues found 98.6 per cent. of respondents were qualified to level 2 or above. This suggests the pool of potential applicants for apprenticeships is relatively small.

Banks: Audit

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority received a qualified audit report on their 2007-08 accounts; [254945]

(2) which banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority bought consultancy services from their auditors in the last two years. [255255]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is published in the annual reports of the individual institutions and is available in the public domain.

Banks: Directors

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the law on banking as it relates to *(a)* the fiduciary duties of directors and *(b)* the penalties for acting in ways which are negligent or reckless. [250208]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* It is important that any shortcomings identified in the management of banks are addressed to ensure proper governance of UK financial institutions.

Recent improvements in practice and supervision include the changes proposed to the FSA's approved persons regime (CP08/25) that will better allow the FSA to assess the fitness and propriety of directors of parent holding companies that control major UK banks. The fiduciary duties of directors and the consequences of breach of these duties are set out in company law.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Statement of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 539-472, on financial markets, which institutions have taken up *(a)* the Government scheme for new lending between banks and *(b)* the £37 billion made available for bank recapitalisation; and what assessment he has made of the effect of these arrangements on levels of inter-bank lending. [250661]

Ian Pearson: RBS Group plc, Lloyds TSB plc and HBOS Group plc have announced the terms on which they are participating in the Government's recapitalisation scheme. Details are set out in the Placing and Open Offer Agreements that are available in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

These banks are also eligible to use the Government's Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS), under which up to £250 billion of bank lending will be guaranteed. Participating banks have accessed some £100 billion of funding under the CGS so far. A list of participating institutions is published by the Debt Management Office, at

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=CGS/CGSEligible.

Figures for individual banks are confidential. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer noted on 19 January, these guarantees have been successful in helping to bring down the inter-bank lending rate.

Banks: Government Assistance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial sum the Government has allocated for the *(a)* Special Liquidity Scheme, *(b)* Credit Guarantee Scheme, *(c)* Bank Recapitalisation Plan, *(d)* Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme, *(e)* Working Capital Scheme for SMEs, *(f)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee, *(g)* Capital for Enterprise Fund and *(h)* Banking Plan; how much has been spent on each scheme to date; and whether the funding for each scheme will be provided from (a) borrowing and (b) quantitative easing. [250374]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The breakdown of the allocations is as follows:

(a) At least £200 billion will be made available to banks in exchange for high quality assets. The Bank of England will disclose the final amount in due course.

(b) Up to £250 billion of bank lending will be guaranteed. These are not funds disbursed by the Government—all guarantees provided under the Credit Guarantee Scheme are contingent liabilities. Participating banks have accessed some £100 billion of funding under the CGS so far.

(c) Up to £50 billion has been made available in the Government's recapitalisation scheme. The Government have invested £19.97 billion in RBS and £16.96 billion in Lloyds TSB/HBOS.

(d) The Government are still working on the final design of the scheme. £3million has provisionally been allocated for costs in 2008-09, with further allocations yet to be finalised. No funds have been spent on the scheme to date.

(e) The WCS scheme is designed to break even but in the event that additional costs arise, we have given BERR additional flexibility to manage its resources effectively. This will ensure that up to £225 million is available should any costs arise. No funds have been spent on the scheme to date.

(f) £130 million has been allocated to the scheme which has started lending to businesses from reprioritisation within the BERR's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) and access to the HMT Reserve. No funds have been spent on the scheme to date.

(g) Up to £50 million will be made available from within BERR's departmental expenditure limit. No funds have been spent on the scheme to date.

(h) Up to £50 billion will be made available under the Bank of England asset purchase facility. With respect to the Asset Protection Scheme, the Government will publish further details by the last week of February.

Overall, the liabilities taken on will be backed by financial assets and fees will be charged for guarantees, safeguarding the taxpayers' interests.

Banks: Loans

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions since 2000 the accounts of a UK bank have been qualified by the auditors on grounds arising from concerns about loans made to *(a)* entities and *(b)* individuals overseas whose ability to repay was questionable. [250207]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The directors of a UK financial institution are required to write down a loan in their accounts when they have doubts about the collectability of a loan (whether made to a domestic or offshore individual or entity).

If the auditor believes directors have understated or inappropriately disclosed the write down it must provide an emphasis of matter (if inadequate) or qualification (if misleading) in its audit report.

Audit reports and the qualifications they contain are published in conjunction with entities financial statements and filed at Companies House. No central database recording this class of audit qualifications is maintained.

Banks: Regulation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what statutory powers there are to disbar an individual from practising as a banker; and in what circumstances they may be used. [252758]

Ian Pearson: Anyone carrying on regulated activities (such as accepting deposits) must be authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Under section 56 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), the FSA can make an order prohibiting an authorised person from performing a specified or any regulated activity if it appears that the authorised person is not a fit and proper person to perform the functions of that regulated activity. The FSA also have power, under section 45 of FSMA, to cancel an authorised person's permission to carry out a regulated activity (and subsequently to withdraw their authorised status under section 33) if the grounds in section 45(1) of FSMA are satisfied.

Section 59 of FSMA sets out the requirement that a person carrying out a "controlled function" on behalf of an authorised person must be approved by the FSA. Under Section 63 of FSMA, the FSA may withdraw a person's approved status if it considers that the person is not fit and proper to perform the "controlled function".

Bradford and Bingley: Mortgages

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated average date of redemption is of mortgages held as a result of the Bradford and Bingley acquisition. [254584]

Ian Pearson: The publicly-owned part of Bradford and Bingley is managed at arm's length from Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in its annual report and accounts.

Child Tax Credit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people have received child tax credits in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since they were introduced; [254912]

(2) how much was paid out in child tax credits in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since they were introduced. [254913]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families benefiting from tax credits including information on average annual entitlements in each Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average payment has been made by parents into existing child trust fund accounts in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency, *(b)* Sunderland, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme's inception. [254009]

Ian Pearson: HMRC's Detailed Distributional Analysis, including details of average contributions made by parents and others in all years for which figures are available, was published on 6 November 2008. Geographically this data is only available at Government office region level and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_trust_funds/dda-oct08.pdf.

The average contribution into a Child Trust Fund account registered in England was £261 in 2006-07 and £283 in 2007-08.

Delivery Unit

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recommendations were made to the Prime Minister by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit between 1 July and 31 December 2008. [255392]

Yvette Cooper: In line with normal practices regarding PMDU advice to Ministers, the unit's recommendations to the Chancellor are never put in the public domain.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), what consultancy work required a transfer of £250,000 to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit; and what consultancy firm or firms carried out this work. [250566]

Yvette Cooper: When PMDU transferred from the Cabinet Office to HMT in 2007, the remit of the unit changed significantly to include development of PSA policy and oversight of the delivery of the 30 key government PSAs. The unit's budget and staff levels were increased to reflect these two additional responsibilities. The Cabinet Office agreed to make a £250,000 contribution to cover part of the additional staff costs. When the money was transferred to HMT it was recorded as being for consultancy when it should have been recorded as an increase in the staff budget.

Departmental Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters awaiting a reply from his Department have been waiting for more than his Department's target response period. [253198]

Angela Eagle: The Cabinet Office annually publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members' correspondence, which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254231]

Angela Eagle: Information on appointments made by the Treasury is published in the annual departmental report, which can be accessed via the Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's Annual Report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at

www.publicappointments.gov.uk.

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste was produced by his Department in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such waste was recycled. [252869]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury is committed to recycling and reducing all forms of waste. Full information about waste and recycling, including volume by building, can be found in the HM Treasury Annual Report 2007-08, a copy of which can be found in the Library.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252264]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's accounting system does not hold any record of spending with the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2007-08 or so far in the 2008-09 financial year.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Local Government Euro Preparations Working Group last met. [252468]

Ian Pearson: A meeting between local authorities and central Government officials to discuss euro preparations took place in September 2006.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review of the effect of his Department's alcohol excise policy on social clubs; and if he will make a statement. [255097]

Angela Eagle: As with all tax policy decisions, we will be monitoring the impact of alcohol duty increases on a range of factors, including retail outlets.

Excise Duties: Beer

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will freeze beer duty; and if he will make a statement. [255099]

Angela Eagle: Decisions on alcohol duty rates will be made by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how foreign currency swaps undertaken by the Bank of England are reported in official figures, with particular reference to reporting on foreign exchange reserves. [252756]

Ian Pearson: Foreign currency swaps undertaken by the Bank of England with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York are reported in the Bank Return (within 'other liabilities') and in Bank Stats (Table D5.2, Bank of England foreign currency liabilities, within 'other liabilities') published on the Bank's website. Such swaps do not form part of foreign exchange reserves.

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/bankreturn/2009/090121cs.pdf

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/ms/2007/Dec/tabd5.1.xls

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the UK authorities activated their swap arrangements with *(a)* the US Federal Reserve and *(b)* the European Central Bank on Friday 10 October 2008. [252757]

Ian Pearson: On 10 October 2008 the Bank of England entered into an $8.484 billion overnight swap and a $29.998 billion one week swap with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Details can be found in the Bank of England market notice 'Result of US Dollar Repo Operations' of 10 October 2008.

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/money/documentation/usdreporesult081010.pdf

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* informal swap arrangements there are between the Bank of England and (i) the European Central Bank and (ii) the US Federal Reserve; what estimate he has made of the proportion of the UK financial system's short-term liabilities which could be covered by such arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [252759]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England has a contractual swap arrangement with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The existing swap line is such that there is no fixed limit to the amount of dollar liquidity that can be supplied to the system.

Details can be found in the Bank of England news releases 'Coordinated Central Bank Action to Improve US$ Liquidity' of 18 September, 'Coordinated Central Bank Action to Address Pressures in Global Money Markets' of 7 October, 'US Dollar Repo Operations' of 19 December, and market notice 'US Dollar Repo Operations' of 17 October 2008.

Private swap arrangements with other central banks may be put in place in appropriate circumstances, but the details may be kept confidential between the parties concerned.

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/news/2008/054.htm

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/news/2008/065.htm

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/news/2008/130.htm

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/marketnotice081017b.pdf

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the full-year cost to the Exchequer for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 of raising the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million. [251168]

Mr. Timms: The cost of increasing the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million with effect from April 2009 is estimated at £500 million in 2009-10, £1.2 billion in 2010-11 and £1.3 billion in 2011-12.

Insolvency

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the loss to the economy caused by the insolvency of *(a)* large and *(b)* medium-sized businesses during the 2008-09 financial year; which businesses declared themselves insolvent during this period; and if he will make a statement. [247993]

Mr. Timms: The Government publish two economic forecasts per year, which are based on all relevant forecast factors and evidence. Although consistent with other forecasters, the economic forecast does not include a forecast of insolvencies by large or medium-size businesses. The Government last published a forecast in the pre-Budget report 2008 (Cm 7484) on 24 November and will publish an updated forecast at Budget 2009.

The Insolvency Service does not maintain a named list of insolvent companies. Companies House holds records of all registered companies on their registers, including those in insolvency and dissolution. However, these could not identify those which are "large" and "medium-sized" businesses, nor would a full record of all insolvent companies be available for the financial year 2008-09 until some time after the end of the year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 11 November 2008 on pay for PCS members. [255350]

Yvette Cooper: I replied to the hon. Member on 19 December. A further copy has been sent to his office.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 14 October 2008 on small business costs, PO Ref: 1/61608/2008; [255351]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 6 November 2008 on charities, PO Ref: 1/62894/2008. [255353]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mortgages: Arrears

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of mortgage accounts that were in arrears on *(a)* 1 April 2008, *(b)* 1 June 2008 and *(c)* 1 December 2008. [254204]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not hold these figures. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) publishes quarterly data on residential mortgage lending, covering the period from the first quarter of 2007, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/index.shtml

Pensions: Private Sector

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on private pensions of the recent stock market downturn. [255180]

Ian Pearson: The effect on private pensions of the recent stock market downturn varies with the share of assets individual schemes assign to equities. In general UK pension funds have substantially reduced their exposure to equities in recent years.

The Government have taken a number of steps to support good quality pension provision and are committed to helping scheme sponsors through this difficult time within the framework provided by the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund.

We will continue to work with groups representing pension schemes, employers and scheme members to consider what further steps can be taken to support schemes.

Public Bodies: Finance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many organisations providing public services in Wales have received a total of £200,000 or more from public funds in the last five years. [254706]

Yvette Cooper: In devolved areas of spending it is for the Welsh Assembly government to decide what organisations it funds. In reserved areas of spending it is for the relevant Government Department to decide what organisations it funds.

Public Works Loan Board

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was owed to the Public Works Loan Board at the end of each of the last five financial years by *(a)* the Scottish Government and *(b)* parish councils in England. [248042]

Angela Eagle: The Public Works Loan Board lends only to local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, therefore the Scottish Government has no outstanding debt with the PWLB.

The balance outstanding to the Public Works Loan Board in respect of parish and town councils in England at the end of each of the last five years was as follows:

	Balance of principal (£)
2003-04	66,237,455.29
2004-05	69,267,400.71
2005-06	75,419,106.37
2006-07	77,340,091.21
2007-08	81,016,768.50

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was lent by the Public Works Loan Board to *(a)* the Scottish Government and *(b)* parish councils in England in each of the last five financial years. [248043]

Angela Eagle: The Public Works Loan Board lends only to local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales therefore the Scottish Government has no outstanding debt with the PWLB.

The total amounts lent to the parish and town councils in England in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2003-04	11,709,583
2004-05	8,210,406
2005-06	11,737,008
2006-07	7,964,701
2007-08	9,415,688

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to the Public Works Loan Board by *(a)* the Scottish Government and *(b)* parish councils in England in each of the last five years. [248044]

Angela Eagle: Where PWLB debt is repaid by Scottish local authorities prematurely using proceeds from the sale of housing stock and where there is overhanging debt, the Scottish Government often contributes to the total sum repayable to the PWLB. Payments received from the Scottish Government by PWLB in this respect in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Premium	£ Total
2003-04	90,573,659.94	0	18,275,438.61	108,849,098.55
2004-05	0	0	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0	0
2006-07	80,148,935.93	0	27,468,125.43	107,617,061.36
2007-08	71,226,117.65	0	18,354,399.65	89,580,517.30

Public Works Loan Board receipts from parish town councils in England in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Principal	Accrued interest	Premium	£ Total
2003-04	5,490,065.15	4,062,911.27	272,639.73	9,825,616.15
2004-05	5,176,104.34	4,208,528.19	29,464.56	9,414,097.09
2005-06	5,592,703.84	4,317,054.09	173,036.58	10,082,794.51
2006-07	5,855,311.45	4,285,239.25	47,130.43	10,187,681.13
2007-08	5,831,642.47	4,583,982.74	37,996.42	10,453,621.63

Repossession Orders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties were repossessed in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire in each year since 2004. [254203]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not hold these figures. The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the total numbers of properties taken into possession in the UK, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of uptake of research and development tax credits by *(a)* clean technology companies and *(b)* green technology companies was in 2008-09. [255088]

Angela Eagle: Information on R&D tax credits is not yet available for 2008-09. The most recent National Statistics, published on the HMRC website on 19 December 2008, cover financial years up to 2006-07.

Information on claims for R&D tax credits by clean tech and green tech companies is not available because the data are broken down by industry sector using the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC), and clean tech and green tech are not identified as separate sectors in this classification.

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department has received on the number of days between the date on which members of the public receive letters from HM Revenue and Customs and the date on the letter. [254517]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not compiled centrally.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what renovation and refurbishment works have been carried out on the HM Revenue and Customs' offices in *(a)* Blackburn and *(b)* St Helens in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [254759]

Mr. Timms: No renovation or refurbishment works have been carried out in HM Revenue and Customs' offices in Blackburn and St. Helens in the last 12 months.

Both of these offices are occupied under the terms of an estates private finance initiative (PFI) contract. Planned preventive and lifecycle maintenance will have been undertaken by HMRC's estates partner, Mapeley, who are responsible for maintenance of the sites to the required contractual accommodation standards.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on answering parliamentary questions on *(a)* the Government's expenditure on and *(b)* the operations of RBS. [254541]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers answer parliamentary questions about Government expenditure on RBS as fully and accurately as appropriate, consistent with the Department's responsibilities. Questions about the operations of RBS are a matter for the directors of the bank.

Smuggling

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many offences of smuggling of illegal and counterfeit tobacco were recorded in each of the last five years. [253974]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

The following table shows the number of cases brought and the number of criminals sentenced for tobacco offences in each of the last five years.

	Cases brought	*Number of people sentenced*
2003-04	—	429
2004-05	—	204
2005-06	—	262
2006-07	237	299
2007-08	192	290

Valuation Office: Overseas Visits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what overseas conferences have been attended by representatives of the Valuation Office Agency at public expense in the last 12 months; [252430]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst, of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 899W, on the Valuation Office: visits abroad, which overseas destinations have been visited by Valuation Office Agency staff since March 2008; how many visits were made to each destination; and what the purpose of each visit was. [252490]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) receives a number of requests to provide advice overseas. Where VOA participation is expected to be beneficial at an overseas conference or seminar some or all of the costs incurred are normally borne by the conference organisers.

Since March 2008 staff from the Valuation Office Agency have made the following visits:

Fully paid for by the event organisers;

One person visited Moscow as a Keynote speaker at Russian Society of Appraisers Conference; and

One person visited Kansas City to attend a meeting of the International Association of Assessing Officers to review mass appraisal courses and textbooks.

Costs paid by the VOA:

Five visits, consisting of one person each time, were made to Dublin to discuss valuation practice and procedures across England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland;

One person visited Toronto to attend the Mass Appraisal Valuation Symposium, partly paid for by the organisers;

One person visited Warsaw as a Keynote speaker at the European Valuers Conference;

One person visited Beijing to attend an International Property Tax Institute Conference, partly paid for by the organisers;

One person visited Adelaide as a Keynote speaker at the Australian Valuer General, Registrar General and Surveyor General's Conference, partly paid for by the organisers; and

One person visited Cannes to attend Gartner's Symposium / IT$^{\text{xpo}}$ 2008.

VAT

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the average saving made by households in each income decile with people of working age as a result of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. over the course of a year; [252977]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average saving which will be made by households in each income decile with people of working age with dependent children as a result of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. over the course of a year; [252978]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average saving for pension age households in each income decile *(a)* mainly dependent on state benefits and *(b)* mainly dependent on other forms of income from the reduction in the standard rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. over the course of a year. [252979]

Mr. Timms: The benefit to a household from a reduction in VAT of 2.5 percentage points, net of increases to alcohol and tobacco duty, is, on average, £275. This amount is derived from HMRC revenue forecasts, and therefore cannot be used for analysis by decile and household type.

Household spending patterns vary widely within deciles and household types, so estimates of savings on such a basis should be treated with caution. This is exacerbated by there being greater sampling variability associated with estimates for deciles and groups of given household types due to the relatively small sample sizes.

However it is possible to infer the following estimates of the benefit of the VAT reduction by household type and income decile, based on figures for average expenditures on VAT published by the ONS in their article "The effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes, 2006-07".

The estimates assume the majority of the VAT reduction will be passed on to consumers in the form of lower prices in line with past experience, and that spending patterns remain unchanged.

Decile groups of retired households ranked by equivalised disposable income

Percentage

Retired households	*Bottom*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*
Saving of gross income	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8

Decile groups of non-retired households ranked by equivalised disposable income

Percentage

Non-retired households	*Bottom*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*
Saving of gross income	1.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5

Decile groups of non-retired households with children ranked by equivalised disposable income

Percentage

Non-retired households with children	*Bottom*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*
Saving of gross income	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4

VAT: Accountancy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of valued added tax (VAT) registered traders who are eligible to use VAT cash accounting do not use it. [259051]

Mr. Timms: Businesses are not required to notify HMRC if they use cash accounting. As a result of research conducted in 2006, HMRC estimates that the scheme is used by at least one in three eligible businesses which would benefit from it. The scheme is already available to over 90 per cent. of the VAT registered population, but does not benefit businesses that already operate on a cash receipts basis such as retailers.

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the increase in the tax credits income disregard from £2,500 to £25,000 in each financial year between 2009-10 and 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [255659]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1043-1044W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants in West Chelmsford constituency were overpaid tax credits in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [254716]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year.

These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: EC Nationals

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit paid to EU nationals in respect of family members resident in other EU member states in the last 12 months. [255297]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available for child tax credit. The working tax credit is not a family benefit within the scope of EC Regulation 1408/71 and it is therefore not payable in respect of a worker's family members resident in other EEA member states.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual cases of tax credit overpayment reclamation his Department has taken to court in *(a)* each year from 2006-07 and *(b)* each month of 2008-09 for which information is available; and what the average overpayment was. [249233]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) initiates court action only as a last resort. HMRC initiated 467 and 365 court actions for the recovery of tax credit overpayments through county court (England and Wales)[1], sheriffs court (Scotland) and magistrates court (Northern Ireland) in November and December 2008 respectively.

For information on earlier months and years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1926W.

Information on the total number of overpaid awards, and the aggregate amount overpaid, in 2006-07 is provided in the main aggregates table in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments 2006-07". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information on overpayments in 2007-08 is not yet available.

[1] For England and Wales, these figures relate only to actions commenced centrally and exclude actions commenced by local HMRC debt pursuit offices where it is not possible to readily disaggregate tax credit cases from the total number of local initiated court actions.

Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) translation and (ii) interpretation between English and Welsh in each year since 2000. [254200]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* No central record of spending on translations by language is held and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Charities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 1312W, on charities, whether the Government Equalities Office plans to provide further funding to each of the charities referred to. [251979]

Maria Eagle: Decisions on any future funding to these or other charities will be announced in the usual way.

Departmental Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the location is of each office occupied by the Government Equalities Office which has been *(a)* newly occupied and *(b)* refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [251675]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. It was based initially in Ashdown house, a Communities and Local Government building in Victoria street in London SW1. In February 2008, the GEO moved to Eland house, another CLG building, also in London SW1.

The GEO's area in Ashdown house was not refurbished during GEO's tenure and there are no plans to refurbish GEO's area in Eland house.

The GEO's floor area in Eland house is 372 sq m. No records exist of the floor area in Ashdown house but space there was less than it is now in Eland house.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality from which providers the Government Equalities Office sources internet access. [251669]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office sources its internet access through Steria, the in-house provider for the Department of Communities and Local Government. Steria is, in turn, supplied by Cable and Wireless and the internet is accessed via the Government secure internet (GSI).

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which of the public appointments for which the Government Equalities Office is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records the Government Equalities Office keeps in respect of such appointments. [254228]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sponsors two non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs): the Women's National Commission (WNC) an advisory NDPB, and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) an Executive NDPB.

The WNC has a board and chair totalling 16 members. The existing terms of five of the commissioners are due to end in the summer of 2009. It is expected that recruitment of between two and five commissioners will take place during 2009.

The roles of the chair and 12 commissioners of the EHRC will be renewed or filled in the next 24 months. Remit, salary eligibility requirement and timetable have yet to be confirmed.

GEO complies fully with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidance on political restrictions.

The remit, remuneration and further information about these posts will be made available via the public appointments website at:

http://www.publicappts-vacs.gov.uk

and the GEO website at:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk

later this year.

Records and documentation evidence of these appointments will be retained by GEO for at least two years in accordance with guidelines from OCPA.

Departmental Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by the Government Equalities Office in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [251672]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Including those staff who came to us through the machinery of government changes that set up the GEO, in 2007-08 GEO recruited two staff over 55 years of age, representing 11 per cent. of new recruits, and one member of staff aged over 60 years, equivalent to 6 per cent. of new recruits.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 688-89W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242316]

Maria Eagle: With reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 688-89W, on departmental temporary staff, the total number of staff recruited through each company and the average length of contract, in weeks, is as follows:

Company	*Number of staff recruited*	*Average contract length (Weeks)*
Adecco	3	37
Brook Street UK Ltd.	13	26
Michael Page Associates	1	5
Morgan Hunt	4	17
Reed Employment Ltd.	13	14

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of her Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each year since its inception. [251215]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. The Department for Work and Pensions met the costs of press monitoring services for the GEO from then until 31 March 2008. Since 1 April 2008, GEO has spent £11,428.25 on press monitoring services.

Political Parties: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on departmental procurement, what the purpose was of each of the three payments to political parties by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. [252790]

Maria Eagle: The Commission has informed me that the three payments made by them, as referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, are related to charges for attending the 2007 annual party conferences. The Commission attended the conferences to build its profile with parliamentarians and key stakeholders and promote factual information about its work, to co-inside with the launch of the new Commission in October 2007.

Written Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of questions for written answer on a named day have been answered on the day named in the 2008-09 session of Parliament to date. [251929]

Maria Eagle: My Department has received one named day question since the start of the current Session. The question could only be answered after collecting information from other Government Departments and the time taken to do this meant that GEO did not respond by the due date.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the bereavement payment lump sum was last increased; and what estimate his Department has made of the change in funeral costs which has taken place since that date. [252123]

Kitty Ussher: The bereavement payment was last increased in April 2001 with the introduction of the bereavement benefit scheme.

The Department does not hold information regarding the change in funeral costs since 2001.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which websites were operated by his Department in addition to its main website in the last five years. [251418]

Jonathan Shaw: The following list details the websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions in addition to its main website in the past five years. The list includes the Department's executive agencies, NDBPs and other public bodies.

Websites operated by the Department

Jobcentre Plus
    www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk
The Pension Service
    www.thepensionservice.gov.uk
Child Support Agency
    www.csa.gov.uk
Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections
    www.direct.gov.uk/disability
    www.direct.gov.uk/carers
Directgov Over 50s Section
    www.direct.gov.uk/over50s
Directgov Jobseekers
    www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers
Age Positive
    www.agepositive.gov.uk
Office for Disability Issues
    www.officefordisability.gov.uk
European Social Fund

www.esf.gov.uk
Health and Safety Executive
www.hse.gov.uk
Now Let's Talk Money
www.nowletstalkmoney.com

Websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the department is not responsible for the content

Independent Case Examiner
www.ind-case-exam.org.uk
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
www.iiac.org.uk
Social Security Advisory Committee
www.ssac.org.uk

Websites that are managed independently of DWP

Independent Living Funds
www.ilf.org.uk
Pension Protection Fund
www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk
Pensions Ombudsman and PPF Ombudsman
www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk/
Remploy
www.remploy.co.uk
The Pensions Regulator
www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk
The Pensions Advisory Service
www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk
The Rent Service
www.therentservice.gov.uk

Websites that have since closed

Disability Employment Advisory Committee
www.deac.org.uk
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board
www.dlaab.org.uk
Employer Task Force
www.employertaskforce.org.uk
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force
www.emetaskforce.gov.uk
Images of Disability
www.imagesofdisability.gov.uk
National Employment Panel
www.nationalemploymentpanel.gov.uk
Pensions At Work
www.pensionsatwork.org
Pensions Commission
www.pensionscommission.org.uk
Fair Cities
www.faircities.net
Benefit Fraud Inspectorate
www.bfi.gov.uk
New Deal
www.newdeal.gov.uk
Action Teams
www.actionteams.gov.uk
Employment Zones
www.employmentzones.org.uk
Worktrain
www.worktrain.gov.uk
One
www.one.gov.uk

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the official engagements of each Minister in his Department were between 1 December and 31 December 2008. [247733]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 January 2009]*: The information that the hon. Member has requested is listed in the following table. This also includes regional engagements as my Regional Ministers do discuss departmental business at these events.

Minister	*Date*	*Official engagement*
James Purnell	1 December 2008	Child Poverty Action Group
James Purnell	9 December 2008	Tower Project, London
James Purnell	11 December 2008	Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, York
James Purnell	17 December 2008	Inclusion 'Workless in 2009'
Tony McNulty	1 December 2008	Hammersmith Jobcentre Plus
Tony McNulty	1 December 2008	London Prevent Network
Tony McNulty	1 December 2008	Mayor of London
Tony McNulty	1 December 2008	Ealing Council
Tony McNulty	1 December 2008	North West London
Tony McNulty	2 December 2008	Media Breakfast
Tony McNulty	2 December 2008	Ethnic Minority Advisory Group Reception
Tony McNulty	3 December 2008	London Council
Tony McNulty	3 December 2008	A4E
Tony McNulty	4 December 2008	Employers Round table
Tony McNulty	4 December 2008	Speech OSCT event
Tony McNulty	4 December 2008	Visit London meeting
Tony McNulty	8 December 2008	Harrow College
Tony McNulty	8 December 2008	Shepherds Bush Jobcentre Plus Office
Tony McNulty	8 December 2008	Met Police meeting
Tony McNulty	8 December 2008	London and European Resilience Event

Minister	*Date*	*Official engagement*
Tony McNulty	9 December 2008	London Child Poverty Delivery Group
Tony McNulty	10 December 2008	National Prevent Conference
Tony McNulty	11 December 2008	London community Safety Partnership
Tony McNulty	15 December 2008	London Colleges
Tony McNulty	15 December 2008	Tower Hamlets
Tony McNulty	15 December 2008	Ocean Job Shop
Tony McNulty	15 December 2008	Brick Lane Youth Development Association
Tony McNulty	16 December 2008	UK Commission for Employment and Skills
Tony McNulty	17 December 2008	Drug Strategy Commission reception
Tony McNulty	18 December 2008	Met Police
Tony McNulty	18 December 2008	Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre
Rosie Winterton	1 December 2008	Immingham Pensioners Wellbeing Group
Rosie Winterton	3 December 2008	Opportunity age Strategic Group
Rosie Winterton	4 December 2008	DWP Pensions Staff Conference
Rosie Winterton	4 December 2008	Help the aged Age Concern
Rosie Winterton	5 December 2008	Local Government Yorkshire and Humber event
Rosie Winterton	8 December 2008	EEF
Rosie Winterton	9 December 2008	B and CE benefit Schemes
Rosie Winterton	10 December 2008	Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL)
Rosie Winterton	10 December 2008	Charity Champion Awards
Rosie Winterton	11 December 2008	Age Concern Newcastle ASDA Northumbria Employee event Newcastle
Rosie Winterton	12 December 2008	Association of Colleges Yorkshire and Humber
Rosie Winterton	15 December 2008	Pension Credit Centre Burnley
Rosie Winterton	16 December 2008	NAPF
Rosie Winterton	16 December 2008	Help the Aged Age Concern CPA Anchor Trust
Rosie Winterton	17 December 2008	BGOP—Better Government for Older People OPAG—Older People's Action Group
Kitty Ussher	4 December 2008	Conference of the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd.
Kitty Ussher	8 December 2008	Valuation Office Agency
Kitty Ussher	9 December 2008	Balham Benefit Delivery Centre
Kitty Ussher	9 December 2008	National Housing Federation
Kitty Ussher	10 December 2008	White Paper launch
Kitty Ussher	11 December 2008	National Housing Federations Unlocking Potential conference
Kitty Ussher	11 December 2008	Chartered Institute of Housing
Kitty Ussher	15 December 2008	Stewart Maxwell MSP
Kitty Ussher	15 December 2008	Lyn Brown MP
Kitty Ussher	16 December 2008	Beverley Hughes MP
Kitty Ussher	16 December 2008	Jennifer Willott MP
Kitty Ussher	18 December 2008	Zimbabwe Inter-Ministerial Meeting
Kitty Ussher	18 December 2008	Life Chances Ministerial Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	1 December 2008	Office for Disability Issues Annual event
Jonathan Shaw	1 December 2008	Neuro-diversity Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	1 December 2008	Welfare Reform Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	1 December 2008	RADAR People of the Year Awards
Jonathan Shaw	2 December 2008	Shelter Housing Event
Jonathan Shaw	2 December 2008	Justice and Crime Sub-Committee
Jonathan Shaw	2 December 2008	Kimberly Clark/SEEDA meeting
Jonathan Shaw	2 December 2008	SEEDA Infrastructure Event
Jonathan Shaw	3 December 2008	City and East London JCP LOCOG Event
Jonathan Shaw	3 December 2008	Canterbury Innovation Centre
Jonathan Shaw	3 December 2008	MCCH

Minister	*Date*	*Official engagement*
Jonathan Shaw	4 December 2008	Include Me Too Conference
Jonathan Shaw	4 December 2008	Equality 2025
Jonathan Shaw	4 December 2008	National Autistic Society Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	8 December 2008	Placeshaper Housing Association Reception
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	RNIB Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	Remploy Meeting with Shop Stewards
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	Parkinson's Disease Society Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	Tell Us Once Event
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	Employers' Forum on Disability Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	IDEAS Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	9 December 2008	Remploy and other Supported Businesses Procurement Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	10 December 2008	Independent Living Funds Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	10 December 2008	Welfare Reform Stakeholder Event
Jonathan Shaw	10 December 2008	Care and Support Ministerial Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	11 December 2008	Equality Bill Consultation Event
Jonathan Shaw	12 December 2008	British Olympians and Paralympians Medallists Event
Jonathan Shaw	15 December 2008	Meeting with Devolved Administration Ministers
Jonathan Shaw	16 December 2008	SEEDC
Jonathan Shaw	16 December 2008	Remploy Meeting
Jonathan Shaw	16 December 2008	IDEAS Workshop
Jonathan Shaw	16 December 2008	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO)
Jonathan Shaw	17 December 2008	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO)
Lord McKenzie	1 December 2008	SR Partnership
Lord McKenzie	1 December 2008	Steel Construction Institute
Lord McKenzie	2 December 2008	Inside Government Conference
Lord McKenzie	2 December 2008	Evershed's
Lord McKenzie	3 December 2008	Launch of HSE New Strategy consultation
Lord McKenzie	4 December 2008	Pension Consultants
Lord McKenzie	5 December 2008	Birmingham New Hospital Joint Venture
Lord McKenzie	9 December 2008	Annual Multi Pensions 2008
Lord McKenzie	9 December 2008	Trade Union Congress
Lord McKenzie	10 December 2008	Personal Account Delivery Authority
Lord McKenzie	10 December 2008	Confederation of British Industry
Lord McKenzie	10 December 2008	National Association of Pension Funds
Lord McKenzie	10 December 2008	Association of Consulting Actuaries
Lord McKenzie	12 December 2008	Gateway Education centre and Shrewsbury Hospital
Lord McKenzie	16 December 2008	National Association of Pension Funds
Lord McKenzie	17 December 2008	Australian Health and Safety Minister

Funeral Payments

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what definition his Department uses of respectful funeral, as referred to in his Department's technical guidance SB16; [253655]

(2) what expenses can be claimed by benefit claimants under Other Funeral Expenses as referred to in his Department's technical guidance SB16. [253656]

Kitty Ussher: There is no definition of a respectful funeral within the departmental guidance or in the legislation relating to funeral payments from the Social Fund. The person responsible for arranging the funeral may claim for items or services including:

the funeral director's fees
church fee or minister's fee
organist's fee
flowers
cost of an urn
hygienic treatment.

This is not a complete list of items and services that may be claimed under "other funeral expenses". A decision maker can award the necessary cost of certain specified items, including burial or cremation charges, in addition to an amount up to a limit of £700 for all other funeral expenses.

Housing Benefit

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the expenditure which will arise as a result of the provision which makes excess payments of up to £15 to local housing allowance (LHA) claimants where their rent is less than the LHA rate applicable to their case in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [252160]

Kitty Ussher: It has been estimated that the expenditure which will arise as a result of the provision which makes excess payments of up to £15 to local housing allowance claimants where their rent is less than the local housing allowance rate applicable to their case may be as follows:

	Estimated cost of excess (£ million)
2008-09	60
2009-10	160
2010-11	240

It is important to note that these estimates are subject to a number of assumptions and estimates are sensitive to small changes in these assumptions.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the amount of local housing allowance paid to tenants since April 2008 which has not been paid to landlords; and if he will make a statement. [253755]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The information is not yet available.

Incapacity Benefit: Forest of Dean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Forest of Dean constituency claiming incapacity benefit in respect of *(a)* mental and *(b)* physical impairments. [254526]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Forest of Dean constituency by mental or physical impairment—May 2008

	Number
Mental impairments	1,180
Physical impairments	1,830

Notes

1. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so, for example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on grounds of mental or behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

2. Mental impairments are defined as organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders (F00-F09), mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (F10-F19), schizophrenia, scizotypal and delusional disorders (F20-F29), mood affective disorders (F30-F39), neurotic, stress related and somatoform disorders (F40-F48), behavioural syndromes associated with physiological disturbances and physical factors (F50-F59), disorders of adult personality and behaviour (F60-F69), mental retardation (F70-F79), disorders of psychological development (F80-F89), behavioural and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence (F90-F98) and unspecified mental disorder (F99). All other medical conditions are included in the physical impairments category.

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Mortgage Relief

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals have received support for mortgage interest in respect of mortgages taken out after October 2005 in each year since 2005-06; [253763]

(2) what his Department's net expenditure on mortgage interest support for those on income support with mortgages taken out after October 2005 has been in each year since 2005-06. [253766]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report,* columns 765-6W, on the Post Office card account, on what basis it was decided that the financial details of the contract will remain commercially confidential. [254963]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The financial details of the contract are subject to the normal principles of commercial confidentiality. It would not therefore be appropriate to make this public as this information relates to the commercial interest of the Department and Post Office Ltd.

Poverty: Children

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Department's estimate is of the number and proportion of children who were *(a)* in poverty and whose parents were out of work and *(b)* who had moved out of poverty as a result of their parents moving into work in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [242185]

Kitty Ussher: The information on the number and proportion of children who were in poverty and whose parents were out of work is shown in the following table.

Number and risk of children living in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income whose parents are working age and not in work, before housing costs, United Kingdom

	Number (million)	*Proportion (percentage)*
2002-03	1.6	64
2003-04	1.5	61
2004-05	1.4	58
2005-06	1.4	58
2006-07	1.4	61

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey and Low Income Dynamics data, sourced from the British Household Panel Survey.

2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for households below average income figures is single financial years.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using OECD equalisation factors.

6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children and proportions have been rounded to the nearest per cent.

7. Children have been counted as being in workless families where they are in lone parent families where the parent does not work or in couple families where both parents do not work.

8. Parents have been counted as being of working age if at least one is of working age (i.e. 64 or below for men, 59 or below for women).

Source:

Households Below Average Income

Information on the number and proportion of children who had moved out of poverty as a result of their parents moving into work is not available. Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue with many different factors acting at the same time in moving individuals into or out of poverty.

The risk of a child being in a low income household in the United Kingdom in 2006-07 where one or more adult works is much lower at 14 per cent. than for children in workless families, where the equivalent proportion is 61 per cent. as shown in the table. Data from the Low Income Dynamics publication illustrate that an increase in the number of workers or full-time workers in a family with children greatly increases the likelihood of that household moving out of low income. The Low Income Dynamics paper is available in the Library.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid by his Department in subsistence payments to offenders on the end of custody licence scheme. [254027]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1175-76W.

Unemployed

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many economically inactive people of working age wanted employment in each of the last five years. [254493]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many economically inactive people of working age wanted employment in each of the last five years. (254493)

The information requested is provided in the attached table. The estimates are consistent with those published in Table 13 of the Labour Market Statistics First Release Historical Supplement, which is available on the National Statistics website via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economically inactive people[1] of working age[2] who want a job—three month period ending November, 2004 to 2008—United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Total (thousand)
2004	2,016
2005	2,053
2006	2,102
2007	2,093
2008[3]	*2,102

[1] Economically inactive people are neither in employment nor unemployed. The number of economically inactive people who want a job comprises: those who have not been looking for work in the last four weeks but who say that they would like to have a regular paid job; plus, those that have been looking for work but who were unable to start work within two weeks.

[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Vacancies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies there were in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [254271]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many job vacancies there were in (a) Vale of York constituency, (b) North Yorkshire and (c) England in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. (254271)

The Office for National Statistics estimates the number of vacancies from the Vacancy Survey, but estimates below UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of information on job vacancies is administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey; however geographical breakdowns of this data are available.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of live unfilled job vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus for the Vale of York constituency, North Yorkshire and England in December of 2006, 2007 and 2008. Figures from Jobcentre Plus for Great Britain, along with three month averages for the UK from the Vacancy Survey have also been included for comparison.

Table 1: Number of job vacancies[1] reported in Vale of York parliamentary constituency, North Yorkshire, England and Great Britain, compared with estimates of total vacancies in UK

Not seasonally adjusted

	Vale of York	*North Yorkshire*	*England*	*Great Britain*
December 2006	478	3,007	264,618	308,414

Table 1: Number of job vacancies[1] reported in Vale of York parliamentary constituency, North Yorkshire, England and Great Britain, compared with estimates of total vacancies in UK

				Not seasonally adjusted
	Vale of York	*North Yorkshire*	*England*	*Great Britain*
December 2007	1,079	4,086	342,840	394,904
December 2008	477	2,154	238,385	271,011

[1] Job vacancies for Vale of York, North Yorkshire, England and Great Britain are live unfilled vacancies from the Jobcentre Plus administrative data. The GB totals are much lower than the UK figures from the ONS Vacancy Survey.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative Data

	Seasonally adjusted
	UK
October to December 2006	603,000
October to December 2007	676,000
September to November 2008	562,000

Source: Vacancy Survey, ONS

Vacancies: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies in the East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [254291]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many job vacancies there are in East Riding of Yorkshire. (254291)

The Office for National Statistics estimates the number of vacancies from the Vacancy Survey, but estimates below UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of information on job vacancies is administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey; however geographical breakdowns of this data are available.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of live unfilled job vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus for the East Riding of Yorkshire in December 2008. Figures from Jobcentre Plus for Great Britain, along with three month averages for the UK from the Vacancy Survey have also been included for comparison.

Table 1: Number of job vacancies[1] recorded in the East Riding of Yorkshire and Great Britain, compared with UK total estimate

	Not seasonally adjusted	
	East Riding of Yorkshire	*Great Britain*
December 2008	650	271,011

[1] Job vacancies for East Riding of Yorkshire and Great Britain are live unfilled vacancies from the Jobcentre Plus administrative data. These are not consistent with the UK estimate of total vacancies, from the ONS Vacancy Survey.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative Data

	Seasonally adjusted—UK
September to November 2008	562,000

Source:

Vacancy Survey, ONS

Vocational Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government has taken to provide training opportunities for people aged over 25 years. [253247]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

People aged over 25 are eligible for all Government supported training for adults including apprenticeships. 27,200 adults aged 25 and over started an apprenticeship in 2007-08 and 16,800 between August and October in 2008-09. The Government are currently investing £4.5 billion in adult skills, through Train to Gain, Skills for Life and other work related training. There is now a legal right for all adults to get training up to national vocational qualification level 2 if they do not already have a qualification at this level.

The Department is also working with DWP to create a joined up employment and skills system that gives low-skilled and unemployed adults the skills and support they need to find sustained employment. The Employability Skills Programme has been designed to meet the complex needs of Jobcentre Plus customers, and Local Employment Partnerships aim to open up opportunities for people on benefits who are often overlooked in the labour market. The Government are making a reality of our commitment to integrate the employment and skills systems. The aim is that all of those out of work will get the help they need to address their skills needs, find employment and progress in work through continued skills development.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions those living within the postcodes BB1, BB4, BB5 and BB6 areas have qualified for cold weather payments since 1 October 2008. [251195]

Kitty Ussher: A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer if the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode.

Eligible customers living in the postcodes BB1, BB4, BB5 and BB6 have qualified for cold weather payments twice since 1 October 2008 (based on the temperature criterion having been met up to 28 January 2009).

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions people living in postcode areas BB18, BB8 and BB9 have qualified for cold weather payments since 1 October 2008. [251703]

Kitty Ussher: A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer if the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode.

Eligible customers living in the postcodes BB18, BB8 and BB9 have qualified for cold weather payments twice since 1 October 2008 (based on the temperature criterion having been met up to 28 January 2009).

Winter Fuel Payments: Maladministration

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of cold weather payments have been paid in error in each year since the introduction of cold weather payments, broken down by reasons for error; and at what cost to the public purse the payments were made. [249448]

Kitty Ussher: Cold weather payments commenced in November 1988 but records are available only from the year 1999-2000 onwards.

While we do not hold the exact information requested in the PQ, the Department is able to provide summarised information that was reported in the Department for Work and Pensions Accounts from 1999-2000 to 2007-08 inclusive. During this period, cold weather payments totalling £87.382 million were paid out with £2,155.00 reported as being overpaid and the amount written off falling just below £1,000.00

The value of error in each year since 1999-2000

£

	Value of new cold weather payment overpayments	*Value of new cold weather payment overpayment write-offs in year*
1999-2000	450.00	0.00
2000-01	258.50	8.50
2001-02	322.00	221.00
2002-03	1,067.50	416.50
2003-04	0	263.50
2004-05	34.00	17.00
2005-06	17.00	25.50
2006-07	17.00	17.00
2007-08	117.00	0.00
Total	2,155.00	969.00

Note:

Amounts may not be written off in the year in which the error occurs.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading West of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 594W, on vocational training: finance, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of learners aged 25 years and over in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [254451]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The target audience for the Skills for Life strategy is adults in England with literacy and/or numeracy skills below Level 2 and this includes learners aged 25 years and over. The increase in the number of Skills for Life (literacy, language and numeracy) learners aged 25 years and over (and in all other age groups) in 2004-05 and 2005-06 was part of our Skills for Life strategy to improve the basic skills of 2.25 million adults between 2001 and 2010.

The strategy is based around boosting demand, ensuring capacity, raising standards and increasing learner achievement. The boosting demand element included work with employers to raise awareness of the issue and the successful 'Get On' campaign to encourage individuals to improve their skills. DIUS is refreshing its Skills for Life strategy and will soon be publishing a delivery document.

Apprentices

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of apprenticeships there were in the public sector at 1 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [255511]

Mr. Simon: In Quarter 3 2008, there were just under 10,000 people of working age[1] studying towards an apprenticeship in the public sector. This represents around 7 per cent. of those working age people in England studying towards an apprenticeship.

These data are taken from the most recent quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) which covers the period July to September (2008). Data up to 31 December 2008 will be available from 11 February.

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59

Apprentices: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* training places will be made available for the people in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the next 12 months. [252552]

Mr. Simon: Information on projected apprenticeship volumes is available at national level only.

Table 1 shows FE and Skills participation for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland local authorities in 2007/08, the latest year for which we have fully audited information. This information is also available on the Data Service website, and was released alongside the post-16 education statistical first release, which was published on 18 December 2008:

www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics

This information by parliamentary constituency is not available.

Table 1: FE and skills participation, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland local authorities, 2007/08 (provisional)

	Age		
Local authority	*16-18*	*19+*	*All learners*
Middlesbrough	4,400	10,600	15,000
Redcar and Cleveland	4,800	12,000	16,900

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. These figures include FE, University for Industry, WBL (including apprenticeships, Entry to Employment), Train to Gain and Adult Safeguarded Learning.
3. Final 2007/08 data will be published in March 2009.
4. This table uses learner volumes as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year.
5. Learners that are included in different data collections e.g. a learner undertaking an apprenticeship and a Train to Gain qualification, will be counted twice in this table.
6. Age is calculated based upon age as at 31 August of the academic year.
7. Local authority is based on the learner's home postcode.

Cumbria University: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much funding his Department has provided to help establish and develop the University of Cumbria; [255035]

(2) how much funding his Department is making available to continue the development of the University of Cumbria over the next three years. [255036]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has provided £10.3 million through its Strategic Development Fund to establish the University of Cumbria over a period of four years from 2007-08. In addition the university has received annual grant funding of £18,864,672 in 2007-08, and £19,584,615 in 2008-09. Grant allocations for 2009-10 will be announced by HEFCE in March.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 527W, and pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1055W, on departmental air travel, if he will place in the Library the figures for the distance of air travel carbon offset in 2007-08 for his Department, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short-haul and *(c)* long-haul flights. [250571]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of the machinery of government changes in June 2007. The Department's predecessors DfES (now DCSF—Department for Children Schools and Families) and DTI (now BERR—Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) provide travel bookings for DIUS. The number of air miles used to calculate the departmental payment for the 2007-08 for DIUS provided by BERR was:

	Miles
(a) Domestic	27,500
(b) Short haul	140,286
(c) Long haul	285,096

The number of air miles used to calculate the departmental payment for 2007-08 for DIUS provided by DCSF was included in the DCSF return because figures could not be separated for this period. To separate this data would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department since its inception; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251376]

Mr. Simon: From our records, the following ICT projects have been initiated by the Department and its agencies. Only projects where either the initial estimated or outturn cost is greater than £200,000 have been listed.

Project	*(a) Initial estimated cost*	*(b) Initial delivery date*	*(i) outturn cost*	*(ii) completion date*	*Contractors*	*Total paid (£)*
DIUS UnITE Project (ICT services contract)	1,700,000	February 2008	1,700,000	February 2008	Fujitsu	1,700,000
DIUS website redevelopment	425,000	March 2009	n/a	n/a	Atticmedia	38,000
					Edesery	Nil
Patents Electronic Case File System	3,000,000	March 2008	3,100,000	March 2008	n/a	3,100,000
Fast Track Trade Mark Application	290,000	April 2008	270,000	April 2008	n/a	270,000

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248079]

Mr. Simon: Since 1 January 2008, one Minister in the Department has taken foreign language lessons.

For employees in the Department, the Professional Skills for Government framework sets out the skills and expertise needed in their job including the flexibility to specify foreign language skills where that is relevant. Costs for individual training are arranged locally for employees as part of their learning and development, and are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much is planned to be spent by *(a)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* his Department on advertising apprenticeships in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [254375]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has been responsible for promoting apprenticeships since it came into existence in April 2001.

Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 64,000 with only 27 per cent. completions to last year's record high of 225,000 with 64 per cent. completions, a remarkable achievement. This shows the huge demand for apprenticeships which is why we are examining every possible opportunity to create more apprenticeships which offer hope and real career opportunities for young people and adults.

The LSC plan to spend £2,845,439 nationally in 2008-09 on media advertising (excluding VAT and Central Office of Information fees). Planned advertising spend at regional level is not readily available. The national advertising campaign fronted by Sir Alan Sugar will run throughout February and March. I am pleased that Sir Alan has offered his time free of charge to support the Apprenticeships campaign. Planned advertising spend for 2009-10 has not yet been confirmed.

The Department and the Department of Children, Schools and Families have allocated funds to the LSC for marketing. The Department has no plans to spend money directly on advertising apprenticeships in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254058]

Mr. Simon: DIUS immediate priority is to provide real help to support individuals and businesses through these challenging economic times.

Ministers and officials have regular and frequent engagements with outside organisations including relevant Government Departments, our delivery partners, businesses and other stakeholders on a wide range of issues relating to the current economic situation.

Educational Institutions: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what capital budget for rebuilding colleges has been allocated for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [255281]

Mr. Simon: In "Our Statement of Priorities—Better skills, Better jobs, Better Lives", published in November 2007, it was stated that we will invest £2.3 billion between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to ensure that colleges have world-class buildings.

The original annual capital grant allocations to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) were set out as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	694
2009-10	820
2010-11	850

These figures include the total LSC capital budget which includes funding for both 16 to 19-year-olds and adults.

However, as announced in the last pre-Budget report, investment of £110 million for 2009-10 has been brought forward into 2008-09, and a further £110 million for 2010-11 has been brought forward into 2009-10. This is in support of this Government's actions to help beat the current global economic downturn.

The revised annual capital grant allocations to the LSC are subsequently as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	804
2009-10	820
2010-11	740

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to bring forward capital expenditure on colleges to the year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [255282]

Mr. Simon: As announced in the last pre-Budget report, investment of £110 million for 2009-10 has been brought forward into 2008-09, and a further £110 million for 2010-11 has been brought forward into 2009-10.

This accelerated funding will be spent to bring forward building works, benefiting learners and regenerating communities, and will help us beat the current global economic downturn.

Employment: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of parents aged between 16 and 19 years in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough, *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(d)* England were in education, employment or training at the latest date for which figures are available. [254020]

Mr. Simon: The proportion of mothers aged between 16 and 19 years in education, employment or training in England in 2006-08 was 32.9 per cent. (source: Labour Force Survey sample, 2008). Data are averaged over three years because of small sample sizes and do not include information on the proportion of fathers aged between 16 and 19 participating in education, employment or training.

The proportion of parents aged 16 to 19 in education, employment or training in December 2008 in the ceremonial county of Hampshire was 33.7 per cent. and in the three authorities, comprising the ceremonial county, as follows: the administrative county of Hampshire 34.6 per cent.; Portsmouth 42.5 per cent.; Southampton 29.2 per cent. (source: Connexions Client Information System—CCIS). This information is not reported for borough council areas in county authorities.

Further Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which further education colleges were required to halt their building programmes as a result of decisions taken at the Learning and Skills Council's December 2008 board meeting. [254342]

Mr. Simon: In 1997 the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding they require are becoming increasingly ambitious. In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making future funding decisions. As a result of this the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—have been deferred from December to March.

However, the 253 colleges that have been given approval in detail and either have work already under way or have been previously been given the final go ahead for works to begin will not be affected, although the LSC will be in touch in due course to check progress.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the indirect costs potentially payable by each further education college as a result of the Learning and Skills Council's decision to halt building programmes between December 2008 and March 2009. [254385]

Mr. Simon: In 1997 the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England was nil.

Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years. Currently more than 250 projects are under way and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC)—helped by the recent decision to accelerate £110 million in 2008-09 from future budgets to help beat the downturn.

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the administration of the further education capital budget. While the LSC does provide some support to colleges for the costs associated with developing their projects, as independent providers, colleges themselves are responsible for the management and financing of their capital projects. As a result, the Department does not collect information regarding any potential indirect costs colleges may or may not incur during the life of a capital project. However, the LSC is currently working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what processes are in place to enable the Learning and Skills Council to prevent the halting of a further education college building project from resulting in significantly higher long-term costs. [254969]

Mr. Simon: The total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

Currently more than 250 projects are under way and funded by the LSC—helped by the recent decision to accelerate £110 million in 2008-09 from future budgets to help beat the downturn.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding they require are becoming increasingly ambitious.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the LSC will be working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids to assess the whole programme before making further funding decisions. The LSC have yet to provide a full analysis of all of those schemes but this will include the impact of the current position on all affected projects.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on whether building projects halted as a result of decisions taken at the Learning and Skills Council's December 2008 board meeting are expected to restart following the March board meeting. [254970]

Mr. Simon: In 1997-98, the total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

In total, since the programme began under this Government, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed. Only 42 colleges have not yet benefited from investment. The programme has therefore been a huge success.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding they require are becoming increasingly ambitious.

It is for this reason that over the next few weeks the LSC will be working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids to look at the individual current positions before making future funding decisions. As a result, consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision by the LSC National Council where deferred from December to March.

At the March meeting of the LSC National Council it will decide when it can make a decision on the small number of applications that were deferred from December to March. It will also advise on when and on what basis it will consider other capital applications.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to reimburse further education colleges for the interest they pay on money borrowed to finance their capital programmes; and if he will make a statement. [254013]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997, this Government has invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years. In total, since the programme began, nearly 700 projects at 330 colleges have been agreed.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) administers the further education capital budget on behalf of the Department.

The LSC, through its approval process, agrees an appropriate level of capital grant support based upon a range of factors including the affordability of the proposal to the college.

Further Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of Learning and Skills Council-funded further education provision in the academic years *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 has been allocated to non-UK nationals. [254169]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Table 1 shows the number of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded learners undertaking further education provision (further education colleges, University for Industry and work-based learning) in 2007-08, split by whether the learner is UK or non-UK domiciled.

To be eligible for LSC funding an individual needs to satisfy the residency criteria set out in LSC Learner Eligibility Guidance. In general, this means that they need to have been lawfully living in the UK, European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) for the three years prior to the start of their course.

2007/08 is the latest year for which we have fully-audited information across all learning routes. We do not currently hold information on country of domicile for adult safeguarded learning or Train to Gain.

Around 1 per cent. of learners in further education (FE, University for Industry, WBL) were non-UK domiciled in 2007/08. Non-UK domiciled learners will include those from the EU and EEA.

Table 1: LSC-funded further education (further education colleges, University for Industry, work-based learning) in 2007/08, by whether the learner is UK or non-UK domiciled

	Number of learners
UK domiciled learners	3,093,000
Non-UK domiciled learners	34,000
Not known	3,000

Notes:

1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. This information is based on country of domicile—institutions are advised that the country of domicile field should be treated as a self-assessment field and reflect the country where the learner was ordinarily resident for the three years preceding the start of their programme.
3. These figures include FE colleges, University for Industry and WBL (including apprenticeships and entry to employment).
4. Information on country of domicile is not currently available for Train to Gain and Adult Safeguarded Learning.
5. Final 2007/08 data will be published in March 2009.
6. This table uses learner volumes as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year.
7. Learners that are included in different data collections e.g. a learner undertaking an apprenticeship and a Train to Gain qualification, will be counted twice in this table.

Further Education: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to implement salary structures for lecturers in further education institutions equivalent to those for teachers in the maintained sector. [255816]

Mr. Simon: There are no plans to implement a salary structure for lecturers in further education institutions. This is a matter for FECs themselves, as independent organisations and employers of their own staff.

Higher Education: Admissions

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many school students from Leeds West constituency went on to higher education in each academic year since 2001. [255467]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the following table. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year were released on 29 January 2009. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

18 and 19-year-old entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Leeds West parliamentary constituency[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic year 2001/02 to 2007/08

Academic year	Number
2001/02	140
2002/03	145
2003/04	185
2004/05	170
2005/06	180
2006/07	195

18 and 19-year-old entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Leeds West parliamentary constituency[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic year 2001/02 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Number*
2007/08	180

[1] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Students have been allocated to Leeds West constituency based on the home postcode reference recorded on the HESA student record. Some of these students may not have attended schools in the Leeds West constituency.

[3] Excludes the Open university as they recorded the number of entrants incorrectly in the 2004/05 academic year.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many university entrance applications were received from applicants in the lowest three socio-economic groupings in the academic years *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2004-05 and *(e)* 2003-04; [254188]

(2) how many applicants from the lowest three socio-economic groupings were awarded places at university in the academic years *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2004-05 and *(e)* 2003-04. [254189]

Mr. Lammy: The information is shown in the following tables:

English domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS by socio-economic groups 5-7 2003/04 to 2007/08

	SEG 5-7
2003/04	65,332
2004/05	65,793
2005/06	71,266
2006/07	65,579
2007/08	71,631

Source:

UCAS

English domiciled applicants who were accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS by socio-economic groups 5-7 2003/04 to 2007/08

	SEG 5-7
2003/04	52,370
2004/05	52,340
2005/06	56,602
2006/07	51,916
2007/08	56,029

Note:

The categories of socio-economic groups 5-7 are:; 5 Lower supervisory and technical occupations; 6 Semi-routine occupations; 7 Routine occupations.

Source:

UCAS

For the academic years recorded in the tables, for those aged up to 20, UCAS recorded socio-economic class based on the applicant's parent's occupation; for those aged 21 and over, the applicant's socio-economic class was based on their own occupation.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the Learning and Skills Council's December 2008 board meeting. [254389]

Mr. Simon: The publication of the minutes of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) National Council meetings are an operational issue. Decisions about their publication are therefore a matter for the LSC. The LSC publishes a summary of its council minutes on their website. A summary of all meetings, including the December meeting, can be found at

www.lsc.gov.uk.

Learning and Skills Council: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the capital budget of the Learning and Skills Council is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [254382]

Mr. Simon: In Our Statement of Priorities—Better skills, Better jobs, Better lives, published in November 2007, it was stated that we will invest £2.3 billion between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to ensure that colleges have world-class buildings.

The original annual capital grant allocations to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) were set out as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
2008-09	694
2009-10	820
2010-11	850

These figures include the total LSC capital budget which includes funding for both 16 to 19-year-olds and adults.

However, as announced in the last pre-Budget report, investment of £110 million for 2009-10 has been brought forward into 2008-09, and a further £110 million for 2010-11 has been brought forward into 2009-10. This is in support of this Government's actions to help beat the current global economic downturn.

The revised annual capital grant allocations to the LSC are subsequently as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
2008-09	804
2009-10	820
2010-11	740

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much Learning and Skills Council capital spending has been brought forward *(a)* from 2009-10 to 2008-09 and *(b)* from 2010-11 to 2009-10. [254384]

Mr. Simon: As announced in the last pre-Budget report, investment of £110 million for 2009-10 has been brought forward into 2008-09, and a further £110 million for 2010-11 has been brought forward into 2009-10.

This accelerated funding will be spent to bring forward building works, benefiting learners and regenerating communities, and will help us beat the current global economic downturn.

Postgraduate Education

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will increase the funding available for students from poorer backgrounds to pursue postgraduate studies. [255307]

Mr. Lammy: This Government acknowledge the value of postgraduate studies. However, we have to prioritise the funding available. Our priority is to ensure that finance is no barrier to students achieving a first degree: that is why statutory student support is concentrated on undergraduates.

However, there are also a number of measures in place to help people finance postgraduate studies. For example, we recently announced proposals to reposition career development loans as a key additional source of support to help people finance learning, as new professional and career development loans (PCDLs). PCDLs will offer more people the opportunity to reskill and improve their employment prospects by offering more generous terms for the learner, such as loans up to £10,000 and lower interest rates.

Funding may also be available for individuals through the Access to Learning Fund (ALF). The fund allows universities and colleges to provide extra discretionary support for students in particular need; it is administered directly by universities and colleges, which are best placed to assess students' circumstances.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment the Government *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make of the effects of (i) the recession and (ii) restricted availability of credit on the number of UK students wishing to study at postgraduate level; [254953]

(2) what steps the Government plans to take to maintain numbers of students wishing to study at postgraduate level in the current economic climate; [254954]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on postgraduate students of private finance providers being *(a)* unwilling and *(b)* not required to make binding funding commitments for the duration of courses in the current economic situation; [254955]

(4) what steps his Department takes to assist postgraduate students not eligible for career development loans whose financial support is withdrawn part-way through their course; [254957]

(5) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on levels of financial assistance for postgraduate students from *(a)* employers, *(b)* private companies providing loans and *(c)* banks. [254958]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are determined to ensure that finance is no barrier to going to university. Having a degree remains one of the best pathways to a rewarding career: employers prize the highly-developed skills and talents that graduates bring to their businesses. Going to university is an investment for the future, with graduates benefiting over their lifetime from their decision to go into higher education. The Government's priority is to assist students to achieve a first degree. That is why statutory student support is concentrated on undergraduates.

No matter what the short-term outlook for the economy, it is sensible for individuals to look at how they can fulfil their potential—and for many that means postgraduate study. The number studying at postgraduate level have increased by 27 per cent. in the last decade. The Government continue to promote the importance of higher level skills and supports excellence in higher education, including through providing significant funding for internationally acclaimed research activity through the various research councils which support postgraduate study. In the decade since 1997, the Government's support for the UK research base has risen from £1.3 billion to £3.4 billion.

It is up to individuals themselves to decide which private finance providers to select to fund their postgraduate study. To help learners tackle the challenges arising from the economic downturn, we recently announced proposals to reposition career development loans as a key additional source of support to help people finance learning, as new professional and career development loans (PCDLs). PCDLs will offer more people the opportunity to reskill and improve their employment prospects by offering more generous terms for the learner, such as loans up to £10,000 and lower interest rates.

Like career development loans, PCDLs will be commercial loans offered by participating banks and supported by the Government. The decision on which course the loan is used for, including who provides the course, lies with the individual and that is made clear to them before they take out a loan. The Government pay the interest on the loan during the period of study, after which the individual must repay the loan capital plus remaining interest in full. Deferred repayment terms are subject to the banks' loan policy.

Further Government funding may be available for individuals through the Access to Learning Fund (ALF). The fund allows universities and colleges to provide extra discretionary support for students in particular need; it is administered directly by universities and colleges, which are best placed to assess students' circumstances.

We continue to work closely with the higher education sector to monitor the impact of the current economic climate on students and institutions; and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are considering further measures to address the immediate needs of the economy, including funding for short courses which might lead to up-skilling.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Perfect Gift vouchers to help with the costs of further education have been sold *(a)* in each region and *(b)* by each college. [251128]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* The Perfect Gift scheme was launched as a pilot project in October 2007 in nine further education colleges across England (one college per Learning and Skills Council region). The following table sets out the number of gift vouchers sold by each of the participating colleges:

College	*Region*	*Number of vouchers sold*
Warwickshire College	West Midlands	18
New College Nottingham	East Midlands	1
College of North East London	London	0
Gateshead College	North East	0
West Herts College	East of England	0
York College	Yorks and Humberside	0
Blackpool and Fylde College	North West	0
Chichester College	South East	0
Filton College (Bristol)	South West	0
Total Take-up		19

Students: Loans

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that those with student loans taken out before 1998 receive a reduction in interest rates. [254269]

Mr. Lammy: The interest rate applicable to pre-1998 student loans is governed by the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 and the Student Loans (Regulations) 1998 which set out that for the period between 1 September and the following 31 August the interest rate is the daily rate which results in an APR equal to the RPI (retail price index). The interest rate used is the RPI for the preceding March. Setting the interest rate in this way ensures that borrowers, over time, repay in real terms only as much as they borrowed. Moreover, if a borrower's income falls below £25,936 per annum, they can apply for their repayments to be deferred.

Train to Gain Initiative

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent under the Train to Gain initiative on advertising in each month of the last 12 months; and how much he estimates will be so spent in the next six months. [250118][1]

Mr. Simon: National marketing and communications for Train to Gain is delivered by the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on behalf of the Department. Records indicate that during the period January to December 2008 total advertising expenditure excluding VAT was £4,092,266. There are no media costs for Jan 2009 and no projected media costs for February to March 2009. We are currently working with the LSC to develop a dedicated marketing and communications strategy for the financial year 2009-10.

Train To Gain Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the eligibility criteria regarding past academic achievement for individuals accessing the Train to Gain programme are; and if he will make a statement. [243555]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: All adults (aged 19 plus) in employment and volunteers can access Train to Gain regardless of previous academic qualifications.

For those without qualifications at level 2, full funding is available for a level 2 qualification. At Level 3, first full qualifications are fully funded for adult employees between 19-15 years of age and those who have not done a previous level 2. At Level 4, first full qualifications are fully funded for adults between the ages of 19-25 who have not done a previous Level 3. For others who already have a full level 2 and want to do another qualification above that level, some funding is available depending on individual circumstances. There are additional funding flexibilities available for SME employees and for employees in particular sectors through sector compacts.

Further detail on eligibility criteria can be found in the Train to Gain funding guidance at

www.lsc.gov.uk

Training: Journalism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve the level of skills and training of journalists, with particular reference to local journalists. [253109]

Mr. Simon: The Government work through Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) to improve the level of skills and training. Skillset is the SSC with responsibility for journalists.

Publishing joined Skillset's sector coverage in April 2008 and work was undertaken in the year to research the skills needs of the industry. This included a survey of the supply of training and educational provision. Further work is in progress on the development of the national occupational standards. There will be consultation with the industry this year on how to support skill levels, and agreement on a training strategy.

Skillset provide information on the providers offering courses and the skills needed to work across a variety of media, such as newspapers, journals and online content. For local journalists who are directly employed by local newspapers there are options for their employer to access training through Train to Gain.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many organisations provided skills brokerage services to employers under contracts with the Learning and Skills Council in 2007-08. [254348]

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[1] *[Official Report, 19 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 13MC.]*

Mr. Simon: In 2007-08 the Leaning and Skills Council contracted with 17 organisations to provide skills brokerage services to employers.

From April 2009 the Train to Gain skills brokerage service will be integrated with Business Link to provide an all-in-one service for employers as part of the Government's Business Support Simplification Programme.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of people who undertook Skills for Life training while on employer training pilot-funded provision have achieved qualifications. [254390]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The employer-training pilot ran from 2002 to 2006. In total, there were 45,300 Skills for Life learners on employer-training pilots (ETP). Of those learners, 32,500 (72 per cent.) achieved their qualification. This information is provided by the ETP database administered by the Learning and Skills Council.

Vocational Training: Car Industry

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what direct access to training schemes is available to car component firms. [253816]

Mr. Simon: Businesses in the automotive industry can access:

The core Train to Gain offer:

Full funding for:

Literacy and numeracy support at all levels;

First full level 2 qualifications (equivalent to five GCSEs(;

First full level 3 (equivalent to 2 A-levels) for 19-25 year olds and for people without a first level 2;

First level 4 for 19-25 year olds who do not already have a level 3;

Repeat level 2 qualifications in certain sector specific areas, through the sector compact.

Shared investment between the employer and Government for:

English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications at all levels;

Level 3 qualifications in certain sector specific areas, through the sector compact;

Apprenticeships.

In addition to quality-assured, impartial and independent advice from skills brokers which is available to those businesses who want help to identify skills needs at all levels, and to identify and source high quality, vocational skills training.

The SME flexibilities:

A new package of support to help the employees of small and medium sized businesses in the private and third sector:

Fully funded level 2 qualifications and subsidised level 3 qualifications, regardless of whether the employee already has a qualification at this level;

Bite sized courses in subjects demanded by businesses including: business improvement, business systems and processes, team working and communications, sales and marketing, IT User, IT support, customer service, new product design, finance and credit, cash flow and profit management, and risk management;

Funding for leadership and management training for businesses with five to 250 employees.

Pre-employment/redundancy flexibility:

Those who have been given notice of redundancy or who are coming back into work after unemployment can access full funding for level 2 qualifications and part funding for level 3 qualifications, regardless of whether they already have a qualification at this level, and irrespective of the size of employer they join. This is part of a wider Government package to help those made redundant during the economic downturn.

Both the SME and the pre-employment/redundancy flexibilities have been available since 2 January 2009.

To support the industry further we have agreed to boost the funding available through the sector compact from £65 million to £100 million. We will work with the sector to ensure this additional resource meets employers' priority skill needs.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Illegal Immigrants

13. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to remove illegal immigrants from the UK. [254649]

Mr. Woolas: The huge shake-up we have made to the immigration system is paying off. Our borders are tougher than ever before and we are removing record numbers of foreign law breakers.

In the three months to September 2008 around 17,500 people were removed. This included a 14 per cent. increase in non asylum removals—a group that includes foreign national prisoners.

Last year the UK Border Agency removed 5,000 foreign prisoners, a record performance that is nearly four times the number removed in 2005.

Drug-related Crime

14. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat drug-related crime. [254650]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A key indicator of the effectiveness of measures to combat drug-related crime is the Drug Harm Index; since 2002 this has fallen 28 per cent., representing a substantial fall in drug-related crime types.

Recorded acquisitive crime—to which drug-related crime makes a significant contribution—has fallen by a similar amount.

Criminal Activity: Dogs

16. **Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to prevent the use of dogs in criminal activity. [254652]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government require Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships/and Community Safety Partnership in Wales to identify local crime problems and to work in partnership to prioritise them. While DEFRA leads on dangerous dogs legislation, the police have a range of powers under this and other legislation to take action if dogs are being used in a criminal manner.

21. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to prevent the use of dogs in criminal activity. [254657]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government require crime and disorder reduction partnerships and community safety partnerships in Wales to identify local crime problems and to work in partnership to prioritise them. While DEFRA leads on dangerous dogs legislation, the police have a range of powers under this and other legislation to take action if dogs are being used in a criminal manner.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

17. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the work of the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [254653]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office receives a regular flow of representations on the operations of the IPCC on particular cases and occasionally, on general issues. The Home Office works closely with the IPCC to enable it to make a vital contribution to building public confidence and improving the police complaints system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many days the Independent Police Complaints Commission met in each of the last three years. [253014]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). A copy of your question has been sent to the IPCC and they will respond to you directly.

Forensic Science Service

18. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the future of the Forensic Science Service. [254654]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No recent representations have been received on the future of the Forensic Science Service.

Leave to Remain: Convictions Abroad

19. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK nationals convicted of murder in their countries of origin have been granted leave to remain in the UK in the last three years. [254655]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency works hand in hand with other Agencies, including the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, to ensure that the information required to prevent foreign criminals from entering or remaining in the UK is made available to those that need it.

We already have one of the toughest borders in the world and we are determined to ensure it stays that way.

We are expanding our watch-lists, working more closely with foreign Governments to share information, and speeding up the re-documentation of those being removed.

European Arrest Warrant

20. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of European arrest warrants. [254656]

Meg Hillier: Although there is no ministerial involvement in the EAW process, my officials and those agencies and services responsible for its operation continually review its effectiveness. Additionally, member states' operation of the EAW is subject to peer evaluation at EU level.

In 2007 (the last year for which figures are available), the UK extradited 320 people to other EU member states under the EAW. In the same period, 96 people were returned to the UK to stand trial or serve custodial sentences.

Counter-terrorism: West Midlands

22. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to improve counter-terrorism policing in the West Midlands. [254658]

Mr. Coaker: We have worked with Association of Chief Police Officers and west midlands police since 2004-05 to establish the Counter Terrorism Unit in Birmingham. It is one of three strategically located national assets that enhance the work of forces by providing co-ordination and specialist support to deliver our counter-terrorism strategy.

National DNA Database

23. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for serious crimes resulted from prosecutions which utilised DNA samples from the national DNA database in the last 12 months. [254659]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data are available on the number of detections with DNA, but not the number of prosecutions or convictions, by financial year. In 2007-08, 83 homicides and 184 rapes were detected in which a DNA match was available. Convictions are achieved through integrated criminal investigation so it is not possible to say whether the DNA match was the key factor in solving the crime.

24. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Information Commissioner on the length of time for which samples are held on the national DNA database. [254660]

Jacqui Smith: We will publish a Forensics White Paper later this year setting out how we propose to implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on 4 December 2008 in the case of S and Marper. Discussions with key stakeholders will take place ahead of publication.

Criminal Gangs

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to tackle the activities of criminal gangs. [254641]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since the Tackling Gangs Action Programme delivered a 51 per cent. drop in firearms-related injuries across four cities, we have committed a further £1.8 million for enforcement, risk management and prevention work; launched guidance to CPS, schools and parents; and plan to legislate to provide local areas with civil powers to manage gangs.

Departmental Spending

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what she expects the change in her Department's spending in real terms to be between 2008-09 and 2009-10. [254642]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office budget for 2008-09 is £9.8 billion, and in 2009-10 it will rise to £10.1 billion. This represents a real terms growth of 1.5 per cent.

Visa Applications

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the performance of her Department's commercial partners in carrying out work on visa applications. [254643]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency processes around 2.5 million visa applications a year.

Its commercial partners currently operate 106 visa application centres in 48 countries and assist with over 80 per cent. of all visa applications. They provide support services but play no part in decision making.

The performance of UKBA's commercial partners engaged in visa services is continually assessed by regional managers against contract service levels and other key performance indicators.

In addition, UKBA senior managers review a dedicated commercial partner balanced scorecard with senior executives from both companies on a bi-monthly basis.

Community Crime Fighters

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the first community crime fighters to receive training. [254651]

Mr. Coaker: 500 people have attended the first three community crime fighters one-day training courses, so far.

3,600 activists will go through community crime fighter training by the end of 2009.

Crime Prevention

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that police commanders co-operate with local authorities to maintain the effectiveness of local crime and disorder partnerships. [254639]

Mr. Coaker: The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Act places a statutory duty on the police and local authorities working with others in their local area to tackle local crime and disorder problems that matter to the public.

To further strengthen the delivery of effective partnership working, we will commence provisions for councillor call for action and crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committees in April 2009.

Detection Rates

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of crimes solved by each police officer was in England in 2007-08. [254691]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There were 1,373,933 recorded crimes detected by the police in 2007-08. There were 144,939 full time equivalent police officers as at 31 March 2008. Figures include the 43 police forces of England and Wales plus the British Transport Police.

On this basis, there were 9.5 detections per officer in 2007-08, although the real figure is likely to be much higher. This is because many officers are deployed on functions other than crime solving, and the detection total does not include non-notifiable crimes: that is, almost all summary offences.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 704W, on driving offences: insurance, how many cars were seized for insurance offences and not returned in 2008; how many were sold; and how much was raised from their sale. [255017]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally. Available information provided to the Motor Insurance Database indicates that in 2008 there were 185,000 vehicles seized by the police for being driven without appropriate insurance. The Motor Insurers' Information Centre, which is responsible for the database, indicated that in the preceding year about 40 per cent. of seized vehicles were subsequently destroyed or sold, rather than returned. The proceeds of disposal are paid to the vehicle owner, less any sums due in respect of removal and storage charges.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the level of acquisitive crime associated with drug addiction in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [247098]

Jacqui Smith: No annual estimates are made of the levels of acquisitive crime associated with drug addiction.

It is estimated that between a third and half of acquisitive crime is drug related. More recent government survey data points to the extent of acquisitive crime that is drug-related. For example, Home Office research has found that:

> 81 per cent. of arrestees who used heroin and/or crack cocaine (HC) on at least a weekly basis reported committing acquisitive crimes in the 12 months prior to arrest, in comparison to only 30 per cent. of those arrestees who did not take HC weekly.

Source:

> Table 5.4 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07.
>
> http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf
>
> Around two-fifths (39 per cent.) of drug treatment seekers reported committing an acquisitive crime in the four weeks prior to interview. This figure rose in the case of heroin and crack cocaine users, with 55 per cent. reporting that they committed an acquisitive crime in the four weeks before interview.
>
> *Source:*
>
> Home Office Research Report 3.
>
> http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr03b.pdf

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within her Department's responsibility. [254057]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have long-standing, sound systems and flexible policies in place to deal with crime. These have led to significant reductions: overall crime, as measured by the British Crime Survey, has fallen by 39 per cent. since 1997. They also mean that we are well placed to prevent future rises in crime. As the Association of Chief Police Officers pointed out in January, the police service has never been in a better and stronger position to meet challenges caused by the economic downturn.

The Government are not complacent about crime and are taking early action to ensure that crime stays down. Burglary is a crime that people worry about during hard times; there are good programmes in place to tackle burglary but the Government are rightly keen to explore what more can be done to support people to protect their homes. That is why the Home Secretary held a summit on 4 February with a number of public, private and voluntary sector partners, including leading DIY retailers, the police, local government colleagues, British insurance industry representatives, residential landlords, Age Concern and others to discuss further practical measures to support people, particularly the most vulnerable.

Identity and Passport Service: Data Protection

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in the Identity and Passport Service are authorised to access electronic files and databases relating to an individual's *(a)* immigration status, *(b)* asylum application and *(c)* passport application. [254446]

Meg Hillier: 15 Identity and Passport Service (IPS) staff have authorised access to an electronic database relating to an individual's immigrations status and asylum application. 2,964 IPS staff have access to the electronic passport application support system (PASS), which supports the processing of passport applications. In addition, 1,711 staff of Siemens IT Solutions and Services, who IPS contract to support and maintain PASS, have authorised access to this system.

All IPS and Siemens staff that have authorised access have been subject to the relevant background checks and hold the appropriate security clearance in accordance with current Home Office policy.

Access is limited to staff who have a legitimate business need and is strictly controlled.

Identity Cards: Fees and Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue is expected to be generated by fees, including charging for taking biometric information, for *(a)* identity cards and *(b)* biometric passports in each of the next 10 years. [243530]

Jacqui Smith: The fees and charges strategy for the next 10 years is still being developed and so the fee revenue for identity cards and biometric passports for each of the next 10 years is not available at this stage. Fee revenue from ID cards and biometric passports will be set to recover the operational resource costs incurred in delivering the products and the fees will be set so that the provision of both identity cards and biometric passports will be self financing for the Identity and Passport Service.

The exact price customers will be charged for a digital photo plus recording of fingerprints will be determined by the market, through commercial competition. So the total fee revenue for taking biometric information is not yet known at this stage.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Costs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the Independent Police Complaints Commission was of dealing with a complaint in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [253016]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information. This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). A copy of your question has been sent to the IPCC and they will respond to you direct.

Interception of Communications Commissioner

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable for the publication of the *(a)* Interception of Communications Commissioner's Report for 2007 and *(b)* Intelligence Services Commissioner's Report for 2007 is. [253780]

Mr. Coaker: The Interception of Communications Commissioner's Report for 2007 and the Intelligence Services Commissioner's Report for 2007 were published on 22 July 2008 and presented to Parliament by The Prime Minister as required under sections 58(6) and 60(4) respectively of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply to the letter of 8 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs A. Rehman; [247850]

(2) when she plans to reply to the letter of 8 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs A. Rehman. [250860]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 19 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 7 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr Faqir Hussain. [247851]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 19 January 2009.

Passports

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the contribution to the local urban economy of passport offices; and if she will make a statement. [253669]

Meg Hillier: While there has been no formal economic assessment, there is likely to have been some beneficial impact on the local economy of establishing passport offices and interview offices in multiple separate locations throughout the UK.

Passports: Manpower

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in each passport office; what her Department's projections are of future staff numbers in each such office; and if she will make a statement. [253671]

Meg Hillier: IPS currently employs the following number of FTEs (full-time equivalent) per regional passport office and the forecasted FTEs for end March 2009:

Regional office	*Currently employed FTEs*	*Forecasted FTEs end March 2009*
Belfast	155	150
Durham	520	584
Glasgow	143	115
Liverpool	332	365
London	246	236
Newport	286	291
Peterborough	418	411
Total regional office FTEs	2,101	2,152

Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition her Department uses of front line duties in determining how police officer time is allocated. [253687]

Jacqui Smith: The front line policing measure was based on the proportion of police officer time engaged in frontline activities. It was introduced to cover the period from April 2004 until March 2008. In line with the Government's drive to reduce police bureaucracy and to remove centrally imposed top down targets (except one on improved levels of public confidence), the measure has been discontinued.

Police Custody

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police station cells in England were closed for health and safety reasons in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* police authority; how many are scheduled for closure; and how many are under review; [254144]

(2) what timescale has been estimated for closure of all police station cells which have been classed as unsuitable to house detainees on health and safety grounds; [254145]

(3) whether police authorities have access to additional grant funding to cover the cost of providing replacement police cells for those closed on health and safety grounds; [254146]

(4) what police cell closures have taken place in the Central Division of Cambridgeshire constabulary in each of the last five years; and what cell provision is planned. [254164]

Mr. Coaker: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and chief constable, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Demonstrations

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for each of the demonstrations about Gaza and Israel held since 1 January 2009, how many police were injured; what damage to police vehicles took place; and what the cost of policing was; and if she will make a statement. [248609]

Mr. Coaker: Information provided by the Metropolitan Police Service is that to date police officers have reported 55 assaults by protestors and nine police vehicles have been damaged. The Metropolitan Police Service estimates that the total cost of the policing operation, between 29 December 2008 and 24 January 2009, is £2.7 million.

Police: Electronic Surveillance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the police remotely accessed personal computers *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* outside the UK without the owner's consent in each of the last five years; under what powers this remote searching took place in each case; and if she will make a statement. [247112]

Jacqui Smith: Police investigations are independent of Government and there is no requirement on the police to report to Government authorisations made under the relevant legislation. That is, under Part III of the Police Act 1997 that provides lawful authority for police interference with property.

Part III of the Act is overseen by the Chief Surveillance Commissioner whose Annual Report is laid before the House and can be found on the internet at:

http://www.surveillancecommissioners.gov.uk

Police: Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs each police force in England and Wales incurred on *(a)* translation and *(b)* interpretation between Welsh and English in each year since 2000. [254199]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the Chief Constable and the Police Authority for each force concerned.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences of supply of illegal and counterfeit tobacco were recorded in each police authority area in each of the last five years; [253970]

(2) how many *(a)* charges and *(b)* prosecutions were brought for offences relating to the supply of illegal and counterfeit tobacco in each of the last five years. [253973]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

The following table shows the number of cases brought and the number of criminals sentenced for tobacco offences in each of the last five years.

	Cases brought	*Number of people sentenced*
2003-04	—	429
2004-05	—	204
2005-06	—	262
2006-07	237	299
2007/08	192	290

Tackling Knives Action Programme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether any of the search wands allocated to the Tackling Knives Action Programme were redeployed from other uses; [252151]

(2) whether any of the search arches allocated to the Tackling Knives Action Programme were redeployed from other uses; [252153]

(3) how many new search wands her Department has purchased in each of the last 10 months; [252114]

(4) how many new search arches her Department has purchased in each of the last 10 months. [252115]

Jacqui Smith: As part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme, the Home Office provided funding for the purchase of additional search arches and wands, supplying a total of 85 arches and 589 wands for the TKAP police forces. These commitments were over and above any equipment already available to TKAP forces and did not involve any redeployment of equipment. It is not possible to break this down by month.

In addition, prior to the establishment of the TKAP, the Home Office separately provided police forces in England and Wales with a total of 100 portable search arches and 400 wands to support search operations.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were declared bankrupt in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each year since 1997. [251097]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley and *(c)* Hampshire in each year from 2000 to 2007, derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1,2]. Earlier years figures are not available.

[1] Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Table 1

Number

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Southampton	68	89	99	125	199	274	359	371
Test Valley	41	30	46	65	73	91	139	113
Hampshire	432	430	482	634	872	1,154	1,491	1,352

Beer: Prices

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Pubcos on beer pricing. [253986]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* I have not met with Pubcos to discuss beer pricing. This is a commercial matter for the businesses concerned.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funds his Department provides to assist companies to attend trade fairs for the purpose of new business development. [253321]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment provides grant support for small and medium sized enterprises to exhibit at overseas trade fairs under the Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP). Grants are set at £1,000, £1,400 or £1,800 depending on the exhibition. From 1 April 2009 the support limit has been raised so that an eligible business may receive up to six grants in its lifetime (the previous limit was three). Details of TAP support are on the UKTI website at:

http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/tap

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 561W, on departmental buildings, what *(a)* works and *(b)* refurbishments were carried out in each Minister's office in each of the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each. [252382]

Mr. McFadden: The previous answer referred to by the hon. Member included spend incurred in August 2007 following refurbishments resulting from Machinery of Government changes. The following information therefore dates back to August 2007.

The following costs relate to the Department's accommodation refurbishments for both Ministers and their outer offices:

August 2007: £36,643.

May 2008: £352;

June 2008: £263,991 (included major demolition, construction and redecoration work to standardise and 'future proof' offices should ministerial numbers increase in future;

July 2008: £11,016;

September 2008: £19,958.

January 2009: £57,040.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which his Department has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [241352]

Mr. McFadden: Information for 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 for the Department, its predecessor and its agencies can be found on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Stress, mental health and behavioural disorders all fall within the category of 'mental and behavioural disorders'.

For years prior to 2004, sickness absence data is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

India: EU External Trade

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the EU/India free trade agreement under negotiation includes provision for movement of workers from India into the UK. [253508]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* We would expect the chapter on international trade in services in an EU/India Free Trade Agreement to include provisions on the temporary movement of highly-skilled professionals both from India to the UK and from the UK to India.

At this point, FTA negotiations with India generally are at an early stage. Negotiations on services are at a very early stage and there has been no exchange of offers in services.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of 18 to 21 year olds in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment are being paid the national minimum wage; and if he will make a statement. [254122]

Mr. McFadden: According to the ONS April 2008 Annual survey of Hours and earnings: *(a)* around 2 per cent. of all full-time 18 to 21-year-olds earn £4.60 an hour (the 18 to 21-year-old national minimum wage in April 2008). *(b)* Around 4 per cent. of all part-time 18 to 21-year-olds earn £4.60 an hour in April 2008.

The percentages reported above do not include those in employment reported as earning less than the 18 to 21-year-old national minimum wage rate.

Mobile Phones: Contracts

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the consumer of the setting of mobile termination rates above marginal costs in each year since 2003. [250339]

Mr. McFadden: It falls to the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as the regulator in the telecommunications sector to reach decisions on how to set regulated mobile termination rates. In March 2007, Ofcom published a market review statement for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2011 following a two-year market review and extensive industry consultation. This statement is currently subject to two appeals before the Competition Appeal Tribunal and the Competition Commission. The outcome of these appeals will determine the appropriate mobile termination rates in the near term.

Mobile Phones: Rural Areas

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the availability of mobile phone signals in rural areas. [253666]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: The mobile network operators build base stations in order to meet customers need for coverage and service. The decision to build in a particular location is largely a commercial matter for the operators.

For 2G or GSM networks the original coverage obligations laid on GSM operators were discharged many years ago and have been significantly exceeded on a voluntary basis. In the case of new 3G networks, an 80 per cent. population coverage obligation by 2007 was placed on each licence holder to encourage network rollout.

In July 2006 Ofcom consulted on the technical approach it would take in its assessment of compliance with this obligation. Site data was issued to Ofcom by the mobile operators on 14 November 2007.

Four of the five 3G licensees were in compliance with the obligation, but O2 was found to reach only 75.69 per cent. of the population, a shortfall that meant around 2.5 million people could not access its service.

In February 2008 Ofcom issued O2 with a notice under the Wireless Telegraphy Act for breach of licence. This proposed that if the 80 per cent. obligation was still unmet by the end of June 2008, Ofcom would shorten the term of O2's licence by four months.

In May 2008 Ofcom confirmed that O2 had met its obligation.

Newspaper Press: Government Assistance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Government plans to provide support to local and regional papers which are in financial difficulties. [253111]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to his Westminster Hall debate on the local press, which I responded to, 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 185WH.

This is a complex issue, given the requirement that freedom of editorial control must not be threatened by state intervention. I want to reassure him that the situation of local and regional papers is being considered within the Digital Britain initiative, which Lord Carter of Barnes is taking forward. My hon. Friend will also be aware of the announcements that were made on 19 January about additional support for the banks to ensure that they maintain lending, and of the support that was announced on 14 January, through the enterprise finance guarantee and the working capital scheme. Those schemes are available respectively to companies with an annual turnover of up to £25 million and up to £500 million. They are applicable right across industrial sectors and therefore could include local news organisations.

Ofcom: Fines

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many organisations Ofcom has found to have breached the Broadcasting Code in each of the last five years; how many were subsequently fined; and how much Ofcom has imposed in fines in relation to such breaches. [254390]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Pharmaceutical Industry: Redundancy

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many redundancies from positions in the pharmaceutical industry in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Macclesfield constituency have been notified to his Department in the last 12 months. [255049]

Mr. McFadden: I cannot give you details of the actual number of redundancies as there is no requirement for employers to provide that information. However, employers who propose to make 20 or more redundancies at one establishment are required to notify my noble Friend the Secretary of State of the proposal under provisions contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. During the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, the Department was notified of 6,240 proposed redundancies in the pharmaceutical industry in Great Britain. The records are not maintained in the format you have requested so I regret that I am unable to break them down by region or parliamentary constituencies.

Postcodes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what gross income the Post Office received for granting access to its postcode address file in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [244336]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]*: The provision of the postcode address file is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to the Post Office of maintaining and updating the postcode address file was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [244335]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* The provision of the postcode address file is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will investigate the operation by the Post Office of the postcode address file to ensure that it offers users value for money. [244336]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* I have no plans to investigate the operation of the postcode address file. The provision of this service is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility.

Postcomm, the postal industry regulator, has responsibility for ensuring that Royal Mail maintains the postcode address file and that the file is made available to anybody who wishes to use it.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 782W, on regional developement agencies: South East Region, when the evaluation of the effects of the South East England Development Agency's spending was completed; and if he will place a copy of the evaluation report in the Library. [253486]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct an independent evaluation of the economic impact of RDAs. The evaluation of the impact of South East England Development Agency's spending is incorporated in the report. The evaluation report has just been completed and I will place a copy in the Libraries of the House shortly.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 41W, on departmental expenditure limits (2008-09), for what reason there was a re-allocation of £2.5 million from the London Development Agency to the regional development agencies. [253487]

Mr. McFadden: As part of the management of the "single pot" funding model, the regional development agencies (RDAs) and the London Development Agency (LDA) have the authority to agree "loans" between themselves, as a way of maximising the use of their overall budget allocation. This is often utilised to overcome issues around the timing of expenditure. Whilst there is no need to process such transactions between the RDAs generally (because they are all non voted), funds to the LDA are voted (because it is governed by the Greater London Authority) and any changes are, therefore, necessarily reflected in supplementary estimates.

Regional Development Agencies: Public Appointments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 43-4WS, on Regional Development Agency (Board appointments), what political activity has been declared by each of the listed Board members. [253488]

Mr. McFadden: The declared political activity of each of the 23 appointed board members named in the written statement of 25 November are:

Advantage West Midlands

Cllr Mike Whitby—was leader of the Conservative group on the Birmingham city council and since 2004 has been leader of Birmingham city council.

East of England Development Agency

Nitin Dahad—none.

Shona Johnstone—during the past five years has been a Conservative county councillor and was leader of Cambridgeshire county council in 2007.

Cllr Madeline Russell—Conservative councillor for Biggleswade and since 2005 became leader of Bedfordshire county council.

East Midlands Development Agency

Elizabeth Donnelly—member of the Co-operative party.

Jim Harker—Conservative member of Northamptonshire county council and has been its leader since 2005.

Northwest Regional Development Agency

Anne Selby—none.

John Stageman—none.

Brenda Smith—none.

Lord Peter Smith—member of the Labour party and has been leader of Wigan council since 1991.

South East of England Development Agency

Zenna Atkinson—none.

Jeremy Birch—Labour councillor and has been a member of the party for 30 years.

Les Dawson—none.

Keith Mitchell—Conservative councillor and leader of Oxfordshire county council since November 2001.

South West England Development Agency

Ian Ducat—member of the Labour party.

Peter Madden—none.

Judith Reynolds—none.

Henry Studholme—none.

Steve Smith—none.

Yorkshire Forward

Bill Adams—member of the Labour party.

Ajaz Ahmed—none.

Julie Kenny—none.

John Vincent—none.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245708]

Mr. McFadden: Most of the Department's printed materials are produced through the central communications directorate. These are produced following departmental branding guidelines which do not allow the use of red and green together as background and foreground colours.

Small Businesses: Insolvency

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses have gone into *(a)* administration and *(b)* liquidation in each quarter since the beginning of 2005. [248991]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service does not hold information on business size and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate of the numbers of small businesses entering administration or liquidation since the beginning of 2005.

Total numbers of companies entering liquidation and administration are published quarterly and are available on the Insolvency Service' website :

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/200811/index.htm

(Tables 1 and 3 for England and Wales).

Summertime

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration the Government has given to a review of daylight-saving arrangements throughout the year; and if he will make a statement. [254037]

Mr. McFadden: The Government believe that the current summer time arrangements are a satisfactory compromise between those who prefer lighter mornings and those who prefer lighter evenings. There are no plans to commission a review of the arrangements but the Government will continue to listen to arguments for and against change.

Supermarkets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will direct the Office of Fair Trading to investigate supermarket chains with a view to directing them to divest themselves of stores they have acquired through takeovers. [253906]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Merger control functions in the UK are carried out by the UK's independent competition authorities. Cases are considered on grounds of their impact on competition in the relevant markets. This provides the primary method of protecting the interests of UK consumers and promoting economic growth.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has a duty to make a reference to the Competition Commission (CC) if it believes that the merger may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services. Under section 73 of the Enterprise Act 2002 the OFT may, instead of making a reference to the CC, accept appropriate undertakings to take such action as it considers appropriate.

One recent example is the acquisition by Co-operative Group Limited (Co-op) of Somerfield Limited. Under the terms of the undertakings accepted by the OFT on 15 January, the Co-op will divest stores in 133 areas across the UK to resolve competition concerns raised by the merger.

Textiles: Overseas Trade

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what services his Department provides to the textile sector to enable companies to pursue business opportunities overseas. [253389]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment provides a wide range of support measures to companies seeking to do business in overseas markets, including financial assistance, through the Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP), to companies wishing to market their products or services at overseas exhibitions.

In financial year 2007-08 the TAP scheme supported 93 businesses at a cost of £240,000 in the Textiles sector. In the current financial year, 2008-09, we forecast supporting 106 businesses at a cost of £268,000.

The textile sector has also received £29,000 of support this year from UKTI's Regional Challenge Fund, for activities such as enhancing the UK textile sector's international media profile. The fund will be operating again in financial year 2009-10 and the textile sector will again be able to apply for support for suitable projects.

Trade: International Cooperation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the EU's proposals for Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services include numerical limits in regard to the number of workers who could be granted entry to the UK. [253505]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The current EU services offer in the DDA negotiations proposes a system of numerical ceilings for the temporary entry of highly-skilled foreign professionals in the categories of contractual service suppliers and independent professionals in a limited number of services sub-sectors.

For the UK, the current offer retains the option of a numerical ceiling for contractual service suppliers and independent professionals for only one sub-sector—computer and related services.

The offer, setting out the strict criteria for entry in all categories and in all services sub-sectors committed, is in the public domain and can be found on the WTO website. However, the offer remains incomplete. It does not yet contain either numbers or modalities. These remain to be worked out in the negotiations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 890W, on aerials: planning permission, when she expects to publish the conclusions of the review of planning procedures for new base stations; and if she will make a statement. [252496]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are still undertaking our review of the planning procedures relating to applications for new base stations.

We are currently considering whether the two reviews published on 24 November—the 'Killian and Pretty Review: Planning applications—a faster and more responsive system: Final Report' and the 'Final report into Non householder minor development consent review' by White Young Green Planning—have any implications for the work on telecommunications.

Should we decide that the telecommunication regulations need changing we will consult publicly on any options.

Building alterations: Planning permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the use of section 106 agreements to levy lump-sum charges on household extensions. [255295]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's guidance on the use of planning obligations (also known as section 106 agreements) is set out in Circular 05/05. This is available in the House Library.

Community Development: Referendums

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria her Department plans to apply for deciding on the use of referendums to promote community empowerment. [254770]

Mr. Khan: The use of local referendums to promote community empowerment is a matter for local authorities to decide.

Council Tax: Lincolnshire

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Band D council tax in each billing authority in Lincolnshire was in 2008-09 *(a)* before and *(b)* after the designation of the Lincolnshire police authority and the issuing of new bills. [253887]

John Healey: Details of the average Band D council tax in each billing authority in Lincolnshire in 2008-09 before the designation of the Lincolnshire police authority were published in a statistical release on 27 March 2008 and available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax089old.htm.

Details of the average Band D council tax in each billing authority in Lincolnshire in 2008-09 after the designation of the Lincolnshire police authority were published in a statistical release on 21 August 2008 and available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax089.htm.

Council Tax: Overpayments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures apply to refunding by local authorities of overpayments of council tax in cases where a domestic property has been incorrectly banded by the Valuation Office Agency. [253868]

John Healey: The administration of council tax, including refunds of overpayments, is a matter for local authorities.

Departmental Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 376-9W, on departmental contracts, what the timetable is for the completion of the Contact Point for the North West Territorial Co-operation Programme; to whom the contract was awarded and at what cost; and what the full project specification is. [255189]

Mr. Khan: This contract was for the provision of UK Contact Points for the North West Europe Territorial Cooperation Programme. The timetable for completion of the programme is 31 March 2011 and the contract was awarded to two individuals at an overall cost of £318,000. A copy of the specification has been lodged in the Library of the House.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 376-9W, on departmental contracts, what the timetable is for the completion of the Enabling Most Efficient Information Sharing Across Government Project; to whom the contract was awarded and at what cost; and what the full project specification of the research is. [255194]

Mr. Khan: The timetable for the completion of the Enabling more efficient information sharing across Government project is 28 February 2009. The contract was awarded to Xantura Limited and the maximum approved cost of the contract is £89,800.00. A copy of the full specification of the project has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Legal Proceedings

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many legal proceedings naming her Department as a defending party have been *(a)* filed, *(b)* concluded and *(c)* dismissed in each of the last five years. [255251]

Mr. Khan: Legal proceedings involving the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government are handled on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Treasury Solicitors Department, which has supplied the information requested in the following table.

The upper part of the table ('client group DCLG') shows the cases in which the Department was directly involved. The lower part of the table ('client group

PINS') shows cases where, although the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government was cited as the respondent, the challenged decisions had been delegated by the Secretary of State to a Planning Inspector, and so in practical terms the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and not the Department was the respondent.

This right hand column shows the number of cases filed in the calendar years 2006, 2007, 2008. The number of cases filed, and in which the Department was directly involved were, respectively 2006: 162, 2007: 135, 2008: 99. The corresponding figures for cases handled by the Planning Inspectorate were 2006: 172, 2007: 181, 2008: 212.

The table also shows the number of cases closed per year. For example, of the 162 cases directly involving the Department which were opened in 2006, 17 were closed in 2006, 56 were closed in 2007, 47 were closed in 2008, one has been closed in 2009, and 41 still remain open. The table shows the equivalent figures for cases opened in 2007 and 2008, and the figures for cases handled by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Department of Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006, so no legal proceedings naming the Department were filed before that date. The figures for 2006 in the table do however include cases opened between 1 January 2006 and 5 May 2006 involving the predecessor Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

		Year closed					
Client group	*Year opened*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Still open*	*Grand total*
DCLG	2006	17	56	47	1	41	162
	2007	—	15	39	—	81	135
	2008	—	—	14	—	85	99
Total		17	71	100	1	207	396
PINS	2006	17	77	26	4	48	172
	2007	—	12	38	2	129	181
	2008	—	—	5	2	205	212
Total		17	89	69	8	382	565
Grand total		34	160	169	9	589	961

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers in her Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255226]

Mr. Khan: The only representations received from the Noble Lords referred to in the question are as follows. After the Secretary of State issued her decision to refuse planning permission for development of a natural gas storage facility at Preesall Saltfield, Fleetwood, Lancashire on 16 October 2007, Lord Taylor of Blackburn asked my noble Friend Baroness Andrews whether representatives of Canatxx Ltd. could meet officials. Representatives of Canatxx met policy officials on 6 December 2007 to discuss general policy on gas storage facilities.

In the summer of 2008 Lord Taylor of Blackburn requested information from my noble Friend Baroness Andrews about Newark as a growth point and related planning cases.

Departmental Mass Media

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South-West Surrey (Mr Hunt) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1491W, on departmental mass media, for what reasons her Department is monitoring the media for the keywords of 'civil unrest'. [255190]

Mr. Khan: 'Civil unrest' is included as a keyword search term for CLG's contracted media monitoring provider in order to ensure relevant coverage relating to community cohesion and resilience issues, for which the Department is responsible, is captured.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South-West Surrey (Mr Hunt) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1491W, on departmental mass media, on what date Durrants was instructed by her Department to monitor the keywords 'Haringey Social Services'. [255191]

Mr. Khan: The Department asked for this search term to be added to Durrants' list of key words on 17 November 2008.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on *(a)* pot plants since 1 March 2008 and *(b)* flowers in each of the last three years. [254873]

Mr. Khan: A low level of internal planting within the CLG HQ buildings is maintained under our integrated facilities management contract. The cost of this is included within the fixed contract price for cleaning, grounds maintenance and pest control and is not separately identifiable.

Since 1 March 2008 additional new plants have been provided at a cost of £725.25.

It is not departmental practice to provide cut flowers for office use and so expenditure on this is nil.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new recruits her Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate she has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254466]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government have taken on the following number of staff since2005:

Count of staff ID

Staff Type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Grand Total*
Permanent Staff	56	68	96	86	306
Short Term Contracts	32	33	34	46	145
Agency Staff	228	208	363	374	1,173
Grand Total	316	309	493	506	1,624

In 2009-10 and 2010-11, as in the current year, our administration budget is planned to fall by 5 per cent. in real terms. There is also evidence that the rate at which permanent staff are leaving the Department is falling. Against this background, I would expect to see some reduction in recruitment.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1326W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense Ministers in her Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251313]

Mr. Khan: Other Ministers in Communities and Local Government have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008: advice on continuing professional development; and advice on speeches.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure her Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each year since her Department was established. [251882]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on Monday 26 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Domestic Visits: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the Minister for the East of England has visited areas of the administrative county of Essex other than those in the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock; and what the purpose was of each visit. [254835]

Mr. Khan: Since her appointment in July 2007, the Minster for the East of England has visited the administrative county of Essex on six separate occasions. The most recent visits were focussed around the economy such as the Regional Economic Forum held in Chelmsford and her visit to Jobcentre Plus and a local business in Basildon as part of the roll-out of the pre-Budget report.

The Minister has also visited Essex on skills related events including leading the East of England Talent Debate at Stansted, visiting Rickstones Academy in Witham as part of the Grand Schools Tour, and visiting a children's centre in Harlow.

The Minister recently chaired the Regional Partnership Group in Chelmsford.

Eco-Towns: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much it cost to set up the website http://ecotownsyoursay.direct.gov.uk; and what the monthly maintenance costs of the website are. [254126]

Margaret Beckett: The set up and development costs for the website

http://ecotownsyoursay.direct.gov.uk

totalled £76,786 and to date £6,000 has been incurred in maintenance costs. The website has the specific aim of encouraging participation in the eco-towns consultation.

Eco-Towns: Pennbury

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether English Partnerships has been involved in the proposed eco-town bid near Leicester. [252950]

Margaret Beckett: Proposals for an eco-town at Pennbury, near Leicester have been put forward by the Co-operative Group in conjunction with English Partnerships, now part of the Homes and Community Agency (HCA), who are landowning partner and have contributed to the design ad preparation of the proposals.

English Housing Survey

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* households and *(b)* social housing households were identified by the English Housing Survey as having a non-UK national as head of household in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [253979]

Margaret Beckett: Over the two years 2006-07 and 2007-08 there were, in England, an estimated:

(a) 1.5 million households headed by a foreign national;

(b) 310 thousand social housing households headed by a foreign national.

These figures were derived from the Survey of English Housing. The English Housing Survey started in April 2008 and the first estimates from this survey will be available in January 2010.

The definition of "foreign national" used above is consistent with that used in published results from the Survey of English Housing; namely a foreign national is someone who is not a national of the UK or Ireland.

Fire Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the FireControl project; and what further expenditure is expected until the time when all regional fire control centres become operational. [255296]

Mr. Khan: £139 million has been spent to date on FiReControl. The total project cost for FiReControl is expected to be £380 million. A significant proportion of the remaining expenditure is already committed through agreed contractual costs. Full details of the contract costs are set out in the FiReControl business case, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 810W, on Fire Service: contracts, what legal advice her Department sought prior to any advice given to contracting parties in respect of non-inclusion of break clauses in the contracts for regional fire control centres; and if she will make a statement. [254624]

Mr. Khan: The Department took advice from its own lawyers and from commercial property advisers and solicitors throughout the development of the building leases for regional control centre buildings. The fire and rescue authorities have taken and continue to take their own legal advice.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the inclusion of break clauses in the contracts for regional control centres; and if she will make a statement. [254729]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) on 26 January, *Official Report*, column 108W.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many recorded attacks on fire crews there were in each of the last three years, broken down by fire and rescue service area. [254215]

Mr. Khan: The Department collects figures on attacks on firefighters based on returns from fire and rescue authorities. The following table shows the number of attacks over the last three years by fire and rescue authority (FRA) for England.

Number of attacks notified to CLG by year of incident and FRA

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon	7	9	12
Bedfordshire	4	4	1
Royal Berkshire	8	4	1
Buckinghamshire	6	3	2
Cambridgeshire	29	15	17
Cheshire	31	25	21
Cleveland	96	91	60
Cornwall	—	2	—
Cumbria	1	8	5
Derbyshire	9	7	16
Devon (Devon and Somerset from 2007-08)	8	10	[1]10
Dorset	6	5	4
Durham	28	48	22
East Sussex	1	—	4
Essex	17	17	6
Gloucestershire	8	4	6
Hampshire	6	5	11
Hereford and Worcester	1	1	8
Hertfordshire	1	—	2
Humberside	34	25	37
Isle of Wight	—	1	1
Kent	10	13	9
Lancashire	28	38	35
Leicestershire	12	14	18
Lincolnshire	9	7	10
Norfolk	2	4	3
North Yorks	2	8	11
Northamptonshire	4	17	13
Northumberland	10	7	9
Nottinghamshire	31	29	18
Oxfordshire	—	6	2
Shropshire	—	9	6
Somerset	3	—	[1]—
Staffordshire	23	23	29
Suffolk	4	3	3
Surrey	1	5	5
Warwickshire	21	25	10
West Sussex	—	4	3
Wiltshire	2	4	1
Isles of Scilly	—	1	—
Greater Manchester	223	184	68
Merseyside	172	103	49
South Yorkshire	60	69	57
Tyne and Wear	33	98	92
West Midlands	137	79	95
West Yorkshire	112	108	169
London	10	15	6
Grand total	1,210	1,157	967

[1] Devon and Somerset FRS merged on the 1 April 2007.

First Time Buyers

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further financial support she will make available to local authorities to help first-time home buyers. [253220]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are already investing £8 billion in affordable housing (for both social rent and low cost home ownership) through the new Homes and Communities Agency in 2008-11—a £3 billion increase compared to previous years.

The low cost home ownership programme is helping to make home ownership more affordable to first time buyers throughout England through a range of shared ownership and shared equity schemes. In response to the current difficult market conditions, we have expanded the availability of shared equity, which allows qualifying first time buyers to buy a property with the help of an equity loan (which can be used as a deposit). This includes the introduction of the new HomeBuy Direct scheme (which will give up to 18,000 first time buyers the opportunity to access affordable home ownership with an equity loan of up to 30 per cent. (funded on equal terms by Government and the participating developers).

We recently announced that local authorities would be invited to bid for social housing grant to build new affordable housing. We are now consulting on changes to the revenue and capital rules which would enable them to compete for this subsidy.

France (Channel)-England Programme Managing Authority

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings of the France (Channel)-England Programme Managing Authority representatives of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government office for the south-east have attended in the last 12 months. [252465]

Mr. Khan: Officials from CLG have attended five meetings over the last 12 months of the programme Managing Authority of the 2007-13 Interreg IVA Cross-Border France-England Channel programme.

Officials from the Government office for the south-east have attended three meetings of the programme Managing Authority over the same period.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* home condition reports have been subsidised through central funding. [253893]

Margaret Beckett: Our records show that as part of the Area Trials research, which ran from November 2006 to April 2007, 4,315 HIPs were subsidised by central Government of which 1,487 included a subsidised home condition report.

Homebuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the Social Homebuy scheme since its inception. [254198]

Margaret Beckett: Social HomeBuy is a voluntary demand-led scheme. Registered social landlords who choose to offer the scheme to their tenants bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for grant to cover the discount offered to the tenant. From April 2006 to end of January 2009, spend through the National Affordable Housing programme totalled £3.4 million.

No funding is provided to local authorities offering the scheme other than £132,770 given to help early pilots with development and set up costs in 2006-07.

Housing Challenge

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on the Housing Challenge document, if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to regional assembly chairs on the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit's advice. [252432]

Margaret Beckett: The letters sent in July 2008 by the Minister for Housing and Planning to the chairs of the regional assemblies concerning the NHPAU's advice have been deposited in the Library.

These letters were published on the 16 July 2008 and are available online:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/guidanceregionalstrategy

Housing: Sales

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis was for the statement made by the Minister of State (Housing) that there had been an upturn in the property market in her interview with *The Sunday Times* on 18 January 2009; who the Minister of State consulted before making this statement; and if she will make a statement. [250234]

Margaret Beckett: The Government recognise that the housing market faces significant challenges.

In my interview with *The Sunday Times* I did not state that "there has been an upturn in the property market". I was asked about the state of the housing market. In my reply, I mentioned that a number of recent surveys and professional groups have reported that buyer inquiries are rising, including the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). However, mortgage availability remains a key barrier.

To help people who are struggling to get onto the housing ladder we introduced the HomeBuy Direct scheme which is designed to help up to 18.000 first time buyers through shared equity. Measures announced by the Chancellor on 19 January are intended to support lending.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum Code for Sustainable Homes standard will be for private sector homes built in eco-towns; and what the minimum standard is for new sector private housing built in other areas. [251724]

Margaret Beckett: The standards homes built in eco-towns must reach, are set out in the draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement (PPS), published for consultation on 4 November 2008. Copies of the draft PPS are available in the House Library.

Building regulation sets the minimum standards for house building. The Code for Sustainable Homes is a voluntary standard for new private sector housing, unless there is a planning requirement as set out by the Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change (supplement to PPS 1).

Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department plans to provide for the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* running costs of local authority leaders' boards. [253867]

John Healey: Development of regional strategies will require close working between local authorities and the Regional Development Agency (RDA) and each region will need to establish structures which best suit their overall arrangements.

When local authority leaders' boards are established they will receive funding on the basis of an agreed business plan to cover their work on the Regional Strategy and any other agreed functions. It will be for the RDA and the local authority leaders' board to decide between them how their joint working arrangements are resourced.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to provide *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency savings in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [253891]

John Healey: Government have committed to achieving at least 3 per cent. value for money savings per year across central and local government over the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07) period of 2008-09 to 2010-11. As their contribution to this challenge, councils in England are expected to achieve at least £4.9 billion cash-releasing efficiencies. The local government value for money delivery plan (www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/deliveringvaluefor money) sets out a trajectory of £1.5 billion cumulative savings by the end of March 2009 and £3.2 billion by the end of March 2010. There are no expectations with respect to non- cashable efficiencies in CSR07.

There are no mandatory efficiency targets for individual councils, although targets have been agreed as part of seven local area agreements. The value of efficiencies achieved by all English councils and fire and rescue services will be published on and with council tax bills from this year so that citizens can see what progress is being made by their local authorities.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether account is taken of the level of local authority reserves in allocating central grants to local authorities. [253892]

John Healey: No.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the level of exposure of local authorities' *(a)* pension funds and *(b)* deposits with funds operated by Mr. Bernard Madoff. [253896]

John Healey: No estimate of the level of exposure of local authorities' pension funds and deposits to the Madoff hedge fund has been made. With regard to pension funds, investment/funding strategy and individual stock selection is a matter for the 89 individual pension funds in England and Wales, who are accountable for their decisions.

Under the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions. The Department's guidance on local government investments is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

Local Government: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which seaside towns were included in the first wave of multi-area agreements; and which seaside towns she expects to enter into agreements as part of future waves of the multi-area agreement scheme. [253611]

John Healey: Ten MAAs have been signed. The local authorities with seaside towns included in these are Bournemouth and North Tyneside, which includes Whitley Bay, and Sefton council, which contains the seaside town of Southport.

Other agreements in development include the West of England MAA, which involves Weston-super-Mare, and Fylde Coast MAA, which involves Blackpool.

A copy of the 10 multi-area agreements will be deposited in the Library.

Local Government: Fraud

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the target maximum period of time is for a council to conduct an anti-fraud investigation. [253752]

John Healey: Fraud investigations undertaken by councils operate within the rules, procedures and codes required for the particular type of investigation being undertaken, typically criminal, civil or employment focused in nature. As such there is no specific maximum period for a council to conduct an anti-fraud investigation.

Local Government: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* chief executives of local authorities and *(b)* local authority employees in Lancashire earned more than £100,000 in 2007. [254571]

John Healey: Central Government do not collect the information requested. However, the local government employers conducts an annual survey of chief executive and chief officer salaries and workforce numbers. The results of this survey are available on their website at:

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=119009

Local Government: Publicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she plans to make an assessment of the appropriateness of the legislative requirements on local authorities to place statutory notices in local newspapers; [253883]

(2) which recommendations of the Killian-Pretty review of planning she plans to implement. [254762]

Mr. Iain Wright: At the launch of the final report on 24 November 2008, my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing identified two recommendations on extending further permitted development rights for businesses and public services and reducing information requirements that we would be taking forward immediately. Among the other recommendations of the review was one that local authorities should be given greater autonomy and flexibility to determine the best approaches to use in order to notify the public about planning applications. We will set out the Government's response to the remaining recommendations in the Killian Pretty Report shortly. Any proposals for substantive policy changes would be subject to consultation.

Local Government: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards the development of an indicator to monitor numbers of benefit claimants in defined small areas under the new Local Government Performance Framework; and which bodies will be responsible for *(a)* data collection and *(b)* distribution of information on performance against the indicator. [253612]

John Healey: Indicator 153 in the National Indicator Set measures 'Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods'. The data for this indicator is collected through Jobcentre Plus. We have no current plans for any new indicator monitoring benefit claimants in small areas. Consideration of any new indicators within the National Indicator Set will be taken forward as part of preparations for the next government spending review.

Performance against all the National Indicators in each local area will be included in annual reporting of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) by the local public service inspectorates. The first CAA reports are expected in November 2009.

Lord Truscott

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have received representations from (i) Lord Truscott, (ii) Lord Moonie, (iii) Lord Taylor of Blackburn and (iv) Lord Snape in the last 12 months. [253648]

Mr. Khan: The only representations received from the noble Lords referred to in the question are as follows:

After the Secretary of State issued her decision to refuse planning permission for development of a natural gas storage facility at Preesall Saltfield, Fleetwood, Lancashire on 16 October 2007, Lord Taylor of Blackburn asked my noble Friend Baroness Andrews whether representatives of Canatxx Ltd. could meet officials. Representatives of Canatxx met policy officials on 6 December 2007 to discuss general policy on gas storage facilities.

In the summer of 2008, Lord Taylor of Blackburn requested information from my noble Friend Baroness Andrews about Newark as a growth point and related planning cases.

Luton Borough Council: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants, other than local government finance settlements, her Department and its predecessors have made in respect of the Luton Borough Council area in each year since 1997. [252648]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government gave on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1304-05W.

Furthermore, the following table gives an update on the final outturn figures for 2007-08 and planned expenditure for this financial year for grants made by this Department other than local government finance settlements.

£ million

	2007-08 final outturn	*2008-09 plan*
Supporting People Programme	4.646	4.520
ERDF	5.840	3.504
Planning Delivery Grant[1]	0.440	0.116
Homelessness programme	0.120	0.120
Disabled Facilities Grant	0.487	0.510
Growth Areas Programme[2]	9.279	19.566
LA Supported Capital Expenditure for Housing	1.756	1.756
Regional Housing Pots	0.342	1.000
Community Infrastructure Fund	—	4.784
Local Area Agreements[2,3]	4.529	—
Area Based Grant[2]	—	10.259
Total	27.439	46.135

[1] In 2008, the Planning Delivery Grant programme was replaced by Housing and Planning Delivery-Grant.

[2] Figures are allocated funding.

[3] Direct funding from Communities and local Government for local Area Agreement grants, which was a pooling of many different types of grants previously funded separately, ceased, in 2008 and was absorbed by the commencement of the Area Based Grant in April 2008.

McKinsey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 779W, on McKinsey, if she will place in the Library a copy of each document provided to participants in the Communities High Level Seminar. [252423]

Mr. Khan: The documents have been placed in the House Library.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the change in revenue which will result from the planned revaluation of national non-domestic rates in April 2010. [254731]

John Healey: No estimate has been made of the change in revenue which will result from the planned revaluation of national non-domestic rates in April 2010. After a revaluation, the overall national multiplier is set to ensure that the national non-domestic rates yield stays the same, only allowing for a change in inflation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the average business rate bill in England in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [253876]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1081W

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the percentage change in the level of business rates bills in England between 2008-09 and 2009-10. [253877]

John Healey: Data are currently being collected from local authorities and details of the level of non-domestic rates to be collected in England in 2009-10 will be published in due course.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the transitional relief in the 2010 business rates revaluation will be financed. [253881]

John Healey: The legislation requires that the transitional scheme be designed with the objective of being self financing. We will be consulting on the details of the 2010 scheme over the summer 2009.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether workplace parking spaces are valued for business rates purposes. [253888]

John Healey: Workplace parking spaces can add to the rental value of office or other business premises and are therefore taken into account in arriving at rateable value for non-domestic rates.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received on the abolition of empty property tax relief for commercial premises in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [253866]

John Healey: The Department have received representations on empty property tax relief from industry representative groups, individual property owners both directly and through ministerial correspondence.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 111W, on non-domestic rates: empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of the written representation from the urban regeneration companies. [253519]

John Healey: I have placed in the library a copy of the letter received from the urban regeneration companies.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on non-domestic rates: ports, how the figure of approximately £200 million for the aggregate rateable value was calculated. [254012]

John Healey: The figure of £200 million was an initial estimate, for England, of the aggregate of the port operators' and port occupiers' properties in the large ports of their rating assessments, based on information available at the time.

Since 6 October 2008, work has been undertaken to deal with inquiries and appeals in respect of those properties within ports, following consultation with ratepayers.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much small business rate relief was claimed in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [253630]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1660W.

Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning advice or guidance her Department and its predecessors have issued to local planning authorities on diversity and equality in planning since 1997. [254855]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department (then the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) published 'Diversity and Equality in Planning: A good practice guide' in 2005, aimed at helping planners to better understand the important role that planning can play in supporting the Government's commitment to tackling disadvantage.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Infrastructure Planning Commission will start assessing planning applications; and what the target time is for the Commission to process such applications. [255214]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our expectation is that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be ready to begin receiving applications in spring 2010. In most circumstances, cases will be decided within a year from application.

Regional Ministers: Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements were for the Minister for *(a)* London, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(c)* the South East, *(d)* the North West; *(e)* the East of England, *(f)* the East Midlands, *(g)* the South West, *(h)* the North East and *(i)* the West Midlands in their roles as regional ministers from 1 to 31 January 2009; and what the length of time spent on each engagement was. [254961]

Mr. Khan: I am depositing a table of this information in the Library.

Accurate information on the length of time spent on each engagement could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements were for *(a)* the Minister for the North West, *(b)* the Minister for the East of England, *(c)* the Minister for the East Midlands, *(d)* the Minister for the South West, *(e)* the Minister for the North East and (f) the Minister for the West Midlands in their roles as regional ministers from (i) 1 to 31 October, (ii) 1 to 30 November and (iii) 1 to 31 December 2008; and what the length of time spent on each engagement was. [255323]

Mr. Khan: I am depositing a table of this information in the Library. Accurate information on the length of time spent on each engagement can be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many general needs lettings were made by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords to nationals of (i) EEA countries and (ii) non-EEA countries in the latest year for which figures are available. [254172]

Margaret Beckett: Information on the number of foreign national households allocated social housing is collected in the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). A question on nationality was first introduced to the form for the 2006-07 data collection period. CORE is collected on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government by St. Andrew's University. Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords. An increasing number of local authorities are now providing information through this process as well, but there are still some gaps in the data.

In 2007-08 for registered social landlords, there were 2,060 new general needs lettings made to foreign nationals from European Economic A[illegible]EA) countries and 2,020 from non-EEA coun[illegible]

The number of local authority general needs lettings is estimated using an adjustment for missing data. This is not yet available for 2007-08 and is expected to be completed by March 2009.

Right to Buy Scheme: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority housing stock in West Chelmsford constituency has been sold under the right-to-buy scheme in each year since 1997. [254718]

Margaret Beckett: We do not have figures at constituency level, so all figures are shown for Chelmsford borough council.

The following table shows the number of local authority right to buy sales in the borough of Chelmsford , for each year since 1997-98. Chelmsford borough council transferred its housing stock to registered social landlords (RSLs) in March 2002. There have consequently been no sales of local authority housing stock under the scheme in Chelmsford since that date.

The preserved right to buy scheme is available to RSL tenants who were formerly local authority secure tenants and moved to RSL landlords with their homes under the stock transfers. Figures for preserved right to buy sales alone are not available at local authority level, but combined figures for RSL right to buy, right to buy and right to acquire sales are available, and the following shows these figures for the borough of Chelmsford.

	LA right to buy sales in Chelmsford	*RSL sales of social housing in Chelmsford*
1997-98	142	—
1998-99	120	—
1999-2000	169	—
2000-01	156	—
2001-02	149	2
2002-03	0	144
2003-04	0	59
2004-05	0	36
2005-06	0	19
2006-07	0	26
2007-08	0	18

Source:
Quarterly P1B returns submitted by local authorities to Communities and Local Government, and Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) submitted by Social Landlords to the Tenant Services Authority.

Social Mobility

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the reduction in levels of sub-prime lending upon social mobility. [252695]

Margaret Beckett: The Government recognise that access to financial assets can play a key role in determining future outcomes. We are committed to supporting people's ambitions to own their own home, where this is sustainable, and we are determined to improve access to assets for all families.

We recognise that, despite the recent fall in house prices, the turbulence in the global financial markets has resulted in severe restrictions on mortgages and in many cases a requirement for purchasers to have significant deposits, making it harder for first time buyers to get on the housing ladder.

We are taking a range of measures in response to these difficult market conditions. For example, we have introduced HomeBuy Direct, a new scheme offered in partnership with house builders that is designed to help up to 18,000 first-time buyers into affordable home ownership with the aid of an equity loan of up to 30 per cent. (which can be used as a deposit). We are also taking steps to improve mortgage funding markets, as this is key to lowering mortgage costs and increasing the availability of affordable mortgages. Following on the Crosby Report's recommendations on mortgage finance markets, the Government will provide up to £50 billion of guarantees on new mortgage lending (and eventually on other assets).

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the costs of renovating social housing which does not meet the decent homes standard in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* nationally to a condition which does meet the standard. [254572]

Mr. Iain Wright: The cost per house of meeting the decent homes standard varies across the country and the Department does not collect those figures separately.

Local authorities are refurbishing the houses in their areas either at or above the decent homes standard. What the improved standard is and how it will be achieved will be determined by local circumstances and the level of resources that can be brought to the programme locally.

Ribble Valley borough council transferred its housing to a registered social landlord, Ribble Valley Homes, on 31 March 2008 under large scale voluntary transfer arrangements, in order to deliver the Decent Homes investment required.

Valuation Tribunal Service

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that Valuation Tribunal decisions relating to council tax liability cases are published in full on the Valuation Tribunal Service website, with personal information redacted. [253894]

John Healey: No. This is a matter for the Valuation Tribunal Service to decide.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Bristol

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* transport, *(b)* staff and *(c)* administrative costs were of the visit made by the Minister of State for Schools to Bristol West constituency on 12 May 2008. [255389]

Jim Knight: I did not visit Bristol West on 12 May 2008.

Children in Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that children in care are provided with stable accommodation. [253624]

Beverley Hughes: Through the White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 the Government have put in place a range of measures to improve stability for looked after children.

Through the Fostering Changes training programme and the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care and Social Pedagogy pilots we are taking action to help improve the range of support and skills for foster carers and residential workers to help them meet the needs of looked after children to prevent placement breakdown.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on ContactPoint, on what date he next intends to provide an update on progress on ContactPoint. [252954]

Beverley Hughes: As mentioned in the written ministerial statement of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS we will provide an update in spring 2009.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much Ofsted received in registration fees from all child care settings in each of the last five years; [251412]

(2) how much Ofsted received in registration fees from child minders working with children aged *(a)* under five and *(b)* five to eight years old in each of the last five years. [251413]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: These are matters for Ofsted. The chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 26 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Table A shows figures for the total received by Ofsted in childcare registration fees. The data referring to childminder registration fees relate to the registration of individual childminders. The data referring to daycare relate to the registration of providers who provide more than four hours of childcare per day. The data referring to sessional daycare relate to the registration of providers who provide less than four hours of childcare per day.

Table A: Total received by Ofsted in child care registration fees

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Child Minder	894,223	910,837	874,046	911,682	1,008,894
Day Care	1,553,119	1,794,011	2,016,046	2,108,607	2,381,325

Table A: Total received by Ofsted in child care registration fees

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Sessional Day Care	189,335	412,111	215,080	184,511	188,960
Total	2,636,677	3,116,958	3,105,180	3,264,880	3,579,188

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 26 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Prior to the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008, the age of the children using a provider did not affect its registration fee. We are, therefore, unable to readily identify the total received in registration fees from childminders working with children aged *(a)* under five and *(b)* five to eight years old in each of the last five years. Data covering the total received by Ofsted in childminder fees in the last five years are included in my response to Parliamentary Question 251412.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Citizenship: Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the findings of the sixth annual Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study report; and what changes he has made to citizenship educational policy as a result. [253134]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The findings from each annual report of the Citizenship Education Longitudinal study cannot be viewed in isolation. Together they will inform policy development and enable us to improve the quality and delivery of citizenship education. The sixth annual report recognises that citizenship education, although a very helpful measure, is unlikely by itself to address the 'democratic deficit'. It suggests that schools and citizenship education provision are likely to have an indirect influence through democracy in schools and student efficacy on student attitudes and intentions. As we set out in the Children's Plan, the Government's aim are for all young people to want and be able to participate and take responsible action. We believe that the new duty on schools to invite and consider the views of pupils on matters that affect them will help to strengthen efficacy levels among children and young people and encourage them to continue to play an active part in their community.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have adopted the Active Citizens in Schools programme. [253135]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information on the number of schools who have adopted the Active Citizens in Schools programme.

Crimes Against Humanity: Anniversaries

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of the observance in educational institutions of a day of remembrance for crimes against humanity. [253758]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is for schools to decide whether to observe days of remembrance or celebration and how that might fit with the curriculum or the wider education of the students. However, there are some elements of history that we believe are of vital importance and will continue to ensure that they are covered by all schools—the study of the Holocaust is one of these. Holocaust Memorial Day aims to encourage greater awareness among young people of the relevance of the Holocaust and the need for mutual respect and understanding. It is supported by a Government funded education pack.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many official journeys *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have made by plane since his Department was established. [247506]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has not made any official journeys by plane.

The number of plane journeys taken by DCSF officials was 815. The data provided is based on bookings dealt with by the DCSF's business travel booking service provider (Carlson Wagonlit Travel).

Any flights not booked by the Department's travel provider can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252367]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007.

There has been nil expenditure on work and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether officials of his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department have been charged the full replacement value of the item in each case. [253640]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not charged any of its officials the full replacement value for lost laptops.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses for staff in each year since 1997. [247305]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table summarises the gross salaries and other payments made to permanent staff (including ministers and special advisers) from financial year 1999-2000 to 2007-08. These figures are drawn from the Department's published resource accounts. Figures prior to 1999-2000 were produced using different accounting principles and can only be reproduced on a comparable basis at disproportionate cost.

	Department	*Salaries[1] (£ million)*
2007-08	Department for Children Schools and Families	99
2006-07	Department for Education and Skills	115
2005-06	Department for Education and Skills	119
2004-05	Department for Education and Skills	125
2003-04	Department for Education and Skills	130
2002-03	Department for Education and Skills	117
2001-02	Department for Education and Skills	110
2000-01	Department for Education and Employment	681
1999-2000	Department for Education and Employment	640

[1] The salary figure includes: gross salary; performance pay and bonuses; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances; and other allowances to the extent they are subject to UK taxation.

Separate information on bonus payments made to staff would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each year since it was established. [251330]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and families was established on 27 June 2007. Including its predecessor (the Department for Education and Skills) the Department's expenditure on public relations in 2007-08 was £2,333,000. There are no figures available for 2008-09 at present.

The Department employs public relations agencies for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by his Department. [242251]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 27 June 2007. Since its inception, the number of employees released under the voluntary release scheme and the total cost over the remaining years stated are set out in the following table:

	Number of employees	*Total Cost[1] (£ million)*
2007-08	110	[1]9.2
2008-09	24	[2]—
2009-10	58	[2]—

[1] The £9.2million shown in the table covers releases agreed and accounted for in 2007-08 and agreed release dates up to 2009-10.

[2] Indicates brace.

Information on individual voluntary exit scheme payments to staff for each of those years is not available in the form requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

There have been were no compulsory redundancies.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247922]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its inception in June 2007 the Department has spent £1,845,528 on public surveys. This figure is inclusive of VAT and includes current spend to 19 January 2009.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each year since it was established. [251298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its inception, the Department's spend on agency staff for each year is set out as follows:

	Agency (£)
July-December 2007	333,015
January-December 2008	1,219,420

The Department also employs people on other short term contracts but information on salary costs by length of contract could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 186W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251321]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Ministers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Induction Workshop, Action Learning Set, Media Training, Select Committee Training.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement; [252041]

(2) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252042]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not held centrally in the Department or in non-departmental public bodies and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the Department's flexible working arrangements, employees from Grade 6 to Executive Assistant can work flexitime. These arrangements do not apply to members of the senior civil service

The Department has no agencies.

Dyslexia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what support his Department provides to schools to assist pupils with dyslexia; [253114]

(2) what plans his Department has for future teaching methods for dyslexic children. [253112]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Sir Jim Rose is currently developing recommendations, in the light of evidence, on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia. We are now looking forward to Sir Jim publishing these recommendations in the spring.

All local authorities, schools and early years settings must have regard to the special educational needs (SEN) code of practice which provides advice on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' with SEN. Children with dyslexia should have their needs identified and support put in place in the same way as for other children with SEN.

We have launched a professional development resource for those working in schools, called the Inclusion Development (IDP) Programme. This is being distributed to local authorities and schools through the National Strategies. It offers professional development in key areas of SEN, starting with training on communication difficulties including dyslexia.

We are also working with a number of dyslexia organisations to promote best practice in identifying and supporting children and young people with dyslexia in schools. This includes helping fund the 'No to Failure' project which brings together dyslexia organisations in trailblazing and evaluating the impact of both specialist training for teachers and specialist tuition for pupils with dyslexia, and the British Dyslexia Association helpline which provides advice about dyslexia to teachers as well as parents.

Education: Assessment

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has commissioned to assess the effect of testing in schools upon the mental well-being of pupils. [253303]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has established an Expert Group on Testing and Assessment. The group is reviewing pupil well being as part of its remit, giving consideration to what advice should be provided to schools to ensure that preparation for national curriculum tests at Key Stage 2 is proportionate and educationally appropriate. The group's findings will be used to inform future plans for testing and assessment.

The evaluation of Single Level Tests under the Making Good Progress pilot included consideration of pupils' experience of testing in an interim Report (Evaluation of the Making Good Progress, Research Report DCSF-RR065), which was published in December 2008. The majority of interviewees who commented on pupils' Single Level Test experiences in the report, considered that pupils were generally not stressed by the tests involved, because they were pitched at the 'right' level.

Education: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the recommendation in the Faith in the System report on education as a whole; and what costs to his Department arose in the production and distribution of the report. [253696]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: "Faith in the System: the role of schools with a religious character in English education and society" was launched on 10 September 2007 and outlined the Government's and faith schools providers' shared vision on the role of faith schools in the English education system and wider society. The document does not represent a set of new policy initiatives but aims to dispel some of the common myths and misunderstanding around faiths schools. In it, the Government and faith leaders of all faiths that have publicly funded schools in England reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work together and with all schools to improve the life chances of children, to build bridges to greater mutual trust and understanding, and contribute to a just and cohesive society, while nurturing children in their faith and as engaged citizens. We know that the principles of "Faith in the System" are embedded in faith schools and that they are committed to working with other schools and to meeting the needs of all pupils, whether they are of the faith or not.

For example, the Board of Deputies of British Jews have developed the "Shared Futures" linking project, which aims to link minority faith schools and schools without a religious character where the significant majority of pupils are of a single faith. The Church of England (CofE) is now committed to reserving 25 per cent. of school places at new CofE schools for pupils from the local neighbourhood regardless of faith background or none; and last year, the Catholic Education Service (CES) launched new preliminary guidance for all Catholic schools in England on the statutory duty to promote community cohesion.

The faith groups are now working together to take forward "Faith in the System", with the CES taking the lead in organising a follow-up conference, which is due to be held in autumn this year.

The costs of printing the "Faith in the System" document were £5,208 (£6,119 including VAT). No other substantial additional costs have arisen in relation to this resource as staff time in facilitating the working groups and drafting the document does not represent an additional cost.

Equality: Education

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of teaching intercultural competencies; [253726]

(2) whether his Department plans to issue guidance to its agencies on the use of the descriptors of key competencies for intercultural communication in the design and implementation of curricula at all levels of education, including teacher training. [253754]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: It is crucial that young people have the right skills to compete in an increasingly fast changing global economy. Communication skills in other languages, combined with an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, will become increasingly important for the jobs of the future. We have made no specific assessment of this issue and have no plans to issue specific guidance to schools on intercultural competencies. However, intercultural understanding is a key concept within compulsory language learning for 11 to 14-year-olds, where pupils learn to appreciate other cultures, recognise different ways of seeing the world, develop an international look and communicate with native speakers where possible.

Citizenship education equips pupils with the knowledge and skills needed for effective and democratic participation. This includes such areas as the changing nature of UK society, the diversity of ideas, beliefs, cultures, identities, traditions, perspectives and values that are shared; migration to, from and within the UK and the reasons for this, the UK's relations with the European Union and the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the world as a global community.

Foreign Languages: Assessments

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what criteria are used when assessing whether a foreign language should be approved as a new GCSE subject; [254796]

(2) if he will support the introduction of a foreign language *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A Level qualification in Serbian. [254797]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Decisions as to which languages are offered at GCSE or A-level are for awarding bodies to take in the light of demand. The Department is not aware of any plans to introduce a GCSE or A-level qualification in Serbian. Further details on getting qualifications accredited are available from the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator, whose website is

www.ofqual.gov.uk.

Free School Meals: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children received free school meals in West Chelmsford constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last five years. [254715]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table, together with the numbers of children eligible for free school meals. The numbers receiving free school meals on census day are regarded as less reliable than the numbers eligible.

Maintained nursery and primary schools, state-funded secondary schools: school meal arrangements—Position in January each year 1997 and 2004 to 2008, West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency

Maintained nursery and primary schools[1]

	Number on roll[3]	*Number of pupils taking free school means*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
1997	8,851	806	9.1	1,007	11.4
2004	8,295	609	7.3	777	9.4
2005	8,255	605	7.3	745	9.0
2006	8,158	624	7.6	707	8.7
2007	8,116	630	7.8	690	8.5
2008	8,146	621	7.6	677	8.3

State-funded secondary schools[1,2]

	Number on roll[3]	*Number of pupils taking free school means*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
1997	8,239	415	5.0	551	6.7
2004	8,818	356	4.0	458	5.2
2005	8,745	364	4.2	468	5.4
2006	8,777	418	4.8	549	6.3
2007	8,678	413	4.8	501	5.8
2008	8,533	349	4.1	446	5.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes dually registered pupils, excludes boarding pupils.
Source:
Schools Census

Functional Skills Qualifications

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the first 1,000 pilots of the Functional Skills qualifications. [247240]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Functional Skills pilot is being managed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and will last for three years. It started in September 2007 and ends in 2010. QCA are evaluating the pilot throughout that period and will be publishing summaries of the evaluation reports.

GCE A Level

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of students received lower A level grades than predicted in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [244445]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold this information as we do not collect information on predicted A level grades.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools took English literature GCSE in (a) 1997, (b) 2003 and (c) the latest year for which figures are available. [252601]

Jim Knight: The numbers of pupils attempting English literature GCSE in maintained and independent schools in 1997, 2003 and 2008 are given as follows:

	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*
2007/08	472,575	38,933
2002/03	481,440	35,458
1996/97	422,619	35,985

Notes:
1. Figures for 2007/08 relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, for 1996/97 and 2002/03 the figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).
2. Figures include attempts by these pupils in previous academic years. Only one attempt is counted per pupil.
3. The figures are derived from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students took both mathematics and physics GCSE in *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools in the last five years for which figures are available. [252604]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The numbers of pupils attempting both mathematics and physics GCSE in maintained and independent schools for the last five years are given as follows:

	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*
2007/08	52,830	8,689
2006/07	36,533	9,607
2005/06	34,267	12,426
2004/05	30,942	13,698
2003/04	28,293	13,938

Notes:
1. Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 except in 2003/04 for which the figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).
2. Figures include attempts by these pupils in previous academic years. Only one attempt is counted per pupil.
3. The figures are derived from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Literacy: Advisory Services

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many literacy advisers are employed by the National Strategies for early years, primary and secondary teachers, practitioners and managers. [254728]

Jim Knight: There are 46 English/literacy advisers employed by the National Strategies across the early years, primary and secondary sectors. Their principle role is to provide support to local authorities, schools and early years settings, including training and professional development materials which are provided free.

Music Standards Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to the Music Standards Fund as by *(a)* baseline funding and *(b)* the Music Standards Fund grant in each of the last five years. [254360]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows how much funding has been allocated through the Music Standards Fund in each of the last five years. In addition to the baseline amount of £297.5 million a further £52 million has been allocated to local authorities to encourage the development of programmes designed to increase the number of pupils at KS2 able to learn a musical instrument.

			£ million (rounded)
	Baseline	*Additional for KS2*	*Total*
2004-05	59.5	0	59.5
2005-06	59.5	1.5	61
2006-07	59.5	4.5	64
2007-08	59.5	23	82.5
2008-09	59.5	23	82.5
Total	297.5	52	349.5

Music: Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on musical instrument tuition for young people in schools since December 2007. [252924]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department allocated £82,567,000 to local authorities in both 2007-08 and 2008-09 through the Music Standards Fund. We have asked local authorities to prioritise the provision of instrumental and vocal tuition at Key Stage 2 with this funding but we neither specify nor collect information on the actual amount that is spent on instrumental tuition. We are also investing £10 million per year to 2011 for the purchase of musical instruments.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage an increase in uptake of music *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level courses. [253497]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department allocated £82,567,000 to local authorities in both 2007-08 and 2008-09 through the Music Standards Fund. We have asked local authorities to prioritise the provision of instrumental and vocal tuition at Key Stage 2 with this funding. We are also investing £10 million per year to 2011 on Sing Up, the National Singing Programme spearheaded by Howard Goodall. With this early introduction to quality music experiences we believe that children will come to see themselves as musicians and will have a real and long-lasting enjoyment of music which will encourage them to continue their learning as they move into secondary school. The compulsory Music Curriculum at Key Stage 3 is now much more focussed on performance and hands-on music making. The curriculum builds on students' own interests and skills and should, therefore, engage them more fully which in turn will encourage them to continue with their studies in music through to GCSE and A Level.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils were learning a musical instrument in each year since 2000. [254579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: While this information is not collected centrally, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 July 2008 *Official Report*, column 384W. That reply states the percentage of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils reported as receiving specialist instrumental or vocal tuition in the surveys conducted by the Institute of Education, University of London in 2002, 2005 and 2007.

Data on secondary school pupils was not collected from Music Services in 2007. The 2005 Survey of Local Authority Music Services reported that overall, 8.4 per cent. of pupils Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 were learning to play an instrument, a small increase on the figures for 2002. The 2005 report also pointed out that one of the obstacles to increasing the number of pupils playing was the legislation preventing charging for groups larger than four pupils. That legislation has since been amended.

The survey reports are available at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research.

Music: Teachers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent from the public purse on the fund established for the professional development of music teachers in each year since it was established. [259922]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since September 2006, when the contract was let, £3.3 million has been spent to develop and deliver a programme of professional development for those working with children at Key Stage 2 in music. This breaks down as follows: £1.1 million in 2006-07, £1.3 million in 2007-08 and £0.9 million to date in 2008-09.

Physical Education: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent as part of the PE and Sport Strategy. [253302]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 2003, investment in the PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) Strategy and the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) has totalled over £2.2 billion. This has been allocated and spent, as follows:

		£
	Allocated	*Spend*
PESSCL (2003-08)	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000
PESSYP (2008-11)	755,000,000	[1]251,000,000

[1] Forecast spend as at 31 March 2009.

Playgrounds

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many local authorities have obtained capital funding to support the delivery of stimulating local places to play since the publication of the children's plan; [247195]

(2) how many of the proposed new adventure playgrounds referred to on page 101 of his Department's Annual Report have been built; [247194]

(3) when the *(a)* play strategy and *(b)* outcomes of the consultation on the strategy was published. [246997]

Beverley Hughes: In April 2008 a first wave of 63 (20 Pathfinder and 43 Playbuilder) local authorities started receiving their play capital and revenue funding. By April 2009, all local authorities will have been offered funding of at least £1 million.

On average over the course of the programme, each play Pathfinder authority will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding, and each Playbuilder authority will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding.

Each play Pathfinder authority will deliver a staffed adventure playground to support local children most in need of improved play opportunities. Wave 1 Pathfinders are scheduled to complete 20 adventure play grounds in total by April 2010, and are on track to do so. The wave 2 Pathfinders starting in April 2009 have until 2011 to deliver 10 adventure playgrounds in total.

The Play Strategy was on launched Wednesday 10 December 2008, by a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column 51WS—and a launch event at the White Horse Adventure Playground, Tower Hamlets, attended by my noble Friend Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children.

The Play Strategy directly responds to a huge consultation response, including over 9,400 responses from children and young people themselves. 12 per cent. of responses came from disabled children. Key findings from the consultation response are highlighted throughout the Play Strategy document. Children, young people and families were clear that they want improved local play opportunities that are safe and exciting, and communities that are more child-friendly.

Pre-School Education: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in the childcare sector were qualified to at least level three in each of the last 30 years. [252070]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the proportion of staff in the child care sector qualified to at least level three. The following table shows the proportion of staff in the child care sector qualified to at least level three for 2003, 2006 and 2007 by different type of child care provider. The proportion of staff qualified to at least level 3 rose in all types of child care setting from 2003 to 2007. Data for earlier years are not available.

Percentage of paid child care staff with at least a level three qualification

	2003	*2006*	*2007*
Full day care	57	73	72
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	80	82
Sessional	44	58	61
After school clubs	37	51	53
Holiday clubs	30	53	54
Child minders	n/a	38	41
Nursery schools	78	80	83
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	72	77	77
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	64	71	73

Notes:

1. Data include all paid child care staff from Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey.
2. Data are not available for all types of providers for 2003.

Primary Education

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on allowing children born in August to delay starting school until after they have reached the age of five. [253701]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest a child can start primary school is at the beginning of the term immediately following their fifth birthday. There are no plans to change this.

The remit for the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum, asks Sir Jim Rose to consider whether it be appropriate to allow more choice and flexibility in start dates for children entering school. The final report and recommendations will be published this spring.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the framework for the primary curriculum laid out in Sir Jim Rose's interim report. [254182]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We welcome the provisional findings of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum set out in the interim report. We look forward to receiving Sir Jim Rose's final report and recommendations for consideration in the spring.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to complete its work on progression statements and programmes of learning for the framework for the primary curriculum proposed in Sir Jim Rose's interim report. [254183]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority are working to a timetable that will allow Sir Jim Rose to provide his final advice and recommendations, including programmes of learning, in the spring.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration he plans to give in his response to the Rose Review to the final report from the Cambridge Primary Review. [254184]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Sir Jim Rose is currently producing his final report of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum. As part of his review he is taking into account a wide range of evidence and research. Jim Rose has met with members of the Cambridge Primary Review.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that primary school children are not put under too much pressure academically. [254903]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has asked Sir Jim Rose to undertake a review of the primary curriculum. As part of his remit, Sir Jim will be reviewing the content of existing programmes of study and reducing prescription where possible. His interim report sets out proposals providing an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum and a greater emphasis on children's personal development.

We have set up an Expert Group on assessment who are examining the assessment system up to Key Stage 3. Part of their remit specifically states that they should state what advice schools should be given so that test preparation is proportionate, educationally appropriate, and that the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum is not inhibited.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many five to seven-year-olds were educated in classes of at least *(a)* 25 and *(b)* 20 pupils in each local authority area in the latest year for which figures are available. [253177]

Jim Knight: Class size data is not collected by age of child. However, the following table shows classes as taught by national curriculum year group.

Maintained primary schools[1]: classes taught by one teacher by year group[2], as at January 2008, England

		Classes taught by one teacher					
		Classes of size 20 to 24 pupils			*Classes of size 25 and over pupils*		
		Year group 1	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*
	England	74,450	74,900	61,730	292,220	303,360	323,160
	North East	5,350	5,240	4,110	10,680	11,750	13,090
841	Darlington	181	210	86	662	672	789
840	Durham	770	1,043	671	1,774	1,782	2,152
390	Gateshead	296	219	152	570	780	881
805	Hartlepool	301	112	255	280	439	410

Maintained primary schools[1]: classes taught by one teacher by year group [2], as at January 2008, England

		Classes taught by one teacher					
		Classes of size 20 to 24 pupils			*Classes of size 25 and over pupils*		
		Year group 1	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*	*Year group 1*	*Year group 2*	*Year group 3*
806	Middlesbrough	416	456	371	577	637	763
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	357	426	317	1,418	1,371	1,625
392	North Tyneside	310	233	275	965	1,075	1,072
929	Northumberland	666	490	204	1,091	1,372	1,451
807	Redcar and Cleveland	311	352	389	521	663	517
393	South Tyneside	339	273	170	870	679	931
808	Stockton-on-Tees	632	606	488	783	842	940
394	Sunderland	769	818	731	1,167	1,435	1,562
	North West	10,950	11,060	9,490	37,330	40,450	43,840
889	Blackburn with Darwen	220	226	184	1,179	1,212	1,303
890	Blackpool	159	138	20	1,138	1,129	1,343
350	Bolton	312	466	328	2,214	2,091	2,381
351	Bury	339	267	339	914	1,042	1,085
875	Cheshire	1,037	1,064	657	3,052	3,241	3,789
909	Cumbria	623	796	805	1,605	1,808	1,811
876	Halton	199	305	233	622	524	591
340	Knowsley	259	155	337	748	1,291	991
888	Lancashire	1,925	1,754	1,225	4,403	5,858	6,441
341	Liverpool	978	755	1,042	2,475	2,559	2,461
352	Manchester	645	528	878	2,978	2,933	2,749
353	Oldham	203	490	248	1,682	1,711	1,778
354	Rochdale	360	292	225	1,359	1,407	1,494
355	Salford	458	484	463	1,168	1,060	1,206
343	Sefton	619	422	448	1,345	1,609	1,827
342	St. Helens	331	357	314	1,042	1,049	1,431
356	Stockport	381	489	248	1,583	1,674	2,065
357	Tameside	331	318	363	1,470	1,600	1,604
358	Trafford	173	310	111	1,619	1,659	1,873
877	Warrington	331	494	329	1,243	1,095	1,333
359	Wigan	617	506	422	1,748	2,045	2,275
344	Wirral	447	441	268	1,740	1,851	2,005
	Yorkshire and the Humber	8,130	8,970	6,520	28,090	28,300	30,900
370	Barnsley	518	335	373	665	1,296	1,098
380	Bradford	487	513	346	5,114	4,441	4,969
381	Calderdale	221	330	404	1,259	1,409	1,267
371	Doncaster	640	837	630	1,623	1,523	1,796
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	360	669	545	1,513	1,341	1,421
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	333	406	437	1,459	1,325	1,276
382	Kirklees	694	812	566	2,381	2,551	2,893
383	Leeds	1,340	1,149	850	3,970	4,182	4,379
812	North East Lincolnshire	156	279	154	705	637	754
813	North Lincolnshire	231	316	67	835	782	1,010
815	North Yorkshire	793	851	585	1,544	1,557	1,998
372	Rotherham	609	650	548	1,431	1,278	1,461
373	Sheffield	771	931	528	3,289	3,373	3,613
384	Wakefield	667	596	330	1,540	1,740	2,060
816	York	311	293	160	766	861	909
	East Midlands	7,590	7,460	5,730	19,890	21,340	24,360
831	Derby	433	381	378	1,650	1,802	1,461
830	Derbyshire	1,419	1,361	1,065	3,018	3,673	4,306
856	Leicester	533	621	647	2,028	1,811	2,107
855	Leicestershire	1,246	1,212	578	2,393	2,676	3,157
925	Lincolnshire	955	1,055	553	2,398	2,838	3,342
928	Northamptonshire	1,170	919	947	3,735	3,819	4,129
892	Nottingham	504	498	448	1,414	1,402	1,726
891	Nottinghamshire	1,280	1,394	1,087	3,225	3,182	4,014
857	Rutland	45	21	23	30	141	117

Maintained primary schools[1]: classes taught by one teacher by year group [2], as at January 2008, England

		Classes taught by one teacher					
		Classes of size 20 to 24 pupils			Classes of size 25 and over pupils		
		Year group 1	Year group 2	Year group 3	Year group 1	Year group 2	Year group 3
	West Midlands	9,540	8,810	7,000	32,060	34,380	36,690
330	Birmingham	1,393	1,326	1,539	9,362	9,611	9,722
331	Coventry	504	306	633	2,003	2,075	2,012
332	Dudley	882	918	561	1,665	1,799	2,251
884	Herefordshire	273	265	88	585	591	798
333	Sandwell	633	599	315	2,494	2,541	2,864
893	Shropshire	224	209	48	731	847	876
334	Solihull	600	393	326	1,307	1,619	1,809
860	Staffordshire	1,584	1,692	1,018	3,540	3,956	4,477
861	Stoke-on-Trent	361	474	317	1,450	1,303	1,824
894	Telford and Wrekin	153	139	161	654	847	912
335	Walsall	472	562	492	2,086	1,770	1,934
937	Warwickshire	722	670	608	2,588	3,032	2,821
336	Wolverhampton	643	592	457	1,310	1,463	1,290
885	Worcestershire	1,092	700	437	2,281	2,925	3,096
	East of England	8,710	7,680	7,040	31,260	33,690	34,340
820	Bedfordshire	1,167	860	781	2,036	2,319	2,467
873	Cambridgeshire	663	490	386	2,940	3,316	3,176
881	Essex	2,145	2,023	1,370	7,115	7,826	8,551
919	Hertfordshire	1,176	981	1,214	7,549	8,091	7,378
821	Luton	113	224	391	2,224	1,976	1,783
926	Norfolk	1,399	1,221	1,155	2,791	3,633	3,875
874	Peterborough	197	220	158	1,417	1,464	1,540
882	Southend-on-Sea	198	220	88	1,275	1,133	1,275
935	Suffolk	1,362	1,209	1,258	2,772	2,896	3,010
883	Thurrock	289	229	242	1,136	1,032	1,289
	London	8,220	8,470	8,090	60,420	58,060	59,340
	Inner London	3,610	3,580	3,620	19,710	18,490	18,970
202	Camden	116	47	135	1,120	1,060	1,078
201	City of London	0	0	0	30	0	30
204	Hackney	330	277	381	1,267	1,492	1,325
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	48	43	89	892	1,004	779
309	Haringey	185	513	430	2,353	1,777	2,026
206	Islington	347	184	261	927	1,046	1,098
207	Kensington and Chelsea	112	96	113	571	447	514
208	Lambeth	299	361	287	1,933	1,590	1,820
209	Lewisham	324	536	287	1,935	1,522	1,960
316	Newham	457	265	322	2,686	2,719	2,926
210	Southwark	653	648	590	1,716	1,682	1,616
211	Tower Hamlets	250	246	240	1,996	1,782	1,745
212	Wandsworth	359	222	400	1,371	1,525	1,384
213	Westminster	130	137	88	914	841	768
	Outer London	4,610	4,890	4,460	40,710	39,570	40,370
301	Barking and Dage[illegible]am	152	157	528	2,155	2,152	1,590
302	Barnet	246	248	197	2,631	2,428	2,601
303	Bexley	248	204	159	1,966	2,069	2,280
304	Brent	136	289	47	2,463	2,128	2,551
305	Bromley	268	362	194	2,550	2,325	2,646
306	Croydon	365	292	319	2,934	3,085	3,244
307	Ealing	270	293	255	2,968	2,598	2,549
308	Enfield	43	207	168	2,923	2,953	2,946
203	Greenwich	420	620	497	1,751	1,594	1,596
310	Harrow	211	455	427	1,898	1,598	1,657
311	Havering	376	201	231	1,596	1,735	1,772
312	Hillingdon	998	513	269	2,019	2,123	2,327
313	Hounslow	320	345	276	1,889	1,801	1,620
314	Kingston upon Thames	176	47	110	1,069	1,248	1,191
315	Merton	332	297	292	1,415	1,436	1,371
317	Redbridge	85	0	24	2,752	2,719	2,696

Maintained primary schools[1]: classes taught by one teacher by year group [2], as at January 2008, England

		Classes taught by one teacher					
		Classes of size 20 to 24 pupils			Classes of size 25 and over pupils		
		Year group 1	Year group 2	Year group 3	Year group 1	Year group 2	Year group 3
318	Richmond upon Thames	135	116	200	1,634	1,424	1,439
319	Sutton	164	175	156	1,431	1,534	1,699
320	Waltham Forest	69	69	114	2,669	2,588	2,594
	South East	10,790	10,790	8,440	49,100	51,410	55,030
867	Bracknell Forest	111	142	183	799	817	786
846	Brighton and Hove	285	360	337	1,833	1,781	1,699
825	Buckinghamshire	611	800	749	3,313	3,249	3,507
845	East Sussex	424	421	214	2,491	2,544	3,063
850	Hampshire	1,661	1,601	1,018	7,138	7,773	8,074
921	Isle of Wight	369	138	175	361	509	719
886	Kent	1,543	1,506	1,314	9,198	9,479	9,500
887	Medway	584	622	491	1,707	1,676	1,957
826	Milton Keynes	492	387	241	1,446	1,826	1,966
931	Oxfordshire	1,068	1,119	703	2,650	2,763	2,883
851	Portsmouth	360	348	134	1,044	1,048	1,270
870	Reading	213	135	172	820	1,003	836
871	Slough	177	66	271	1,218	1,250	1,091
852	Southampton	177	491	192	1,500	1,308	1,672
936	Surrey	1,251	1,267	999	7,135	7,334	8,257
869	West Berkshire	173	202	302	806	846	786
938	West Sussex	854	693	694	4,035	4,557	5,176
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	115	114	46	589	580	621
872	Wokingham	317	377	207	1,016	1,062	1,164
	South West	5,190	6,440	5,320	23,390	24,000	25,570
800	Bath and North East Somerset	91	221	179	970	767	969
837	Bournemouth	205	111	141	994	1,040	1,170
801	Bristol, City of	442	585	537	2,391	2,466	2,239
908	Cornwall	422	574	385	1,972	2,016	2,548
878	Devon	737	994	748	2,267	2,719	2,630
835	Dorset	646	626	480	1,823	1,827	2,039
916	Gloucestershire	393	519	680	2,811	2,638	2,662
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	20	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	115	314	181	1,401	1,148	1,315
879	Plymouth	469	415	224	1,201	1,362	1,367
836	Poole	68	137	0	1,050	965	1,185
933	Somerset	427	362	500	1,674	2,008	2,038
803	South Gloucestershire	248	382	458	1,487	1,505	1,590
866	Swindon	270	426	309	1,173	1,172	1,221
880	Torbay	107	156	64	811	616	890
865	Wiltshire	545	622	412	1,366	1,748	1,710

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period on the day of the Census in January.

Note:

National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices were given a fixed-period exclusion in the last 12 months. [251103]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information on pupils with one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion is provided in the table.

Primary and secondary schools[1,2,3]: Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions by level of deprivation of school[4], England, 2006/07

	Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions	
Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI[1] (Percentage)	*Maintained primary schools*	*State funded secondary schools*
0-10 most deprived	5,000	17,810
10-20	4,060	20,100
20-30	3,430	19,520
30-40	2,800	22,800
40-50	2,080	22,670
50-60	1,920	22,540
60-70	1,480	18,360

Primary and secondary schools[1,2,3]: Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions by level of deprivation of school[4], England, 2006/07

	Number of pupils receiving fixed period exclusions	
Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI[1] (Percentage)	Maintained primary schools	State funded secondary schools
70-80	1,160	17,770
80-90	970	18,080
90-100 least deprived	770	17,530

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes both CTCs and academies. Information is as reported by schools.

[3] Based on schools open in January 2007.

[4] 2004 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school. Includes all schools which returned information on fixed period exclusions for 2006/07.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source: Schools Census

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were given more than two fixed-period exclusions in each local authority in the last 12 months. [251117]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest available information covers the school year 2006/07; this has been placed in the Library.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were permanently excluded from school in the most recent year which figures are available; and what percentage of those children were looked-after children. [251781]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2006/07, the latest year for which information is available, there were 8,680 permanent exclusions from primary, secondary and all special schools (including CTCs and academies). This figure is given in table 3 of the 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07' Statistical First Release:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

In 2006/07, the latest year for which data is available, there were 220 permanent exclusions from schools for looked-after children[1]. This figure is given in table A of the 'Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England' Statistical First Release:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Looked-after children who have been permanently excluded as a percentage of total permanent exclusions cannot be calculated because the figure for the total number of permanent exclusions and the figure for the number of permanent exclusions for looked-after children come from different sources and are on different bases.

[1] If a child has been permanently excluded more than once in the previous school year, each occasion has been counted.

Pupil Referral Units

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what consultation he has undertaken with representatives of the education sector on the proposed renaming of pupil referral units; and if he will make a statement; [252448]

(2) how many Link schools there are; and how many such schools have the word link in their official titles. [252449]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our proposal to re-name pupil referral units was put forward in the White Paper "Back on Track: A strategy for modernising alternative provision for young people", published in May 2008. A full public consultation was held on the contents of the White Paper, including the proposed name change, and we received a number of responses suggesting new names for pupil referral units.

The ministerial stakeholders' group on behaviour and attendance, which includes representatives from the professional associations unions, school governance organisations and local authority organisations, was also consulted on the Back on Track proposals, as was the national organisation for PRUs, which held a survey on its website to identify popular names.

Once a shortlist of names was collated, schools in England who already use the potential new names were contacted by officials.

My officials have identified five schools in England called 'Link' or 'Links'.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 165W, on pupils: English language, if he will provide the same information for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 1999. [253398]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Recycling: Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided to improve education about recycling in schools in the last five years. [253695]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Education about recycling in schools comes within the National Framework for Sustainable Schools which was launched in May 2006. The Department's spending on sustainable schools has been to date:

Financial year 2006-07: £600,000

Financial year 2007-08: £1,015,000

And we have forecast to spend in 2008-09:

Financial year 2008-09: £1,015,000.

Since 2006, the Department has provided support to schools by producing a Top Tips guide for reducing waste; a guide to Bursars which includes advice on waste minimisation and recycling which could save schools' money; and a Carbon Detectives' Kit (carbon footprint tool) which enables young people to investigate their school's sustainability performance and supports them in finding ways to improve it.

Investigations into waste and recycling are included in the Carbon Detectives' Kit.

School Meals

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children have school meals in each local authority area. [247515]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this information.

However, the School Food Trust's (SFT) annual survey on school meals take-up in England provides information on take-up by region.

Table 7: Take up of school meals (percentage) in primary and secondary schools in England, by region, 2007-2008 and 2006-07 based on usual method of calculation

	Usual method of calculation		*Change of provision*	
	2007-08	*2006-07*	*Percentage of 2006-07*	*Difference (percentage points)*
Primary				
North East	53.6	55.3	-3.1	-1.7
North West	46.4	44.9	3.3	1.5
Yorkshire/Humber	43.9	43.2	1.6	0.7
East Midlands	39.9	34.3	16.3	[1]5.6
West Midlands	45.1	45.5	-0.9	-0.4
East of England	39.6	39.3	0.8	0.3
Inner London	57.4	56.9	0.9	0.5
Outer London	40.9	42.9	-4.7	-2
South East	33.8	28.0	20.7	[2]5.8
South West	34.8	35.8	-2.8	-1
All primary	43.0	41.3	4.1	1.7
Secondary				
North East	40.1	38.8	3.4	1.3
North West	45.0	41.9	7.4	3.1
Yorkshire/Humber	36.8	37.1	-0.8	-0.3
East Midlands	34.3	34.9	-1.7	-0.6
West Midlands	36.9	36.0	2.5	0.9
East of England	33.8	35.1	-3.7	-1.3
Inner London	41.0	38.5	6.5	2.5
Outer London	39.9	39.3	1.5	0.6
South East	32.0	39.7	-19.4	[3]7.7
South West	31.2	26.8	16.4	[4]4.4
All secondary	37.6	37.7	-0.3	-0.1

[1] The apparent 6 per cent. increase in take up in East Midlands is attributable to a difference in the reported value for take up in one LA from 17 per cent. in 2006-07 to 29 per cent. in 2007-08. In April 2008, the reported value for the same LA for 2006-07 was 44 per cent. suggesting that the original value of 17 per cent. may have been in error. Also, two LAs with take up lower than the national average reported in 2006-07 but not for 2007-08.

[2] The apparent 6 per cent. increase in take up in South East is attributable to increases in take up of 5 per cent. and 6 per cent. in two of the largest LAs in South East. Once weighting is applied, these increases make a significant contribution to the regional average.

[3] The apparent 8 per cent. decrease in take up in South East is attributable to different LAs reporting in 2008 and 2007, with one LA with higher than average take up reporting in 2007 but not 2008, and one LA with lower than average take up reporting in 2008 but not 2007. Also, an 8 per cent. drop in take up in the second largest LA in South East will have significantly affected the weighted average.

[4] The apparent 4 per cent. increase in take up in South West is attributable to more survey responses in 2007-2008 (5 LAs) compared with 2006-2007 (3 LAs).

Note:

Base (unweighted): Primary: 97 (2007-2008); 86 (2006-2007). Secondary: 78 (2007-2008); 64 (2006-2007). Analysis: weighted by number of pupils attending schools catered for.

The full survey can be viewed at

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/doc_item.asp?DocCatId=1&DocId=86

The SFT has also published partial take-up data at local authority (LA) level, in a technical paper "NI 52 - take up of school lunches" (December 2008) that discusses the impact of the introduction of the new national indicator for take-up of school meals (NI52). The first official NI52 data collection will be in April 2009. Following this, take-up data at LA level will be available in the summer of 2009.

Schools: Collective Worship

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has any plans to remove the requirement for a daily act of worship in schools. [253807]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have no plans to remove the requirement for a daily act of worship in schools.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to bring forward additional capital expenditure on schools; and if he will make a statement. [255294]

Jim Knight: Local authorities have been invited to bid to bring forward funding allocated at local authority level from 2010-11 to 2009-10. Their views have also been requested on bringing forward projects funded by Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) at school level. The decision on whether to bring forward DFC will be made in the light of these responses.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were in the National Challenge as at 25 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [253176]

Jim Knight: There is good progress towards meeting the National Challenge. In 2007 there were 631 schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A*-C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE. This figure has reduced to 440 on the basis of final published data which is a reduction of 191 schools. All schools below the threshold will receive bespoke support as appropriate from the National Challenge.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what means his Department plans to evaluate school-level indicators of well-being. [253743]

Beverley Hughes: Our joint consultation with Ofsted on school-level indicators of well-being has just finished and we are currently considering responses before making final decisions on what the indicators will be. The next steps will be for Ofsted to trial the indicators and for this Department to work with Ofsted to develop an evaluation plan.

Science: Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to raise the school science examination standards in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249819]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has responsibility for the curriculum in England only; responsibility for the rest of the United Kingdom was devolved to the Scottish Parliament and the Assemblies for Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Government's ambition is to create an education and training environment throughout the whole of England that delivers the best in science teaching and learning at every stage. To support this ambition we announced in January 2008 a £140 million strategy over the period 2008-11 to educate the next generation of scientists and mathematicians and help recruit and train more science and mathematics teachers. Much work is already under way to improve standards of science teaching and learning, including:

> Raising attainment through the Secondary National Strategy;
>
> Streamlining the curriculum to make it more manageable and focus on the key concepts of science, as well as its excitement and relevance;
>
> Supporting 500 science and engineering clubs for pupils at key stage 3 with an interest and aptitude for science.
>
> Providing additional incentives to recruit more high quality science graduates into science teaching.
>
> Improving the quality of teaching by making available good quality continuing professional development through the network of Science Learning Centres, which we fund jointly with the Wellcome Trust.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils eligible to receive free school meals attained a GCSE in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology in the latest period for which figures are available. [241793]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The table shows the number and percentage of pupils achieving A*-G in physics, chemistry and biology by eligibility of free school meals in 2007.

Attainment of pupils in England by eligibility of free school meals

	Number achieving A-G*	*Percentage achieving A*-G*	*Total number of pupils*
Physics	1,481	1.9	[1]76,647
Chemistry	1,524	2.0	[1]—
Biology	1,803	2.4	[1]—
Double science	40,294	52.6	[1]—

[1] Indicates brace

Source:

National Pupil Database

Data relate to pupils at the end of KS4 in maintained schools only.

Serbo-Croat Language: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of reintroducing Serbo-Croat as a GCSE option in schools. [254180]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No assessment has been made. Decisions as to which languages are offered are for awarding bodies to take in the light of demand.

Social Workers: Recruitment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on recruiting children's social workers in 2008. [253392]

Beverley Hughes: Social workers are directly recruited by their employers. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect information on how much employers spend on recruiting children's social workers.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* were eligible for free school meals and had statemented or non-statemented special educational needs, *(b)* were eligible for free school meals and were children in care, *(c)* had statemented or non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care and *(d)* were eligible for free school meals, had statemented or non-statemented special educational needs, and were children in care in each of the last five years. [252672]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on children in care is usually sourced from the Looked After Children database but this cannot be used to answer this question. However, data on pupils in care is also collected via the School Census and the latest information is shown in the table.

This census shows that there were 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, shows 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. However the School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

Maintained primary and secondary schools and all special schools[1]: number of pupils[2]: Position in January each year 2004 to 2008, England

All pupils aged 5 to 19

	Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have statemented special educational needs	*Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have non-statemented special educational needs*	*Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and were children in care*	*Number of pupils who had statemented special educational needs and were children in care*	*Number of pupils who had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care*	*Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had statemented special educational needs and were children in care*	*Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care*
2004	70,920	322,430	5,530	7,500	10,680	1,210	2,440
2005	66,290	321,820	5,760	7,530	11,340	1,170	2,390
2006	62,100	322,710	5,730	7,890	12,270	1,120	2,520
2007	59,450	326,310	5,990	8,000	13,630	1,120	2,510
2008	56,670	330,980	5,460	8,370	14,120	1,090	2,510

[1] Includes primary and secondary schools and all special schools (excludes general hospital schools).
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department is providing to schools to improve educational provision for children with behavioural needs in 2008-09. [253121]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are implementing a comprehensive national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage behaviour. This includes targeted support for schools, high quality training, curriculum materials and consultancy support. We have also strengthened the law to help protect schools from challenges to their authority from pupils or parents, and enable them to foster a safe and orderly learning environment.

We are encouraging schools to develop a whole-school approach to improving social and emotional wellbeing and continuing to reduce behavioural difficulties, by promoting the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programme and by publishing guidance on the management of behaviour.

In this context, last May we issued revised guidance on the education of children and young people experiencing behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a special educational need (BESD). We have also commissioned the National Strategies to provide a wide range of support and advisory services, including continuing a professional development scheme, which includes study materials on managing behaviour in schools and addressing BESD.

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which special schools more than 50 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008. [253673]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Four special schools are published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables showing more than 50 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs in 2008.

These are:

Edington and Shapwick School, Somerset;
Mary Hare Grammar School, West Berkshire;
More House School, Surrey; and
Mark College, Somerset.

Special Educational Needs: School Leaving

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the merits of children with profound and multiple learning difficulties remaining at a specialist school until the age of 18 years. [252754]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We believe that all young people should participate in education or training until at least 18. Young people who stay on after 16 are more likely to gain higher levels of qualifications by 18 than those who do not and are less likely to commit crimes, behave antisocially or to suffer ill health. The Education and Skills Act 2008 introduced compulsory participation until 18 for all young people and this will ensure that the entire education system focuses on the needs of the all young people, including those with profound and multiple learning difficulties. It may be that the most suitable and appropriate provision for a particular young person would continue to be a special school, in which case this should be the key factor in determining where that young person receives their education.

There is a vital and continuing role for special schools as part of an inclusive education system, meeting young people's needs directly and working in much closer partnership with mainstream schools to build expertise throughout the system. The present Special Educational Needs statutory framework provides for children and young people with statements to be taught in mainstream schools where this is what their parents want and is compatible with the efficient education of other children. It also provides for parents to seek a special school place and to have this preference considered. If a young person with SEN remains at school after reaching age 16, the school and the local authority continue the SEN arrangements already in place, subject to further regular reviews. If a young person with SEN continues their education at a further education college the Learning and Skills Council has a duty to take regard of the young person's learning difficulties and disabilities.

The Children, Skills and Learning Bill creates the conditions for local authorities to assume responsibility for funding for learners with profound and multiple disabilities in 2010 and we believe this is the best way to develop a continuous system of support and provision from age 0-25.

Special Educational Needs: Teachers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of teachers have received teacher training in special educational needs beyond their initial teacher training in each local authority in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [252670]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Special Guardianship Orders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many special guardianship orders have been made in each local authority area in each of the last five years; [251850]

(2) how many special guardianship arrangements have broken down in each of the last five years. [251851]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of looked after children who ceased to be looked after as a result of a special guardianship order, in each local authority in each of the last three years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008, can be found in the following table.

Information on the number of special guardianship orders that have been made is only available for the last three years as they were first introduced on 30 December 2005. The figures for year ending 31 March 2006 only account for the last three months of the data collection year.

Information on the number of special guardianship arrangements that have broken down is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a special guardianship order being granted[1,2,3,4,5] years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008—Coverage: England

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a special guardianship order being granted[1,2,3,4,5] years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008—Coverage: England

			Number
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
England	70	750	1,100
North East	10	50	70
Darlington	0	—	—
Durham	—	5	15
Gateshead	0	0	0
Hartlepool	0	0	10
Middlesbrough	0	—	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	5	—
North Tyneside	0	—	—
Northumberland	0	5	15
Redcar and Cleveland	0	—	0
South Tyneside	—	5	—
Stockton-On-Tees	0	5	5
Sunderland	0	5	10
North West	10	130	220
Blackburn with Darwen	0	—	—
Blackpool	0	—	5
Bolton	—	—	15
Bury	—	5	10
Cheshire	0	10	5
Cumbria	—	10	10
Halton	0	0	5
Knowsley	0	—	10
Lancashire	—	10	25
Liverpool	0	15	25
Manchester	0	10	25
Oldham	0	—	10
Rochdale	—	—	—
Salford	0	—	—
Sefton	—	10	—
St Helens	0	—	10
Stockport	0	0	5
Tameside	0	—	—
Trafford	0	0	—
Warrington	0	—	—
Wigan	0	10	10
Wirral	0	15	25
Yorkshire and The Humber	10	50	80
Barnsley	0	0	10
Bradford	0	—	—
Calderdale	—	5	—
Doncaster	0	10	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	—
Kingston upon Hull, City of	0	—	0
Kirklees	—	—	—
Leeds	—	25	35
North East Lincolnshire	—	0	0
North Lincolnshire	0	—	—
North Yorkshire	0	—	—
Rotherham	0	0	—
Sheffield	0	0	5
Wakefield	—	0	—
York	—	—	—
East Midlands		30	60
Derby	0	—	10
Derbyshire	0	—	5
Leicester	0	—	—
Leicestershire	0	10	10
Lincolnshire	0	—	—
Northamptonshire	0	10	10
Nottingham	0	—	15
Nottinghamshire	0	—	—
Rutland	0	0	—
West Midlands	—	80	80
Birmingham	—	10	25

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a special guardianship order being granted[1,2,3,4,5] years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008—Coverage: England

Number

	2006	2007	2008
Coventry	0	10	—
Dudley	0	0	—
Herefordshire	0	—	5
Sandwell	0	20	—
Shropshire	0	0	0
Solihull	0	—	—
Staffordshire	0	20	20
Stoke-on-Trent	—	10	—
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	—
Walsall	0	0	—
Warwickshire	—	—	10
Wolverhampton	0	0	—
Worcestershire	0	0	—
East of England	—	50	90
Bedfordshire	0	5	15
Cambridgeshire	0	—	10
Essex	0	10	20
Hertfordshire	0	15	10
Luton	0	—	5
Norfolk	0	0	—
Peterborough	0	5	10
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0
Suffolk	—	10	10
Thurrock	0	0	5
London	30	170	270
Inner London	10	100	180
Camden	5	10	20
City of London	0	0	0
Hackney	0	10	25
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	10	25
Haringey	0	5	20
Islington	0	10	5
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	5
Lambeth	—	—	10
Lewisham	0	10	10
Newham	0	10	10
Southwark	—	10	10
Tower Hamlets	0	15	15
Wandsworth	0	5	10
Westminster	0	—	15
Outer London	10	70	90
Barking and Dagenham	0	—	15
Barnet	—	—	—
Bexley	0	—	—
Brent	—	—	10
Bromley	0	—	—
Croydon	0	5	—
Ealing	0	—	10
Enfield	0	—	0
Greenwich	—	10	10
Harrow	0	0	—
Havering	0	—	—
Hillingdon	0	—	—
Hounslow	—	10	10
Kingston upon Thames	0	—	—
Merton	—	—	—
Redbridge	0	—	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0
Sutton	0	—	10
Waltham Forest	0	—	10
South East	10	130	180
Bracknell Forest	0	—	0
Brighton and Hove	—	5	10
Buckinghamshire	—	—	10
East Sussex	0	—	10
Hampshire	—	20	30
Isle Of Wight	0	—	—
Kent	0	25	30
Medway Towns	0	5	15
Milton Keynes	—	10	—
Oxfordshire	0	5	15
Portsmouth	0	—	0
Reading	0	10	15
Slough	0	5	—
Southampton	0	—	0
Surrey	—	5	35
West Berkshire	0	—	0
West Sussex	—	10	10
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	—	0
Wokingham	0	—	0
South West	—	60	60
Bath and North East Somerset	0	5	—
Bournemouth	—	—	—
Bristol, City of	0	10	10
Cornwall	0	10	10
Devon	—	10	10
Dorset	0	—	0
Gloucestershire	0	5	5
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	—	—
Plymouth	0	10	—
Poole	0	0	—
Somerset	0	—	—
South Gloucestershire	0	0	—
Swindon	0	—	—
Torbay	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	—	—

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Special Guardianship orders were introduced on 30 December 2005. Consequently figures for year ending 31 March 2006 only account for the last three months of the data collection year.

[5] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five and numbers at region level have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers of five or less have been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen (—) except where the number is zero.

Steer Review

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the next report arising from the Steer Review to be published. [247414]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I am expecting Sir Alan to issue his latest report within the next three weeks.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has asked Sir Alan to use this report to advise him on how to make school partnerships for improving behaviour and tackling persistent absence more effective; what more might be done to encourage early intervention and more consistent good practice in provision for pupils with special educational needs; and the links between pupil behaviour and school policies on learning and teaching.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what strategies his Department has introduced to encourage personalised teaching and learning; and what mechanisms he has established by which the effectiveness of these strategies will be assessed. [253300]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: £1.6 billion is being made available across 2008-11 for personalised learning and special educational needs (SEN). This money is not ring-fenced and schools are free to spend it in a way which best supports their individual needs. In October 2008 we launched "Personalised Learning—A Practical Guide" to provide support and guidance to schools in prioritising their spending.

Core strategies underpinning personalised teaching and learning include:

> The Assessment for Learning Strategy to help schools improve and plan their Assessment for Learning (AfL) provision, underpinned by £150 million being made available to schools across 2008-11. Progress against strategy objectives and their impact is being monitored and driven forward in partnership with key agencies including the National Strategies (NS) and the QCA.
>
> From September 2010, access to a named personal tutor for every secondary school pupil and their parents. The personal tutor will know them in the round and will normally be the first point of contact for parents to discuss a range of academic and pastoral issues with the school.
>
> One-to-one tuition in reading, writing and mathematics, being introduced nationally from 2009 in Key Stages 2 and 3 and, in National Challenge schools, at Key Stage 4. One-to-one tuition is being rigorously evaluated as part of the Making Good Progress Pilot.
>
> Focused support in reading, writing and mathematics through the Every Child a Reader (ECaR), Every Child a Writer (ECaW), and Every Child Counts (ECC) suite of programmes.

Public Service Agreements and national targets for 2011 have a dual focus on ensuring that pupils reach the levels expected for their age in both English and mathematics (threshold targets) and improving the rates of progress made by pupils from ages 5-16 (new progression targets), with increased attention to achieving faster progress for underachieving groups.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 February 2009

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many terminations of pregnancies where severe disability was suspected were carried out in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [254563]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* There were 1,939 abortions performed under section l(l)(d) of the Abortion Act in England and Wales in 2007, the last year for which figures are available. The full table showing the breakdown by principal medical condition for abortions performed under section 1(1)(d) is available in the Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2007, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recorded attacks on ambulance crews there were in each NHS ambulance trust area in each of the last three years. [254202]

Ann Keen: Since 2004-05, the number of physical assaults against staff reported by NHS bodies in England has been collected annually by the National Health Service Security Management Service. The number of physical assaults reported against staff in ambulance trusts in the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 are shown in the following tables.

Total reported assaults against ambulance staff by trust 2005-06 to 2007-08

2005-06

	Number
Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust	32
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic Service NHS Trust	23
Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust	31
Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust	5
Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust	20
East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust	36
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	53
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	6
Gloucestershire Ambulance Services NHS Trust	4
Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	112
Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	28
Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15
Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	16
Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	9
Lincolnshire Ambulance and Health Transport Service NHS Trust	17
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	325
Mersey Regional Ambulance Service NHS Trust	47
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	46
Oxfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust	4
Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	10
South Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	14
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15
Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	30
Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	21
Tees East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	41
Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust	9
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	46
West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust	29
Westcountry Ambulance Services NHS Trust	44
Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	16
Total ambulance sector assaults reported in 2005-06	1,104

2006-07

	Number
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	74
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	77
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	34
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	297
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	39
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	166
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	38
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	81
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	47
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	11
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	99
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	43
Total ambulance sector assaults reported in 2006-07	1,006

2007-08

	Number
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	59
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	84
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	23
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	673
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	43
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	234
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	50
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	69
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	38
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	147
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	45
Total ambulance sector assaults reported in 2007-08	1,465

Note:

On 1 July 2006, the 30 NHS ambulance trusts in England merged to create 12 reconfigured trusts. On 1 October 2007, Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust merged with the West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust. The total number of reported assaults before and after mergers are shown against the reconfigured trusts as they were at the end of the reporting years.

Anorexia: Internet

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the Pro Ana web sites relating to anorexia; and if he will make a statement. [254580]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not discussed this issue with ministerial colleagues. Responsibility for the regulation of the internet rests with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The Department is concerned about the risks posed by websites which encourage anorexia or bulimia, but cannot take any legal action against them. Such sites are not in themselves illegal and may also be hosted overseas.

We continue to explore a variety of courses of action. For example, we have worked with a media agency which offered their expertise pro bono to run advertisements directing youngsters to more appropriate sites.

Blood: Donors

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to allow gay men to donate blood. [254900]

Dawn Primarolo: Current policy excludes men who have ever had sex with men, whatever their sexual orientation, from blood donation.

The United Kingdom adopts a highly precautionary approach to blood safety. The guiding principle is that if the best available evidence shows that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a course of action will improve the safety of the blood, this action should be taken. The Department is committed to regularly reviewing this evidence, and has asked its expert advisory committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs to do this in 2009.

Care Homes: Elderly

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits the Minister for Care Services has made to *(a)* care homes, *(b)* day centres and *(c)* other services for older people. [254591]

Phil Hope: I have undertaken visits to the following care homes for older people, day care centres for older people and other services for older people:

Visits for 2008

Date	*Visit*	*Organisation*	*Location*	*Purpose*
13 October 2008	Dignity tour—North East England	Service for older people	Dementia Care Partnership, Bradbury Centre	Tour of centre and meet staff and residents.
3 November 2008	Dignity tour—East of England	Services for older people	The Julian Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Trust	Tour of wards for older people, meet with staff and patients.
10 November 2008	Dignity tour—South East Coast	Care Home for older people	Red Oaks Care Home, Barchester Healthcare	Tour of home and meet staff and residents.
18 December 2008	Dignity visit, East Midlands	Services for older people	Cynthia Spencer Hospice, Manfield Health Campus, Northampton Northamptonshire	Tour of hospice and meet staff and patients.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the resources needed to implement the forthcoming National Service Framework for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and whether there will be ring-fenced funding from his Department for this purpose. [253711]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing a detailed Impact Assessment for the National Strategy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and any financial implications of implementing the programme will be published alongside the strategy.

Complementary Medicine

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the side-effects of (i) Vioxx, (ii) SSRI antidepressants and (iii) Salmeterol and *(b)* the use of complementary and alternative medicines to treat the conditions such drugs were developed to address. [254114]

Dawn Primarolo: The safety and efficacy of medicinal products is formally assessed from clinical trials submitted at the time of marketing authorisation. These data are carefully evaluated by the independent scientific advisory committee, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), and the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) prior to authorisation for evidence that the products work and are acceptably safe. The longer term safety of the use of medicines in routine clinical practice is closely monitored by the MHRA, including reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) submitted by health professionals and patients through the Yellow Card scheme, to ensure that benefit risk balance continues to be favourable.

The safety of Vioxx (rofecoxib), the Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor antidepressants (SSRIs) and salmeterol has been under continuous review by the MHRA since these medicinal products were first authorised. Any new data or possible safety issue to emerge have been carefully evaluated and, as necessary, appropriate action taken to update the product information for prescribers and patients to reflect the emerging safety profile and where necessary revised prescribing advice has been issued.

Vioxx (rofecoxib) was a selective COX-2 inhibitor, a type of non-selective anti-inflammatory drug, licensed for the treatment of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and acute pain conditions. In 2000, comparative clinical trial data raised concerns over the risk of heart attacks and other thrombotic cardiovascular events in association with use of rofecoxib. The Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM, the predecessor to the CHM) reviewed the safety of rofecoxib on several occasions between 2000 and 2003. This led to updates to product information and prescribing advice on the risk of thrombotic cardiovascular events. In 2004, the manufacturers of rofecoxib withdrew the product after clinical trial data comparing rofecoxib with placebo (a dummy pill) provided the first definitive evidence of an increased risk of heart attack and stroke, evident after 18 months of treatment. The safety of other selective COX-2 inhibitors and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) was fully reviewed between 2004 and 2006 and the conclusion was that the benefits of the authorised NSAIDs continue to outweigh the risks in the licensed indications.

SSRI antidepressants are used to treat depression and anxiety disorders. Ongoing concerns about the safety of the SSRIs in early 2003 prompted a review by an Expert Working Group of the CSM of the risk of suicidal behaviour and withdrawal reactions associated with the SSRIs. The Expert Working Group conducted a comprehensive review of the safety of this entire class of drugs, examining all available evidence and reviewing all the regulatory advice issued. The MHRA published key findings and updated advice to healthcare professionals and patients as the review progressed.

Salmeterol is a long-acting adrenoceptor beta agonist (LABA) used in the management of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The CSM and CHM have reviewed the safety of salmeterol on a number of occasions, leading to updates to product information and communications to remind healthcare professionals of the appropriate use of LABA in the treatment of asthma. The balance of risks and benefits of LABA was recently reviewed at the request of CHM, and was considered positive in the treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents, provided LABA are used with inhaled corticosteroids. The outcome of the review was published in the MHRA bulletin Drug Safety Update, which is available on the MHRA website.

There are currently no complementary or alternative medicines with marketing authorisations for the treatment of major conditions such as osteoarthritis, depression or asthma therefore the MHRA does not hold any information on the usage of complementary and alternative medicines for these conditions.

Some years ago the MHRA considered a number of applications for marketing authorisations for products containing St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.) for mild to moderate depression. However, the applications were refused due to lack of adequate evidence of safety and efficacy.

Dementia: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* Alzheimer's disease and *(b)* dementia in (i) East Devon constituency and (ii) Devon in each of the last five years. [253999]

Phil Hope: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia but this does not distinguish between Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The publication 'Revisions to the GMS Contract 2006/07', from NHS Employers, states that Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50-75 per cent. of cases of dementia. This register count is available for the two latest releases of QOF, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08.

We are unable to supply this information for parliamentary constituencies, as the data are only available for general practices (GPs) and can be aggregated to primary care trust (PCT) level. We have supplied figures for the smallest health area that covers Devon, namely Devon PCT.

These QOF figures are given in the following table. They are the totals for patients with dementia.

QOF data—number of patients on the Dementia disease registers

Financial year	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Devon PCT	3,527	3,388

Source:

The data supplied in the table above are published on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care.

(a) For 2007-08 see the Quality and Outcomes Framework 2007/08 publication data tables at the following link (published 30 September 2008):

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2007/08/data-tables

The table for PCT level QOF for 2007-08 can be found at the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/QOF/2007-08/NewFilesGS/QOF0708_PCTs_Prevalence.xls

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

(b) For 2006-07 see Quality and Outcomes Framework 2006/07 publication data tables at this link (published 28 September 2007):

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2006/07/qof-2006-07-data-tables

The table for PCT level QOF for 2006-07 can be found at this link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/QOF/2006-07/QOF0607_PCTs_Prevalence.xls

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Notes:

1. QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services contract on 1 April 2004.
2. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services practices also taking part.
3. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.
4. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national information technology system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
5. The system calculates practice achievement against national targets. It gives general practices, PCTs and strategic health authorities objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients.
6. QMAS captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.
7. Figures presented here are just the number of patients on the disease register for dementia.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds for people diagnosed with dementia there were in Devon in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [254000]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Dementia is one of the most important issues we face as the population ages. Around 570,000 people already have the condition in England and this number is set to double in the next 30 years, with the costs of dementia tripling.

That is why the Department published the first National Dementia Strategy on 3 February 2009. It sets out how we can transform services, through a combination of better training, earlier intervention and real support for people with dementia and their families.

Dental Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many courses of treatment dentists carried out in *(a)* the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust area and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [254279]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, information is available on the numbers of courses of treatment (CoTs) in England in the years ending 31 March, 1997 to 2006 in Table 3 of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006" report.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The number of CoTs performed in England in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available in Table A4 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by primary care trust and strategic health authority. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practising dentists there were in *(a)* the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust area and *(b)* England on 1 April in each year since 1997. [254280]

Ann Keen: The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

This measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will conduct an investigation of the effects of the banding of charges for dentistry on the NHS. [254975]

Ann Keen: Professor Jimmy Steele of Newcastle university is currently chairing an independent review of national health service dentistry in England. The review will consider how the Department can respond to the conclusions and recommendations the Health Select Committee (HSC) recently made, following their inquiry into dental services. The system of banded patient charges is one of the issues the HSC raised and that Professor Steele and his team will consider, taking views from a wide range of stakeholders. Professor Steele will publish his findings later in the spring, and the Department will then respond to his recommendations.

Dental Services: Prescriptions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescription items were dispensed by dentists in *(a)* the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* England in each year since 1997; [254251]

(2) what the net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed by dentists in *(a)* the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* England was in each year since 1997. [254252]

Ann Keen: Information on prescribing by dentists is available from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system. It is available only for England as a whole. It is available by calendar year from 2003.

The number and net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed by dentists in each year is given in the following table.

Calendar year	*Number of items (thousand)*	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
2007	4,569	10,657
2006	4,481	10,078
2005	4,651	9,186
2004	4,706	9,154
2003	4,768	9,231

Notes:
Definitions
PCA Data
Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community ie by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
The vast majority of these prescriptions are written by general medical practitioners in England; however, prescriptions written by nurses, dentists, other non-medical prescribers and hospital doctors are also included provided they were dispensed in the community.
The figures are taken from separate tables relating to prescribing by dentists only.
Source:
PCA

Dentistry

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health *(a)* how many students were given NHS dental bursaries and *(b)* how much was paid out in NHS dental bursaries (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) in each primary care trust area in 2007-08. [255611]

Ann Keen: The number of dental students who have been awarded an NHS bursary in each of the past five academic years is shown in the following table.

Academic year	*Number of dental students awarded an NHS bursary*[1]
2003-04	535
2004-05	572
2005-06	528
2006-07	589
2007-08	771
Total	2,995

[1] Includes students who received a nil award following means testing, English domiciled students studying in other parts of the UK, and EU fees only students.

Source:

NHS BSA Student Bursaries Scheme database

The amount paid by the NHS Bursary Scheme to dental students for maintenance support and other allowances in each of the past five academic years is shown in the following table.

Academic year	*Amount paid for maintenance support and other allowances*[1] *(£)*
2003-04	900,697
2004-05	886,568
2005-06	843,334
2006-07	1,053,332
2007-08	1,274,226
Total	4,958,156

[1] Excludes students who received a nil award following means testing and EU fees only students

Source:

NHS BSA Student Bursaries Scheme database

The NHS Business Services Authority cannot break down this information by primary care trust area.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255072]

Phil Hope: Equality impact assessment is an integral part of how the Department develops its internal and external policies and carries out its functions. The Department undertook over 350 screening and full assessments from 1 February 2008 to 31 January 2009. The cost of undertaking the assessments is not available as it is not separately identified in the policy development process.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were directly employed by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and how many self-employed workers were engaged by the Department in each such year. [254833]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table presents the number of staff directly employed by the Department. Figures for 1999 to 2007 are taken from the annual departmental reports. Information about staff employed in 2008 will be published in the 2009 departmental report later in the year.

	Core Department of Health (full-time equivalents)
2007	2,178
2006	2,250
2005	2,245
2004	2,050
2003	2,964
2002	3,390
2001	3,809
2000	3,632
1999	3,753

The information on the number of self-employed workers is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254240]

Ann Keen: The Appointments Commission recruit and appoint public appointees on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health. Appointments are made on merit and are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The appointments do not carry with them a salary as they are not employees, but appointees are usually remunerated for their work either annually, per meeting or through receiving expenses. Levels of remuneration vary according to the type of body.

We have asked the Appointments Commission to write to the right hon. Member with further more detailed information.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people who received drug treatment had to wait *(a)* less than three weeks and *(b)* more than three weeks in each of the last three years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [251247]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse collects data on local services via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

The information requested is only available for 2006-07 and 2007-08 and is shown in the table, broken down by Drug Action Team (DAT).

Numbers under five have been suppressed in accordance with procedures to preserve the confidentiality of information which could potentially identify individual patients.

			2006-07				*2007-08*			
			Number		*Percentage*		*Number*		*Percentage*	
DAT No.	*DAT code*	*DAT name*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*
1	H01B	Barking and Dagenham	341	5	99	1	391	*	—	—
2	H12B	Barnet	304	43	88	12	276	40	87	13
3	D09B	Barnsley	469	56	89	11	523	28	95	5
4	K01B	Bath and North East Somerset	195	75	72	28	222	76	74	26
5	G01B	Bedfordshire	274	28	91	9	382	38	91	9
6	H13B	Bexley	170	14	92	8	219	37	86	14
7	F05B	Birmingham	2,439	240	91	9	2,499	178	93	7
8	B03B	Blackburn with Darwen	313	67	82	18	396	23	95	5
9	B04B	Blackpool	529	84	86	14	664	31	96	4
10	B14B	Bolton	536	65	89	11	739	52	93	7
11	K06B	Bournemouth	433	79	85	15	514	64	89	11
12	J01B	Bracknell Forest	156	0	100	0	124	7	95	5
13	D13B	Bradford	1,229	5	100	0	1,217	19	98	2
14	H14B	Brent	376	89	81	19	574	40	93	7
15	J10B	Brighton and Hove	388	86	82	18	540	176	75	25
16	K02B	Bristol	1,152	163	88	12	874	193	82	18
17	H15B	Bromley	251	33	88	12	284	22	93	7
18	J07B	Buckinghamshire	418	119	78	22	472	62	88	12
19	B15B	Bury	419	14	97	3	401	17	96	4
20	D03B	Calderdale	309	*	—	—	360	*	—	—
21	G03B	Cambridgeshire	401	97	81	19	389	89	81	19
22	H03B	Camden	747	42	95	5	838	29	97	3
23	B20B	Cheshire	758	34	96	4	844	30	97	3
24	H05B	City of London	17	*	—	—	13	*	—	—
25	K13B	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	410	213	66	34	486	148	77	23
26	A02B	County Durham	705	48	94	6	722	25	97	3
27	F06B	Coventry	600	21	97	3	681	9	99	1
28	H16B	Croydon	464	55	89	11	493	25	95	5
29	B16B	Cumbria	413	134	76	24	630	42	94	6
30	A01B	Darlington	298	5	98	2	298	7	98	2
31	E05B	Derby	508	73	87	13	489	14	97	3
32	E04B	Derbyshire	733	113	87	13	573	174	77	23
33	K08B	Devon	611	111	85	15	688	93	88	12
34	D14B	Doncaster	626	56	92	8	607	20	97	3
35	K05B	Dorset	328	140	70	30	459	24	95	5
36	F07B	Dudley	408	143	74	26	567	94	86	14
37	H17B	Ealing	671	60	92	8	718	14	98	2
38	D02B	East Riding of Yorkshire	220	22	91	9	284	12	96	4
39	J11B	East Sussex	408	179	70	30	574	124	82	18
40	H18B	Enfield	381	24	94	6	347	43	89	11
41	G05B	Essex	862	157	85	15	1,627	155	91	9
42	A09B	Gateshead	502	30	94	6	617	9	99	1
43	K14B	Gloucestershire	745	85	90	10	637	76	89	11
44	H19B	Greenwich	541	36	94	6	686	34	95	5
45	H06B	Hackney	891	30	97	3	857	38	96	4
46	B08B	Halton	350	20	95	5	262	41	86	14
47	H20B	Hammersmith and Fulham	466	39	92	8	499	24	95	5
48	J15B	Hampshire	672	92	88	12	771	86	90	10
49	H21B	Haringey	599	102	85	15	676	17	98	2
50	H31B	Harrow	190	56	77	23	254	23	92	8
51	A03B	Hartlepool	187	9	95	5	303	5	98	2
52	H02B	Havering	259	9	97	3	278	15	95	5
53	F08B	Herefordshire	153	31	83	17	181	22	89	11
54	G08B	Hertfordshire	539	92	85	15	955	135	88	12
55	H32B	Hillingdon	273	67	80	20	373	56	87	13

DAT No.	DAT code	DAT name	*2006-07*				*2007-08*			
			Number		*Percentage*		*Number*		*Percentage*	
			Waits <= 3 weeks	*Waits > 3 weeks*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*	*Waits <= 3 weeks*	*Waits > 3 weeks*
56	H33B	Hounslow	300	58	84	16	527	27	95	5
57	J18B	Isle of Wight	170	5	97	3	189	*	—	—
58	H04B	Islington	616	100	86	14	748	24	97	3
59	H22B	Kensington and Chelsea	399	46	90	10	594	20	97	3
60	J13B	Kent	1,023	169	86	14	1,991	224	90	10
61	D01B	Kingston upon Hull	694	47	94	6	617	29	96	4
62	H23B	Kingston upon Thames	247	16	94	6	298	17	95	5
63	D04B	Kirklees	584	12	98	2	709	16	98	2
64	B11B	Knowsley	591	19	97	3	577	19	97	3
65	H07B	Lambeth	949	85	92	8	911	40	96	4
66	B05B	Lancashire	1,165	222	84	16	2,136	175	92	8
67	D12B	Leeds	1,143	273	81	19	1,377	33	98	2
68	E02B	Leicester	749	110	87	13	644	107	86	14
69	E01B	Leicestershire	550	124	82	18	518	90	85	15
70	H08B	Lewisham	573	63	90	10	735	70	91	9
71	E08B	Lincolnshire	1,114	102	92	8	673	86	89	11
72	B17B	Liverpool	1,502	146	91	9	1,742	105	94	6
73	G02B	Luton	248	27	90	10	372	27	93	7
74	B18B	Manchester	924	78	92	8	988	43	96	4
75	J14B	Medway Towns	228	62	79	21	418	74	85	15
76	H24B	Merton	409	18	96	4	402	20	95	5
77	A05B	Middlesbrough	381	14	96	4	534	24	96	4
78	J08B	Milton Keynes	148	38	80	20	183	40	82	18
79	A07B	Newcastle upon Tyne	516	26	95	5	553	61	90	10
80	H25B	Newham	521	77	87	13	556	82	87	13
81	G09B	Norfolk	621	136	82	18	835	226	79	21
82	D08B	North East Lincolnshire	264	14	95	5	312	11	97	3
83	D07B	North Lincolnshire	197	7	97	3	248	*	—	—
84	K04B	North Somerset	271	136	67	33	392	72	84	16
85	A08B	North Tyneside	251	24	91	9	308	36	90	10
86	D05B	North Yorkshire	593	38	94	6	518	51	91	9
87	E09B	Northamptonshire	479	241	67	33	691	216	76	24
88	A10B	Northumberland	265	32	89	11	341	30	92	8
89	E07B	Nottingham	905	125	88	12	1,033	88	92	8
90	E06B	Nottinghamshire	1,051	98	91	9	1,213	68	95	5
91	B13B	Oldham	399	20	95	5	483	23	95	5
92	J09B	Oxfordshire	627	155	80	20	599	103	85	15
93	G04B	Peterborough	269	72	79	21	320	51	86	14
94	K09B	Plymouth	233	37	86	14	596	25	96	4
95	K07B	Poole	163	30	84	16	140	56	71	29
96	J16B	Portsmouth	256	29	90	10	304	29	91	9
97	J02B	Reading	278	37	88	12	307	19	94	6
98	H10B	Redbridge	268	56	83	17	389	50	89	11
99	A04B	Redcar and Cleveland	207	9	96	4	353	9	98	2
100	H26B	Richmond upon Thames	278	34	89	11	290	26	92	8
101	B09B	Rochdale	639	25	96	4	672	15	98	2
102	D15B	Rotherham	569	19	97	3	413	10	98	2
103	E03B	Rutland	10	*	—	—	6	*	—	—
104	B01B	Salford	491	41	92	8	432	46	90	10
105	F09B	Sandwell	455	105	81	19	473	64	88	12
106	B19B	Sefton	624	15	98	2	783	29	96	4
107	D11B	Sheffield	1,040	48	96	4	784	19	98	2
108	F01B	Shropshire	283	9	97	3	308	7	98	2
109	J03B	Slough	357	19	95	5	309	26	92	8
110	F10B	Solihull	245	17	94	6	241	16	94	6
111	K15B	Somerset	359	49	88	12	337	60	85	15
112	K03B	South Gloucestershire	217	41	84	16	241	38	86	14
113	A11B	South Tyneside	402	35	92	8	372	19	95	5
114	J17B	Southampton	379	26	94	6	464	48	91	9
115	G06B	Southend-on-Sea	262	28	90	10	261	62	81	19
116	H09B	Southwark	742	102	88	12	826	71	92	8
117	B10B	St Helens	459	7	98	2	413	16	96	4

			2006-07				2007-08			
			Number		Percentage		Number		Percentage	
DAT No.	DAT code	DAT name	Waits <= 3 weeks	Waits > 3 weeks	Waits <= 3 weeks	Waits > 3 weeks	Waits <= 3 weeks	Waits > 3 weeks	Waits <= 3 weeks	Waits > 3 weeks
118	F03B	Staffordshire	715	186	79	21	865	123	88	12
119	B21B	Stockport	372	7	98	2	357	12	97	3
120	A06B	Stockton-on-Tees	338	7	98	2	443	14	97	3
121	F04B	Stoke-on-Trent	404	143	74	26	418	139	75	25
122	G10B	Suffolk	287	148	66	34	495	216	70	30
123	A12B	Sunderland	443	42	91	9	709	25	97	3
124	J19B	Surrey	498	263	65	35	663	222	75	25
125	H27B	Sutton	412	33	93	7	387	13	97	3
126	K11B	Swindon	179	113	61	39	253	52	83	17
127	B12B	Tameside	303	15	95	5	383	24	94	6
128	F02B	Telford and Wrekin	261	*	—	—	230	13	—	—
129	G07B	Thurrock	187	*	—	—	284	9	—	—
130	K10B	Torbay	146	109	57	43	180	109	62	38
131	H28B	Tower Hamlets	781	61	93	7	874	136	87	13
132	B02B	Trafford	276	*	—	—	389	16	96	4
133	D10B	Wakefield	545	73	88	12	520	10	98	2
134	F11B	Walsall	403	66	86	14	514	23	96	4
135	H11B	Waltham Forest	277	130	68	32	437	22	95	5
136	H29B	Wandsworth	425	37	92	8	471	37	93	7
137	B07B	Warrington	199	35	85	15	379	24	94	6
138	F12B	Warwickshire	397	36	92	8	441	38	92	8
139	J04B	West Berkshire	87	22	80	20	100	27	79	21
140	J12B	West Sussex	211	239	47	53	380	210	64	36
141	H30B	Westminster	840	98	90	10	688	36	95	5
142	B22B	Wigan	416	86	83	17	617	10	98	2
143	K12B	Wiltshire	133	94	59	41	257	51	83	17
144	J05B	Windsor and Maidenhead	156	28	85	15	195	16	92	8
145	B06B	Wirral	524	56	90	10	683	49	93	7
146	J06B	Wokingham	84	13	87	13	78	12	87	13
147	F13B	Wolverhampton	646	11	98	2	793	8	99	1
148	F14B	Worcestershire	546	36	94	6	823	90	91	9
149	D06B	York	211	81	72	28	211	31	87	13

* = Numbers under five suppressed.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254056]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has regular engagement with a range of outside organisations and stakeholders. The Department will continue to maintain this dialogue including on issues related to the economy and the implications for health and social care.

General Practitioners

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 693W, on general practitioners, what reasons have been identified for the reduction in numbers of GP referrals to consultants between 2003-04 and 2007-08. [255620]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not undertaken any specific research into the reasons for the slight decrease in general practitioner (GP) referrals to first consultant-led outpatient appointments between the period 2003-04 to 2007-08.

GP written referrals for first outpatient appointment (consultant-led): All specialties, England provider based

	Number of GP referrals made
1997-98	8,991,722
1998-99	9,139,785
1999-2000	9,141,425
2000-01	9,362,770
2001-02	9,470,342
2002-03	9,655,874
2003-04	9,802,237
2004-05	9,776,914
2005-06	9,785,960
2006-07	9,337,136
2007-08	9,639,029

Source:

Department of Health, QM08, KH09, QAR (Quarterly Activity Return).

To improve the appropriateness of care patients receive, i.e. the right treatment from the right health care professional, in the right place and at the right time, the Department has issued guidance to the NHS 'Care and Resource Utilisation' (December 2006) (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), which sets out a range of ways in which primary care trusts and clinicians can work together to improve care provided to patients.

Health Services: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* minimum wait time has been at the Milton Keynes walk-in centre in January 2009. [255044]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally, but can be obtained from Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust.

Health Services: Public Consultation

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses the Department has received to the consultation, The case for change - why England needs a new care and support system. [254540]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 238W.

Healthcare Commission

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the Healthcare Commission of investigating healthcare complaints in 2008-09. [254254]

Ann Keen: We understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that for the period April to December 2008 the cost to it of investigating complaints was £6.6 million. There were 6,011 complaints resolved in this period at an average cost of £1,102.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the Healthcare Commission has referred to the Health Services Ombudsman in 2008-09. [254255]

Ann Keen: We understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that in the period April to December 2008, 16 complaints were referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Healthcare Commission has targets for the time it takes to *(a)* accept and *(b)* resolve complaints; and if he will make a statement. [254256]

Ann Keen: We understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that there are no targets for accepting cases. The Commission has a target of closing 95 per cent. of independent review requests within 12 months of the date of receipt. The Commission is currently closing 95 per cent. of cases within six months of receipt.

We are reforming the way complaints are responded to across health and social care. A new single system will be in place from April 2009. We have already started trying out the new approach in over 90 national health service and social care organisations across the country, known as 'Early Adopters'.

The new approach is about making it easier and simpler for people wishing to make a complaint. Under the new arrangements for health, instead of the current three tiers of complaints handling (local NHS provider, the Healthcare Commission, then the Health Service Ombudsman) there will be a two tier system, with local resolution by the provider and then recourse to the Health Service Ombudsman.

Heart Diseases

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* diagnosed with and *(b)* received treatment for heart disease in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) the Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [253426]

Ann Keen: Please see the following tables and notes.

Table 1: Number of people diagnosed with heart disease

Financial year	*Stockton on Tees Teaching primary care trust (PCT)*[1]	*Middlesbrough PCT*[2]	*Redcar and Cleveland PCT*[3]	*North East total*[4]	*England*
2007-08	7,943	6,113	6,901	127,972	1,892,432
2006-07	8,007	6,137	6,982	129,478	1,898,365
2005-06	8,063	8,405	5,204	131,123	1,900,640
2004-05	8,079	8,561	5,313	131,668	1,893,184

[1] Formerly North Tees PCT. Following the PCT reconfiguration in 2006

[2] a part of Middlesbrough PCT joined with others to form Redcar and Cleveland PCT. Middlesbrough PCT remained but as a smaller PCT.

[3] Langbaurgh PCT merged with a part of Middlesbrough PCT and became Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

[4] For 2007-08 and 2006-07 the North East total is the total for North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA). For 2005-06 and 2004-05 the North East total is the sum of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA.

Table 2: Number of people who received treatment for heart disease—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Financial year	*Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT*[1]	*Middlesbrough PCT*[2]	*Redcar and Cleveland PCT*[3]	*North East*[4]	*England*
2006-07	1,033	639	608	16,774	310,642
2005-06	1,145	885	491	18,363	312,164
2004-05	1,236	1,038	554	16,987	311,532
2003-04	1,134	1,146	609	17,036	310,610
2002-03	1,163	1,188	644	18,465	306,380
2001-02	1,159	1,275	734	18,012	295,050
2000-01	1,124	1,372	738	20,113	293,911

Table 2: Number of people who received treatment for heart disease—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Financial year	*Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT*[1]	*Middlesbrough PCT*[2]	*Redcar and Cleveland PCT*[3]	*North East*[4]	*England*
2005-06	1,109	1,474	779	19,723	289,729
2006-07	974	1,390	752	19,691	290,391
2007-08	957	1,332	665	18,289	294,229

[1] Formerly North Tees PCT. Following the PCT reconfiguration in 2006

[2] a part of Middlesbrough PCT joined with others to form Redcar and Cleveland PCT. Middlesbrough PCT remained but as a smaller PCT.

[3] Langbaurgh PCT merged with a part of Middlesbrough PCT and became Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

[4] For 2007-08 and 2006-07 the North East total is the total for North East SHA. For previous years the North East total is the sum of the constituent organisations existing at the time.

Notes:

The Information Centre (IC) have provided data from the national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) to answer part (a) and data from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) to answer part (b). (a) The national QOF records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers. A register exists for coronary heart disease (CHD). Register counts are available for the last four financial years. The IC are unable to supply information for all the areas requested as some are not health regions. Where this occurs we have supplied information for the health areas that best fit those requested. Furthermore, some of these health areas have changed under the reconfiguration of PCTs and SHAs in 2006. (b) Figures from the HES give a count of hospital admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of "coronary heart disease" (CHD). This is not a count of people treated as the same person could have been admitted several times and this also excludes treatment taking place in primary care. *Definitions Table 1 QOF* is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services contract on 1 April 2004. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services practices also taking part. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.

The system calculates practice achievement against national targets. It gives general practices, PCTs and SHAs objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients. The QMAS captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists. *CHD Register—definition* In order to call and recall patients effectively in any disease category and in order to be able to report on indicators for coronary heart disease, practices must be able to identify their patient population with CHD. This will include all patients who have had coronary artery revascularisation procedures such as coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). Patients with Cardiac Syndrome X should generally not be included in the CHD register. Practices should record those with a past history of myocardial infarction as well as those with a history of CHD.

Table 2 Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Finished admission episodes (hospital admissions)

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. *Primary diagnosis* The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. The ICD-10 codes used to identify CHD are as follows: I20—Angina pectoris I21—Acute Myocardial infarction I22—Subsequent myocardial infarction I23—Certain current complications following acute myocardial infarction I24—Other acute ischaemic heart diseases I25—Chronic ischaemic heart disease. *Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis*

These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Data quality HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

PCT/SHA data quality

PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time. *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of trans catheter aortic valves. [255828]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for assessing the effectiveness of new procedures and providing guide valve implantation was published by NICE in June 2008. NICE found that the evidence for effectiveness was limited to small numbers of patients who were considered to be at high risk for conventional cardiac surgery. It showed good short-term efficacy for such patients but there was little evidence available on long-term outcomes.

The Department has worked with NICE and the relevant professional bodies to ensure that proper clinical audit of all patients receiving transcatheter aortic valve implantation is carried out so that outcomes can be assessed.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the NHS funded transcatheter aortic valve implants in each region in the last 12 months. [255609]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27th January, *Official Report*, column 403W, on heart disease: medical treatments, which primary care trusts have permitted the funding of transcatheter aortic valve implants. [255671]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally. The Specialised Services Commissioning Groups, which are responsible for decisions on funding highly specialised services (subject to the funding priorities of their constituent primary care trusts), are in the process of agreeing a framework based on service criteria agreed by the relevant professional societies which will lead to designation of certain centres for this procedure within each strategic health authority area. Designated centres would then receive funding. It is understood that Yorkshire and Humberside Specialised Commissioning Group has already reached an agreement ahead of finalising the commissioning framework.

Heathrow Airport: Respiratory Diseases

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 18 years have been admitted to hospital with *(a)* acute asthma, *(b)* acute emphysema, *(c)* acute bronchitis and *(d)* other acute respiratory disorders within (i) one mile, (ii) three miles, (iii) five miles and (iv) 10 miles of Heathrow Airport in each year since 1997. [253850]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold centrally information on hospital admissions in the format requested, and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is currently part-funding the Small Area Health Statistics Unit at Imperial College to study health effects in the vicinity of Heathrow airport associated with air pollution and noise using data on mortality, cancer incidence and hospital admissions. A report is due for publication in 2010.

Hepatitis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of undiagnosed cases of hepatitis C; and if he will make a statement; [255000]

(2) what plans he has to increase public awareness of the modes of transmission of hepatitis C; and if he will make a statement. [255001]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is continuing to run a hepatitis C awareness campaign for health care professionals and the public that uses a range of channels of communication such as press, radio and ambient advertising, leaflets and guidance, a campaign website, and a confidential and free telephone line to provides information about modes of transmission.

The campaign aims to encourage those at risk of infection to seek testing and to assist health care professionals in identifying patients who may be at risk so that they can be referred for specialist care.

In addition, the Department and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) launched a joint harm reduction campaign last year for injecting drug users and those working with them that includes information about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C. The campaign supports implementation of the joint departmental and NTA action plan on reducing drug-related harm. A copy of the plan has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the five most common causes of admission to hospital for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were in the latest period for which statistics are available. [252154]

Mr. Bradshaw: The five most common reasons for admission to hospital for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults, where children are defined as under 16 years of age and adults over 16 years of age, in the latest period for which data are available are shown in the following tables.

16 and under (children)

Primary diagnosis[1]	*Number of finished admission episodes*[2]
(Liveborn infants according to place of birth[3]	452,451)
Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites	41,494
Disorders relating to short gestation and low birth weight	40,363
Dental caries[4]	36,530
Viral infection of unspecified site	34,800
Acute tonsillitis	32,674

Over 16 (adults)

Primary diagnosis[1]	*Number of finished admission episodes*[2]
Pain in throat and chest	257,113
Abdominal and pelvic pain	237,959
Other cataract	193,986
Malignant neoplasm of breast	158,765
Perineal laceration during delivery	144,848

[1] Primary diagnosis—The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was treated in hospital.

[2] Finished admission episodes—A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[3] Z38 (Liveborn infants according to place of birth) is used as a diagnosis code for babies who are well and do not require any care. Every episode (including birth episodes) must contain a primary diagnosis so this code is used for 'well babies'. To account for this, we have provided the top six most common conditions for 16 and under children.

[4] Prior to 2001 general dental practitioners (GDPs) were allowed to give general anaesthetics for dental procedures within their practices. Following their acceptance of the recommendations in the report "A Conscious Decision" Ministers agreed that by 31 December 2001 general anaesthesia for dental treatment should be administered in a hospital setting with critical care facilities. During 2001 regulations were put in place in respect of the administration of general anaesthesia for dental treatment under arrangements to provide general dental services and in the private sector. Thus anyone doing this in the primary care setting for the last year had to be inspected and registered by their local health authority. The large numbers of general anaesthetics undertaken by general dental practitioners (GDPs) and also the Community Dental Service had to be transferred to the hospital setting. Currently a large proportion of those general anaesthetics for treatment of dental caries are provided by the Salaried Dental Services, but out of acute hospital Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery departments under a services level agreement. They are usually out-patient in nature but because general anaesthetic has been given are counted as elective procedures.

Note:

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector. Data year 2006-07.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Kidney Patients

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for reducing levels of late diagnosis of chronic renal failure. [253575]

Ann Keen: The quality requirements of National Service Framework for renal services aim to minimise the impact of chronic kidney disease in its early stages.

Since 2006 the Quality and Outcomes Framework has encouraged general practitioners to identify people in the earlier stages of chronic kidney disease. This can help to postpone or prevent the onset of end stage renal failure, a serious condition which can lead to death if untreated. Treatment of end stage renal failure can include transplantation or dialysis (renal replacement therapy or RRT).

In addition, the vascular checks programme will put in place an integrated, systematic, population-wide vascular risk assessment and management programme for those between the ages of 40 and 74. This national programme will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and offer individually tailored prevention. Phased implementation will begin from April 2009-10. This programme has the potential to detect at least 20,000 cases of diabetes or kidney disease earlier, allowing individuals to be better managed and improving their quality of life.

Medicine: Internet

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle the online purchase of counterfeit medicines. [254540]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for tackling the availability of counterfeit medicines in the United Kingdom.

A strategy to combat counterfeit medicine was published by the MHRA in November 2007. This strategy includes steps to combat the availability of counterfeit medicines through the internet. A copy has been placed in the Library and it can also be found at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/ei/documents/websiteresources/con2033156.pdf

Part of the strategy focuses on providing the public with sufficient information to make an informed choice on how to obtain their medicines safely. This includes raising awareness through national advertising campaigns with industry and patient groups, and media articles.

MHRA routinely monitor and investigate rogue websites offering medicines for sale on the internet. The agency can take enforcement action against wrong-doing based in the UK. MHRA work closely with the European Union and other international regulatory authorities to ensure that, wherever possible, offending websites based in those countries are amended to reflect the law and to request any appropriate enforcement action is taken by the authorities in those countries.

In addition the MHRA is active in monitoring the internet and co-ordinating international action, including enforcement activity focused against those sites either operating, or fulfilling orders from within the UK. MHRA have brought 14 successful prosecutions, for illegal activity over the internet, in the UK over the last five years, including the supply of counterfeit medicines.

Mental Health Services: Expenditure

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* child and adolescent mental health services and *(b)* adult mental health services in each of the last 10 years. [253998]

Phil Hope: Data on additional funding given to the national health service and local authorities between 1999-2000 and 2007-08 for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) are in the following table. This funding is additional to expenditure from NHS and local authority baseline budgets. The annual CAMHS Mapping, which started in 2003-04, has reported the total expenditure by the NHS and local authorities on CAMHS as follows: 2003-04—£322 million; 2004-05—£431million; 2005-06—£461 million; 2006-07—£523 million.

Department of Health CAMHS funding 1999-2000 to 2007-08

	£ million
1999-2000	10
2000-01	20
2001-02	35
2002-03	20
2003-04	47
2004-05	103
2005-06	159
2006-07	86
2007-08	119

Notes:
1. Allocations in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2007-08 included NHS capital funding. In 2007-08 this was specifically used to increase the number of in-patient beds for children and young people. Since 2006-07, CAMHS NHS revenue funding has been included in baseline allocations.
2. Data on adult mental health services spending over 10 years are not available. Information provided is for working age adults over the last seven years.

Total expenditure on adult mental health services from 2001-02 to 2007-08 at 2007-08 pay and price levels

	Total investment (£ billion)
2001-02	3.844
2002-03	4.253
2003-04	4.394
2004-05	4.902
2005-06	5.209
2006-07	5.330
2007-08	5.530

Note:
The data report on planned investment on working age adults only.
Source:
Mental Health Strategies

Mental Health Services: Nurses

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered mental health nurses there were in Devon in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [253943]

Phil Hope: The information is not held in the format requested.

The number of qualified mental health nurses in the South West strategic health authority area and the Devon Partnership NHS Trust, as at 30 September for each specified year, are given in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified mental health nurses[1] in the South West strategic health authority area and the Devon Partnership NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year

										Headcount
	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
South West strategic health authority area	4,604	4,340	4,285	4,385	4,594	4,578	4,699	4,744	4,601	4,696

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified mental health nurses[1] in the South West strategic health authority area and the Devon Partnership NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Of which:										
Devon Partnership NHS Trust[2]	487	496	507	524	782	749	723	715	781	693

[1] Mental health nurses figures are an aggregate of the Psychiatric Nursing and Learning Disabilities Nursing areas of work.

[2] In 2001 Exeter and District Community Services NHS Trust and North Devon healthcare NHS Trust merged to form Devon Partnership NHS Trust. Figures prior to 2001 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered mental health nurses were employed in the NHS in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [255632]

Phil Hope: The number of registered mental health nurses that were employed in the national health service in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Service: Qualified nursing staff in England by each specified area of work as at 30 September each specified year

	All areas of work
1998	48,877
1999	48,922
2000	49,026
2001	51,315
2002	52,204
2003	53,678
2004	56,046
2005	57,377
2006	56,061
2007	56,117

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The number of mental health nurses has increased by 14.8 per cent. from 48,877 in 1998 to 46,117 in 2007.

MRSA

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Clean Safe Care strategy for reducing MRSA infections and deaths. [254964]

Ann Keen: The "Clean, safe care" strategy was published in January 2008, and gave an overview of our strategy and initiatives, many of which were already well established, to tackle health care associated infections (HCAIs) and improve cleanliness. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

We have significantly reduced meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections. The latest Health Protection Agency data for July to September 2008 show a reduction in MRSA bloodstream infections of 33 per cent. compared to the same quarter in 2007. In 2008, the national health service met the nationwide target to halve the number of MRSA bloodstream infections compared to 2003-04 levels. Latest figures also show a 62 per cent. reduction compared to the quarterly average in 2003-04, making further progress.

The number of death certificates that mentioned MRSA decreased by 4 per cent. from 1,652 in 2006 to 1,593 in 2007. This is the first time the number of death certificates mentioning MRSA has fallen since ONS records began in 1993.

The following table details the number of death certificates with MRSA mentioned and MRSA as the underlying cause, England and Wales, 2003-07.

Number of death certificates in England and Wales

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Mentions of MRSA	968	1,138	1,649	1,652	1,593
Number of these where underlying cause of death is MRSA	322	357	465	519	480

Source:

ONS Health Statistics Quarterly

Many patients who become infected with a HCAI have other serious and potentially fatal underlying medical conditions. Doctors are not supposed to record all diseases or conditions present at death, only those that contribute directly to it. It is a matter of individual professional judgment whether the doctor lists an HCAI as a contributory cause. There have been a number of initiatives to raise the profile of HCAIs and improve their acknowledgment as diagnoses in their own right. In October 2007 and July 2005 the chief medical officer reminded doctors of the importance of giving full and accurate information on the death certificate, particularly in relation to HCAIs.

We have commissioned an evaluation of the effectiveness the HCAI and Cleanliness Improvement Programme (one strand of the "Clean, safe care" strategy) with a specific focus on the work streams focused on reductions in the incidence of MRSA. We are also commissioning work to understand the ways in which hospital cleanliness relates to other aspects of a good environment, and how this might have an impact on HCAIs. These studies are in their initial stages and will provide results later in 2009.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS clinical staff who are carriers of MRSA. [254965]

Ann Keen: It is estimated that 3-5 per cent. of staff are colonised with MRSA.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner referrals to independent sector treatment centres there were in each year since such centres were established. [255590]

Mr. Bradshaw: Through the Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) programme, more than 1.49 million operations, diagnostic assessments and primary care consultations have been provided to national health service patients (as at 31 December 2008).

The Department does not hold information about the number of general practitioner referrals to ISTCs.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to general practitioners on the referral of patients to independent sector treatment centres. [255591]

Mr. Bradshaw: Independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) providers and primary care trusts (PCTs) ensure patients and referring general practitioners (GPs) are provided with appropriate information regarding ISTCs.

The Department does not directly issue guidance to GPs on the referral of patients to ISTCs. When patients are referred by their GP for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment they are entitled to choose the organisation that provides their NHS care and to the information to support that choice. As set out in the NHS constitution this will become a legal right from 1 April 2009.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many independent sector treatment centres there are. [255613]

Mr. Bradshaw: The centrally procured Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) procurement process was conducted in two stages: Wave 1 and Phase 2. There are currently 25 fixed-site Wave 1 ISTCs, eight Phase 2 ISTC schemes, a mobile magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service, a mobile cataract service and six commuter walk-in centres. There are also two Phase 2 ISTC schemes in mobilisation.

A full list of the centrally procured ISTC schemes is provided as follows.

Wave 1 ISTCs

Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Provider*
GC4	Thames Valley	Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay Health Care UK*
GC4	East Cornwall	Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	East Lincs	Boston NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	West Lincolnshire	Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	North Oxford	Horton NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	Southampton	Ramsay New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	Thames Valley	Ramsay Reading Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	
GC4	Northumberland Tyne and Wear	The Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	
GC5 W	Cheshire and Merseyside	Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth Care Services (UK) Ltd. *
GC5 W	Kidderminster	Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	
GC5E	Nottingham	Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre at QMC	Nations Healthcare Ltd.
GC6	Maidstone	Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	Partnership Health Group
GC7	Outer North East London	North East London NHS Treatment Centre	Partnership Health Group
GC8	Wycombe	Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Diagnostic Centre	Care UK*
GC8	Portsmouth	St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	
GC8	Brighton	Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre	
GC8	Havant	Havant Diagnostic Centre	
GC8	Medway	Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	
LP2	Bradford	Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Healthcare (Bradford) Ltd.
LP3	Burton upon Trent	Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	Nations Healthcare (Burton) Ltd.
LP4	Trent and South Yorkshire	Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	Partnership Health Group
LP7	Shepton Mallet	Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	UK Specialist Hospitals
LP8	Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Netcare UK Ltd.

Wave 1 ISTCs

Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Provider*
LP9	Plymouth	Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	Partnership Health Group
MRI	Mobile Diagnostics (120 sites)	MRI Fastrack	Alliance Medical Ltd.
OC123	Mobile Catract Solution (10 sites)	Opthalmic chain	Netcare UK Ltd.
CWiC	Manchester	Manchester Piccadilly NHS Walk in Centre	Atos Healthcare
CWiC	Liverpool Street	Liverpool Street NHS Walk in Centre	Walk in Health
CWiC	Canary Wharf	Canary Wharf NHS Walk in Centre	Atos Healthcare
CWiC	Newcastle	Newcastle Central NHS Walk in Centre	Care UK
CWiC	Victoria	Victoria NHS Walk in Centre	Care UK
CWiC	Leeds	Headrow NHS Walk in Centre	Netcare UK Ltd.

Phase 2 ISTCs

	Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Provider*
D01	London Diagnostics	Mobile sites	John Scott Health Centre	InHealth*
			St. Leonards Primary Care Centre	
			Langthorne Health Centre	
			St. George's Hospital	
			Northwick Park Hospital	
			Appleby Health Centre	
			The Centre	
			Wood Street Health Centre	
			Broad Street Health Centre	
			Barking Hospital	
			Edgware Community Hospital	
			St. Ann's Hospital, St. Ann's Road	
			University Hospital Lewisham	
			Guy's Hospital	
			Old Deer Park	
			Queen Marys Hospital	
			Hainault Health Centre	
			Lordship Lane Clinic	
			Bingfield Primary Care Centre	
			North Middlesex Hospital	
			King's Oak Hospital	
			Bishops Wood Hospital	
			Shirley Oaks Hospital	
			London Independent Hospital	
			Barnet General Hospital	
			The Garden Hospital	
			London Imaging Centre	
			Blackheath Hospital	
			The Sloane Hospital	
			Central Middlesex Hospital	
			Northwick Park Hospital	
			Clementine Churchill Hospital	
			Mayday University Hospital	
E01	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	Avon	In mobilisation	Care UK*
		Gloucestershire	In mobilisation	
		Wiltshire	In mobilisation	
E05	Cumbria and Lancashire	Carlisle	Caldew Outpatient Centre	Ramsay Health Care UK*

Phase 2 ISTCs

	Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Provider*
		Gisburne	Abbey Gisburne Park Hospital	
		Blackpool	Classic Fylde Coast Hospital	
		North Tyneside	Cobalt Treatment Centre	
		Chorley	Euxton Hall Hospital	
		Preston	Fulwood Hall Hospital	
		Kendal	Ramsay Kendal site (on Westmorland General Hospital Site)—not yet operational	
		Darlington	Woodlands Hospital—short term until Kendal is operational	
		Ormskirk	Renacres Hall Hospital	
		Middlesbrough	Tees Valley Treatment Centre	
E06	Cheshire and Merseyside	Crewe	BMI South Cheshire Hospital	Spire Healthcare (Holdings) Ltd. *
		Liverpool	Classic Lourdes Hospital	
		Macclesfield	Classic Regency Hospital	
		Wrexham	Classic Yale Hospital	
		Manchester	Spire Manchester Hospital	
		Merseyside	Spire Murrayfield Hospital (Wirral)	
		Warrington	Spire Cheshire Hospital	
E08	Greater Manchester (A) CATS	Greater Manchester	In mobilisation	Care UK
E08	Greater Manchester (B) CATS	Greater Manchester	In mobilisation	Care UK
E09	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Southampton NHS Treatment Centre	PHG/Care UK
E15	Northumberland Tyne and Wear	Gateshead	Spire Gateshead NHS Treatment Centre	Spire Healthcare (Holdings) Ltd.*
		Washington	Spire Hospital Washington	
E16	Renal (national scheme)	Wirral	Clatterbridge Hospital—short term in existing building then permanent in new build	Fresenius Medical Care (UK) Ltd.*
		Merseyside	Whiston Hospital—short term, then St. Helen's Hospital permanently	
		St. Helens	St. Helens Hospital—permanent after temporary Whiston Hospital	
		Cheshire	Warrington Hospital	
		Merseyside	Southport and Formby District General Hospital	
		Hull	Royal Hull Infirmary	
		North Lincolnshire	Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby	
		Cheshire	Halton General Hospital, Runcorn	
		Yorkshire	Scarborough General Hospital	
		North Lincolnshire	Scunthorpe General Hospital	
		East Yorkshire	Bridlington and District Hospital	
		South Yorkshire	Montagu Hospital, Dearne Valley	
		Nottinghamshire	Bassetlaw Hospital, Woksop	
	PET/CT North (Diagnostics)	Liverpool—mobile site	Broadgreen Hospital	Alliance Medical*
		Clatterbridge—mobile site	Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology	
		Stoke-on-Trent—mobile site	University Hospital of North Staffordshire	
		Leeds—mobile site to become fixed in 2009	Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust	
		Middlesbrough—mobile site	South Tees NHS Trust	
		Sheffield—mobile site to become fixed in 2009	University Hospital Sheffield NHS Trust	

Phase 2 ISTCs

	Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Provider*
		Newcastle—mobile site	Freeman Hospital	
		Hull—mobile site	University of Hull Hospitals NHS Trust	
		London—fixed site	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	NHS subcontract with Alliance Medical*
		Preston—fixed site	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	
		Birmingham—fixed site	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	
	PET/CT South (Diagnostics)	Colchester—mobile site	Colchester District General Hospital	Inhealth Molecular Imaging Ltd.*
		Northampton—mobile site	Northampton General Hospital	
		Leicester—mobile site	Glenfield Hospital	
		Norwich—mobile site	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital	
		Maidstone—mobile site	Maidstone Hospital	
		Cambridge—mobile site	Addesbrookes Hospital	
		Southampton—mobile site	Southampton General Hospital	
		Bournemouth—mobile site	Royal Bournemouth General Hospital	
		Plymouth—mobile site	Peninsula Radiology Academy	
		Taunton—mobile site	Musgrave Park Hospital	
		Poole—mobile site	Poole Hospital	
		Basildon—mobile site	Basildon	
		London—fixed site	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	NHS sub-contract with Inhealth Molecular Imaging Ltd.*
		Nottingham—fixed site	Queens Medical Centre	

* Indicates provider braced for subsequent rows.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the next stage of the NHS co-payments review will examine means of reducing inequality between patients who can and cannot afford to co-pay for treatments which are unavailable on the NHS. [254719]

Dawn Primarolo: Professor Mike Richards completed his review in October 2008, and the Secretary of State made his report, "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients", public on 4 November 2008. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

In his report, Professor Richards carefully considered equity issues before making recommendations to the Secretary of State about policy on additional private care. In line with Professor Richards' recommendations, the Secretary of State announced a package of measures to improve access to drugs on the national health service, including a new scheme from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to introduce greater flexibility in appraising expensive drugs for end of life conditions with small numbers of patients. These measures will mean that more drugs are available on the NHS, which will reduce the number of patients who may wish to buy additional private drugs.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism will be put in place to ensure that the possibility for patients to co-pay for a treatment does not act as a disincentive for NHS primary care trusts to fund that treatment. [254722]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is one of the guiding principles of the national health service that a person should have access to health services based on clinical need, and not on the ability of a patient to pay. Professor Richards' review, "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients", was based on, and reinforces, this principle. "The NHS Constitution", published on 21 January 2009, also reaffirmed this as one of the key principles underpinning all that the NHS does. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library. Decisions by primary care trusts on funding for individual patients are no exception to this.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the capital budget of the NHS for each year from 2006-07 to 2010-11, in real terms using 2006-07 prices. [255288]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested statistics are given in the following table.

NHS Capital Expenditure 2006-07 and 2010-11

		Capital net NHS expenditure (nominal) £ billion	*Capital net NHS expenditure (real 06-07) prices)*[1]
2006-07	Outturn	3.069	3.069
2007-08	Outturn	3.591	3.487
2008-09	Plan	4.567	4.295
2009-10	Plan	5.428	5.030
2010-11	Plan	4.674	4.215

Note:

1. Use gross domestic product Deflator at 23 December 2008.

NHS: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many penalties have been imposed on suppliers for security breaches under the NHS national programme for IT in the last 12 months; and what the total monetary value of those penalties was. [255359]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no confirmed security breaches attributable to suppliers under the national information technology programme in the period concerned. In consequence, the question of penalties has not arisen.

Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the official engagements of Ministers in his Department were from 1 November to 30 November 2008. [255553]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Details of official engagements from 1 November to 30 November

DH Minister	*Date of meeting*	*Organisation*
Secretary of State, Alan Johnson	4 November 2008	Health Oral Questions
	5 November 2008	Meeting on Government Response to Carol Black's Review
	5 November 2008	Meeting—Iranian Minister of Health
	5 November 2008	Meeting—David Blunkett MP and CEO, Alzheimer's Society
	6 November 2008	Cabinet
	6 November 2008	Closing the Gap: Health Equality through Action on the Social Determinants of Health—Speech to conference
	6 November 2008	Q and A to NHS Confed Employers Conference
	6 November 2008	Meeting—Brazilian Minister of Health
	8 November 2008	Visit—Silver Star Diabetes Centre
	9 November 2008	Politics Show
	10 November 2008	Cabinet Committee
	10 November 2008	Meeting—Lord Mandelson—Pharmaceutical Industry
	11 November 2008	Armistice Day ceremony
	11 November 2008	Cabinet
	11-14 November 2008	International visit to Washington—Speech
	17 November 2008	Meeting—Chair, East Midlands SHA
	17 November 2008	Meeting—Royal Brampton Hospital
	18 November 2008	Cabinet
	18 November 2008	Children's Plan Conference
	18 November 2008	Meeting—Chair, South West SHA
	18 November 2008	British Energy and MS Society Reception
	19 November 2008	Evidence to Health Select Committee
	20 November 2008	Meeting—Chinese Health Minister
	20 November 2008	National Stakeholder Forum Meeting
	24 November 2008	Cabinet
	25 November 2008	Event for Launch of Dame Carol Black Review
	25 November 2008	Meeting—Australian High Commissioner
	25 November 2008	Ministerial Industry Strategy Group
	26 November 2008	Meeting with Dr. Richard Taylor MP and Prof. Mike Richards—Richards Review
	26 November 2008	Event to celebrate 35 years of United Response (UR)
	27 November 2008	New Savoy Partnership Conference "Psychological Therapies in the NHS" speech +
	28 November 2008	Visit to Hillside Bridge Healthcare Centre
	28 November 2008	Regional Cabinet—Leeds
Minister of State (Health Services)—Ben Bradshaw Minister for the South West	4 November 2008	Health Oral Questions
	5 November 2008	Visit to NHS North of Tyne
	7 November 2008	Regional Economic Work Task force meeting (as Regional Minister for the South West)
	10 November 2008	Visit to TwoFour Studios (as Regional Minister for the South West)
	11 November 2008	Debate—The Medical Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 202008
	12 November 2008	Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities Parliamentary Group

Details of official engagements from 1 November to 30 November

DH Minister	Date of meeting	Organisation
	12 November 2008	Meeting—Neil Turner MP re: Health Inequalities through primary care trust allocations
	12 November 2008	Conference—Regional Development Agency's Annual Public meeting
	12 November 2008	Reception—Third Annual HSJ 50 Celebration
	13 November 2008	Ministers' Regions Summit
	14 November 2008	Telephone call—Chief Inspector, CSCI
	17 November 2008	Meeting—Chair of the Socialist Health Association
	17 November 2008	Debate—Affirmative regs for the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Amendment of List of Responders) Order 202008
	17 November 2008	Adjournment Debate—Healthcare in Sutton
	18 November 2008	Adjournment Debate—Government policy on people with strokes
	18 November 2008	Meeting—Ruth Carnall CBE to discuss London
	18 November 2008	Meeting—Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
	19 November 2008	SHA Chairs monthly meeting
	20 November 2008	National Stakeholder Forum
	20 November 2008	Speech—Excellence Awards (as Regional Minister for the South West)
	21 November 2008	Meeting—Regional Director, Environmental Agency (as Regional Minister for the South West)
	24 November 2008	Meeting—Chairman of the National Association of Primary Care
	25 November 2008	NHS Confederation
	25 November 2008	Breakfast briefing meeting with Trisha Goddard—Patient Choice
	25 November 2008	Dinner—NHS Confederation London PCT Policy Chairs Dinner
	26 November 2008	Speech—South West Forum Annual Conference 202008 (as Regional Minister for the South West)
	27 November 2008	Meeting—Healthcare Commission
Minister of State(Public Health) Dawn Primarolo	4 November 2008	Health Oral Questions
	5 November 2008	Speech—National Alcohol Conference—Nottingham
	5 November 2008	Speech—Reception of the Commission on Social Determinants for Health International Conference—London
	6 November 2008	Commission on Social Determinants for Health International Conference—London (Including a Dinner and a speech)
	6 November 2008	Media Interview with the Observer
	10 November 2008	Meeting—German Health Minister
	10 November 2008	Cabinet Committee
	10 November 2008	Launch for Change4Life
	11 November 2008	You and Yours programme
	11 November 2008	Meeting—Foresight Review Officials
	11 November 2008	Media—Healthy Towns
	12 November 2008	Meeting—Baroness Gould
	12 November 2008	Meeting—Gisela Stewart MP
	12 November 2008	Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
	13 November 2008	Westminster Hall Debate—Tackling Obesity
	13 November 2008	Meeting—Marie Woolf—Journalist
	17 November 2008	Reception for those who worked on Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act
	19 November 2008	Speech—IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency) Conference
	20 November 2008	Adjournment Debate—Organ Donation
	20 November 202008	National Stakeholder Forum
	21-24 November 2008	International Trip to Libya
	25 November 2008	Select Committee on Pandemic Influenza
	25 November 2008	Speech—Fabian Society Conference
	25 November 2008	Phone call—Minister for Health Northern Ireland
	25 November 2008	Meeting—Japanese Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
	26 November 2008	Speech—Fitness Industry Association
	26 November 2008	Phone call—Minister of Health for Wales
	27 November 2008	Phone call—Minister of Health for Scotland

Details of official engagements from 1 November to 30 November

DH Minister	*Date of meeting*	*Organisation*
	26 November 2008	Faculty of Family Planning Association
Minister of State (Care Services)—Phil Hope Minister for the East Midlands	3 November 2008	Social Care and Support event, Norwich
	3 November 2008	Dignity Visit—Julian Hospital, Norwich
	4 November 2008	Health Oral Questions
	4 November 2008	Speech—TUC event, London
	4 November 2008	Meeting—Council of Regional Ministers, London
	4 November 2008	National Autistic Society Reception
	4 November 2008	Cabinet Committee
	5 November 2008	Cross-Government meeting—Government response to Dame Carol Black's review
	5 November 2008	Meeting—Alzheimer's Society
	7 November 2008	Speech—Skills for care accolade event, London
	10 November 2008	Social Care and Support event—Brighton
	10 November 2008	Dignity Visit—Brighton
	11 November 2008	Speech—Local Government Association event, Health and Well-being, London
	11 November 2008	Meeting—President, Royal College of Psychiatrists
	11 November 2008	Speech—Help the Aged, London
	12 November 2008	Speech—English Community Care Association (ECCA) national conference
	12 November 2008	Speech—Carers UK Summit, London
	18 November 2008	Speech—Mental Health Providers Forum Conference, London
	19 November 2008	Speech—Pacesetters programme, London
	19 November 2008	Speech—Local Government Information Unit Conference on Services for Older people
	19 November 2008	Human Rights Inquiry Event
	19 November 2008	Cabinet Committee
	19 November 2008	Speech—Counsel and Care parliamentary reception
	19 November 2008	Speech—All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Enterprise
	20 November 2008	Meeting—Annual Performance Assessment of Councils for 2007-2008
	20 November 2008	Speech—2010 and Beyond :A new Era for Mental Health Policy in the UK, London
	20 November 2008	Speech—National Stakeholder
	20 November 2008	Social Enterprise Visit
	22 November 2008	Final care support independence event, Birmingham
	25 November 2008	Speech—Dignity in Care Conference
	25 November 2008	Meeting—members of Law commission
	26 November 2008	Life Chances Ministerial Group
	26 November 2008	Meeting—Lloyds Pharmacy
	26 November 2008	Meeting—Alzheimer's Research Trust
	27 November 2008	Telecare conference event, London
Parliamentary Under Secretary (Lords) Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham, KBE	3 November 2008	Meeting—Foundation Trust and NHS Confederation
	3 November 2008	Meeting—National Association of Colitis and Crohn's Disease
	3 November 2008	Meeting—Humana Europe
	4 November 2008	Oral Statement—Top ups
	4 November 2008	Meeting—The Academy of Medical Sciences
	5 November 2008	Meeting—The Health Foundation
	5 November 2008	Meeting—APAX
	5 November 2008	Visit—Northgate Clinic
	6 November 2008	Meeting—HealthTalkOnline
	6 November 2008	Meeting—NHS Alliance
	6 November 2008	Meeting—Monitor
	10 November 2008	Meeting—Healthcare Commission
	10 November 2008	Meeting—BUPA

Details of official engagements from 1 November to 30 November

DH Minister	*Date of meeting*	*Organisation*
	11 November 2008	Meeting—Royal College of Midwives Royal College of Anaesthetists Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Royal College of Surgeons of England Royal College of Physicians *Royal College of General Practitioners*
	11 November 2008	Meeting—Dr. Foster Intelligence
	12-14 November 2008	International visit to Washington—Speech
	18 November 2008	Meeting—NHS Consultant's Association
	19 November 2008	Meeting—London Assembly
	19 November 2008	Meeting—Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery
	20 November 2008	Oral PQ
	26 November 2008	Visit to Keele University
Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health, Ann Keen	3 November 2008	Reception—Royal College of Pathologists
	4 November 2008	Health Oral Questions
	5 November 2008	Meeting—RNIB
	5 November 2008	Meeting—The Lindsey Leg Club Foundation
	5 November 2008	Speech—Human Tissue Authority
	5 November 2008	Speech—Chief Nursing Officers summit
	6 November 2008	Speech—NHS Employers Annual Conference
	11 November 2008	Speech—All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer
	11 November 2008	Meeting—Royal College of Midwives
	12 November 2008	Event—Nursing Times Awards
	14 November 2008	Visit—Opening Nursing and Midwifery Campus
	18 November 2008	Speech—Antibiotic Awareness Day
	18 November 2008	Speech—Second Children's Plan Conference
	18 November 2008	Speech—World Diabetes Day
	19 November 2008	Speech—World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day
	21 November 2008	Visit—Harefield Heart Centre and Harefield Hospital
	25 November 2008	Speech—Healthcare for London Conference
	25 November 2008	Speech—A Framework for Violence and Abuse Prevention

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of slots on the Choose and Book system were reported to be unavailable when requested by patients in the last 12 weeks for which figures are available. [254155]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on the percentage of slots unavailable for patients to book into.

The Department does collect the number of instances of slot unavailability as reported by The Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL), expressed as a ratio of all successful direct bookings. This is presented for the last 12 weeks for which figures are available covering the period week ending 9 November 2008 to week ending 25 January 2009 in the following table.

	Slot unavailability	*Total weekly directly bookable service outpatient bookings*	*Slot issues as percentage of bookings*
9 November 2008	11,121	77,534	14.3
16 November 2008	11,234	77,141	14.6
23 November 2008	12,302	74,370	16.5
30 November 2008	12,221	73,206	16.7
7 December 2008	11,305	73,498	15.4
14 December 2008	9,412	69,313	13.6

	Slot unavailability	*Total weekly directly bookable service outpatient bookings*	*Slot issues as percentage of bookings*
21 December 2008	8,506	70,731	12.0
28 December 2008	3,357	35,312	9.5
4 January 2009	3,145	66,099	4.8
11 January 2009	6,125	86,109	7.1
18 January 2009	6,583	84,902	7.8
25 January 2009	7,099	87,567	8.1
	102,410	876,282	11.7

Notes:
1. The weekly report expresses the percentage as a percentage of successful directly bookable service bookings.
2. Individual national health service trusts are responsible for ensuring that enough appointments slots for first outpatient appointments are made available through the Choose and Book system to ensure patients and general practitioners can book into them electronically.
Source:
Choose and book weekly report as recorded by the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL)

Smoking: Young People

Mr. Cramby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to help teenagers give up smoking. [254609]

Dawn Primarolo: Reducing smoking among young people is a priority for the Government. Much has already been achieved in this area, including raising the age of sale of tobacco products, legislation to strengthen sanctions available against retailers who persistently sell tobacco to children and young people, and smoking is addressed in the National Curriculum and through the Healthy Schools Programme.

Protecting children and young people from smoking was one of four key aspects of the Department's "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" published on 31 May 2008. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Responses to the consultation are informing the development of a new strategy on tobacco control, which will include action to continue to tackle the uptake of smoking by young people.

The Government this year are taking forward tobacco control legislation intended to protect and support young people in the Health Bill. The Health Bill includes a prohibition on the display of tobacco products, which will help to eliminate the marketing of tobacco products, to which young people are susceptible. The Bill will also provide powers to restrict or ban the sale of tobacco from vending machines, removing a major source of tobacco for young people.

Local stop smoking services are able to provide a range of support options to anyone wanting to quit smoking, including young people. Resources are also available that can be accessed by smokers direct on smoking cessation, these include the NHS "gosmokefree" website and from the general NHS Smoking Helpline (0800 169 0 169).

Social Security Benefits: Compensation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been recovered by the NHS under the provisions of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997 in each year since it entered into force. [252336]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions administers recoveries on behalf of the NHS. However those recoveries are not under the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997, but the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999, and The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.

Those recoveries are in the following table:

NHS Recoveries

	£ million
1999-00	30.05
2000-01	75.83
2001-02	98.28
2002-03	105.03
2003-04	105.63
2004-05	117.50
2005-06	121.50
2006-07	128.19
2007-08	137.04
2008-09[1]	111.19

[1] This figure is up to and including December 2008

Spinal Injuries: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the longest time was that a patient had to wait to receive treatment for spinal cord injury in the North East in the last five years. [254908]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the count of finished admission episodes by time waited with a primary diagnosis of spinal cord injury, for hospitals in the north-east of England from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

	All admission episodes	*Up to 1 week*	*1 up to 2 weeks*	*2 up to 3 weeks*	*3 up to 4 weeks*	*4 up to 5 weeks*	*Unknown Time Waited*
2006-07	3	0	1	0	0	1	1
2005-06	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
2004-05	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2003-04	5	2	0	2	0	0	1

	All admission episodes	*Up to 1 week*	*1 up to 2 weeks*	*2 up to 3 weeks*	*3 up to 4 weeks*	*4 up to 5 weeks*	*Unknown Time Waited*
2002-03	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. However, admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

3. Time waited (days): Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

4. Spinal cord injury is defined as one of the following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis field:
S140 Concussion and oedema of cervical spinal cord;
S141 Other and unspecified injuries of cervical spinal cord;
S142 Injury of nerve root of cervical spine;
S143 Injury of brachial plexus;
S240 Concussion and oedema of thoracic spinal cord;
S241 other and unspecified injuries of thoracic spinal cord;
S242 Injury of nerve root of thoracic spine;
S340 Concussion and oedema of lumbar spinal cord;
S341 Other injury of lumbar spinal cord;
S342 Injury of nerve root of lumbar and sacral spine;
S343 Injury of cauda equina;
S344 Injury of lumbosacral plexus;
T060 Injuries of brain and cranial nerves with injuries of nerves and spinal cord at neck level;
T061 Injuries of nerves and spinal cord involving other multiple body regions;
T093 Injury of spinal cord, level unspecified;
T094 Injury of unspecified nerve, spinal nerve root and plexus of trunk.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Thalassaemia

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy on the treatment of thalassaemia is. [253739]

Ann Keen: The Government support the availability of treatment services for thalassaemia that fit the model outlined in "High Quality Care for All", that care should be fair, personalised, effective and safe.

Key to this is the development of clinical networks of specialist care and the concept that every patient should have access to optimal specialist management and care, as well as routine care provided conveniently close to home. Clinical networks for Haemoglobinopathy disorders (thalassaemia and sickle cell) have now been established and initial meetings of stakeholders have taken place.

We are also currently undertaking a peer review of service provision and commissioning arrangements for haemoglobinopathies. This will inform a programme of supportive action later in the year, in partnership with the national health service and stakeholders.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the variation in funding of oral iron chelation drugs for the treatment of thalassaemia patients between primary care trusts. [253740]

Ann Keen: We have made no such assessment.

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions the Healthcare Commission has had with the Care Quality Commission on including risk assessment for venous thromboembolism as a clinical audit indicator. [254810]

Mr. Bradshaw: Discussions between the Healthcare Commission and the Care Quality Commission are matters to be raised with them directly.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include risk assessment for venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients as an indicator in the 2009-10 Care Quality Commission periodic review of NHS providers. [254811]

Mr. Bradshaw: We expect indicators to be included in periodic reviews of NHS providers to reflect the existing commitments and tier 1 and 2 vital signs that were set out in the 2009-10 operating framework.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include risk assessment for venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients as a topic for special review by the Care Quality Commission in 2009-10. [254812]

Mr. Bradshaw: In addition to its core statutory functions, the Care Quality Commission also has the power to carry out special reviews into specific or general issues to do with health or adult social care provision.

The Care Quality Commission is currently consulting on the list of topics it is considering for special reviews and studies for 2009-10. This consultation remains open until 12 March 2009 see

www.carequalitycommission.org.uk/consultations/reviews_in_0910.aspx).

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organs were successfully transplanted in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* type of organ and *(b)* transplant centre. [254154]

Ann Keen: Based on the definition that a transplant is successful if the patient survives beyond the point of their three month check-up, figures for the number of organs successfully transplanted in each year since 1997, broken down by type of organ and transplant centre have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 827-32W, on transplant surgery: figures, if he will break down by year the figures given for organ and ocular tissue transplants in the UK. [illegible]

Ann Keen: Information showing organ and ocular tissue transplants in the United Kingdom in each year since 1998, broken down by transplant centre and organ, has been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 10 February 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256170]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not maintain a central record of flowers purchased.

Departmental Press

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which *(a)* newspapers, *(b)* magazines and *(c)* journals his Department has subscriptions to. [252986]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office orders a selection of newspapers and magazines on a weekly basis, which varies according to demand. The Department does not subscribe to any journals.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislative Process

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House how many minutes were spent on the Third Reading of each Bill passed by the House since May 2005. [255099]

Chris Bryant: The information is provided in the following table. This includes any time spent on Divisions.

Date	*Bill*	*Time spent on third reading (Hrs. mins)*
Session 2005-06		
5 July 2005	Finance Bill	0.22
11 July 2005	Racial and Religious Hatred Bill[1]	1.04
19 July 2005	Consumer Credit Bill	1.06
20 July 2005	Regulation of Financial Services (Land Transactions) Bill	0.41
10 October 2005	Civil Aviation Bill	0.39
11 October 2005	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill	0.21
17 October 2005	Transport (Wales) Bill	1.27
18 October 2005	Identity Cards Bill[1]	1.01
10 November 2005	Terrorism Bill	4.00
14 November 2005	Violent Crime Reduction Bill	0.45
16 November 2005	Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill[1]	0.47
29 November 2005	European Union (Accessions) Bill	0.19
30 November 2005	Terrorism (Northern Ireland) Bill	2.15
1 December 2005	Council Tax (New Valuation Lists for England) Bill	0.40
6 December 2005	London Olympics Bill	0.43
13 December 2005	National Insurance Contributions Bill	0.32
11 January 2006	Electoral Administration Bill	0.29
16 January 2006	Equality Bill (Lords)	1.00
18 January 2006	Work and Families Bill	1.15
19 January 2006	National Lottery Bill[1]	0.43
26 January 2006	Criminal Defence Service Bill (Lords)	0.44
14 February 2006	Health Bill[1]	1.07
28 February 2006	Government of Wales Bill[1]	1.33
7 March 2006	Merchant Shipping (Pollution) Bill (Lords)	0.15
9 March 2006	Childcare Bill	0.26
14 March 2006	Animal Welfare Bill	0.18
27 April 2006	Northern Ireland Bill	0.01
10 May 2006	Police and Justice Bill	0.16
11 May 2006	Housing Corporation (Delegation) etc. Bill	0.34
16 May 2006	Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill[1]	0.33
17 May 2006	Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill	0.42
22 May 2006	Armed Forces Bill	0.42
24 May 2006	Education and Inspections Bill[1]	0.46
20 June 2006	Children and Adoption Bill (Lords)[1]	0.56
29 June 2006	Commons Bill (Lords)	0.19
5 July 2006	Finance (No. 2) Bill[1]	0.45
13 July 2006	NHS Redress Bill (Lords)[1]	0.38
17 July 2006	Compensation Bill (Lords)	0.41
19 July 2006	Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill (Lords)	0.22
9 October 2006	Road Safety Bill (Lords)	0.45
19 October 2006	Companies Bill (Lords)	0.58
23 October 2006	Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill (Lords)	0.18
25 October 2006	Charities Bill (Lords)	0.44
26 October 2006	Fraud Bill (Lords)	0.20
Session 2006-07		
28 November 2006	Investment Exchanges and Clearing Houses Bill	0.15
9 January 2007	Welfare Reform Bill	0.44
25 January 2007	Fraud (Trials without a jury) Bill[1]	0.48
29 January 2007	Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Bill[1]	0.25
6 February 2007	Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Bill[1]	0.50
20 February 2007	Planning-gain Supplement (Preparations) Bill[1]	1.16
20 February 2007	Income Tax Bill	0.48
27 February 2007	Greater London Authority Bill[1]	0.55
28 February 2007	Offender Management Bill[1]	1.20
13 March 2007	Statistics and Registration Service Bill	1.00
27 March 2007	Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) (No. 2) Bill	0.01
18 April 2007	Pensions Bill	0.59
9 May 2007	UK Borders Bill	0.43
22 May 2007	Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill[1]	0.55
14 June 2007	Rating (Empty Properties) Bill	0.33
19 June 2007	Mental Health Bill (Lords)[1]	1.02
26 June 2007	Finance Bill[1]	0.34
27 June 2007	Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill (Lords)	0.21
28 June 2007	Concessionary Bus Travel Bill (Lords)	0.13
5 July 2007	Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Bill (Lords)	0.50
12 July 2007	Further Education and Training Bill (Lords)	1.02

Date	*Bill*	*Time spent on third reading (Hrs. mins)*
17 July 2007	Parliament (Joint Departments) Bill (Lords)	0.10
23 July 2007	Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Bill (Lords)	0.57
15 October 2007	Legal Services Bill (Lords)	0.55
22 October 2007	Serious Crime Bill (Lords)	0.28
Session 2007-08		
3 December 2007	Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill	0.35
9 January 2008	Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill	0.32
17 January 2008	Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Supplementary Provisions) Bill	0.14
31 January 2008	National Insurance Contributions Bill[1]	1.00
19 February 2008	Banking (Special Provisions) Bill[1]	1.37
11 March 2008	European Union (Amendment) Bill[1]	6.18
31 March 2008	Housing and Regeneration Bill	0.19
30 April 2008	Energy Bill	0.32
13 May 2008	Education and Skills Bill	0.35
11 June 2008	Counter-Terrorism Bill[1]	0.11
2 July 2008	Finance Bill[1]	0.31
10 July 2008	Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill[1]	0.47
8 October 2008	Children and Young Persons Bill[1]	0.27
22 October 2008	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill[1]	0.21
27 October 2008	Local Transport Bill (Lords)[1]	0.27
28 October 2008	Climate Change Bill (Lords)[1]	0.16
3 November 2008	Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill (Lords)	0.26
4 November 2008	Employment Bill (Lords)	0.32

[1] Includes Divisions

7

TRANSPORT

A303

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for completion of the dualling of the A303. [254680]

Paul Clark: Following our decision to give regions a greater role in determining priorities for major transport schemes within indicative allocations, it is for the South West region to advise on the relative priority of dualling improvements to the A303 alongside other proposed schemes in the region. We are expecting advice on the priorities for transport investment in the South West in the period to 2018-19 by the end of this month.

A303: Stonehenge

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation he had with Visit Britain on his Department's review of the Stonehenge improvement scheme. [255776]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency carried out a widely publicised consultation between January and April 2006 on alternative options for improvements to the A303 running past Stonehenge. There is no record of Visit Britain having responded to this consultation.

Cars: Insurance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what system the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has in place to ensure that accurate and up-to-date car insurance information is held on its databases. [254582]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All motor vehicle insurance details are held on the insurance industry's motor insurance database (MID) and it is the insurance industry's responsibility to provide data to it. The Department requires 95 per cent. of new records to be on the database within seven days. The industry estimates that nearly 99 per cent. of all appropriate records are now on the database within seven days.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle excise duty online renewals have been refused in the last period for which figures are available because car insurance details have not been held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database. [254583]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When customers apply for a tax disc on Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Electronic Vehicle Re-licensing (EVL) service, the vehicle's insurance is electronically checked with the Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB), these details are not held on DVLA's database. If the insurance details cannot be traced with the MIB, customers are not able to make a re-licensing transaction through the EVL service. If customers have recently renewed, updated or changed the insurance policy, the vehicle details may not have been updated yet on the MIB. The reason for this is that the MIB only records the expiry date of the current insurance period. Once that current period ends the new insurance period updates the database.

The number of incomplete transactions from November 2008 to January 2009, where insurance details could not be found are:

November 2008: 109,050 out of 1,691,556 transactions

December 2008: 89,633 out of 1,622,678 transactions

January 2008: 130,231 out of 1,961,037 transactions

Driving Tests

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on revisions to the standard driving test. [254760]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In parallel with our wide ranging learning to drive consultation which looks at reforming the way that people learn to drive and are tested, we have initiated a programme of research to trial and evaluate the measures proposed. These include:

Evaluation of classroom-based discussion groups exploring young people's attitudes to safe driving.

Assessing the impact of different educational interventions and access to learning materials on performance at the theory test.

Development of a self evaluation tool that could help learners identify their attitudes towards risk and safety.

Assessing possible changes to the content of the practical driving test, such as examiners giving candidates less direction for part of the test.

Development of a revised marking scheme for the practical test, based on a candidate's demonstration of defined competencies rather than the current fault-based assessment.

We propose to publish reports of each of the research projects in due course.

Great Eastern Railway

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to increase capacity on the Chelmsford to Liverpool Street railway line. [254748]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State for Transport set out his requirements for additional peak capacity into London Liverpool Street in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" published in July 2007.

The Department for Transport is actively engaged in discussions with National Express East Anglia (NXEA) aimed at achieving early commercial agreement that will enable NXEA to increase the capacity it provides to meet this requirement. This will include services between Chelmsford and Liverpool Street.

Heathrow Airport: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many schools within the boundaries of areas surrounding Heathrow airport currently have air quality with a nitrogen dioxide level of 40 micrograms/m3 or greater. [254120]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The technical report "Population Exposure to Air Pollution", published as part of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation in November 2007, shows (Table 3.4) 16 'sensitive receptors' (which includes schools) with nitrogen dioxide levels above the limit of 40 micrograms/m3 in 2002. Data for the current year are not available but no such exceedances are predicted in 2010 or future years, with or without airport expansion.

Heathrow Airport: Job Creation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the number of new jobs which would be created by the expansion of Heathrow Airport. [254888]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The assessment of additional jobs from a third runway are set out in the recently published 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport—Impact Assessment'. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations/heathrowdecision/impactassessment/

Table A1, page 92 shows the incremental impact of a third runway relative to the base case of no third runway. Additional capacity is likely to lead to around 8,000 additional on-site jobs by 2030.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of noise levels in each London borough resulting from the establishment of the Heathrow third runway. [253847]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Noise impacts of a three-runway airport at Heathrow were presented in the November 2007 consultation document and supporting technical report on noise, both of which are still available on the Department's website. The documents include a geographical presentation of noise contour details but do not provide figures by borough.

Highways Agency: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 300W, on motorways: repairs and maintenance, whether the £6 billion programme of national major schemes will be in addition to the annual budget for the Highways Agency programme of national major schemes; [255093]

(2) what the Highways Agency budget in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13 is for national major road schemes. [255094]

Paul Clark: In our July 2008 document "Roads - Delivering Choice and Reliability" we announced that up to £6 billion was being made available for improvements to national strategic roads in England. On 15 January 2009, we announced which schemes this funding would support up to 2015. This funding is in addition to the provision for major improvements to regional strategic roads and other Highways Agency activities such as maintenance and the Traffic Officer Service.

The budgets for the Highways Agency are set on an annual basis and published in their annual Business Plan. The 2009-10 Highways Agency Business Plan is due to be published by the end of March 2009. Precise budgets are subject to annual confirmation as part of determining overall public sector investment and the Highways Agency's business planning process.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the toll for the Humber Bridge was for a single car crossing in each year since the bridge was opened; and if he will make a statement. [254774]

Paul Clark: The toll for a single car crossing in each year since the bridge was opened is:

	£
June 1981 to 31 December 1985	1.00
1 January 1986 to 31 December 1987	1.20
1 January 1988 to 6 August 1989	1.50
7 August 1989 to 7 September 1997	1.60
8 September 1997 to 31 March 1998	1.80
1 April 1998 to 11 October 1998	2.10
12 October 1998 to 31 March 2000	2.30
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2002	2.40
1 April 2002 to 23 April 2006	2.50
24 April 2006 to present	2.70

This information is publicly available on the Humber Bridge website.

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* revenue payment, *(b)* capital grant and *(c)* supported borrowing funding has been made available by his Department to (i) Kent County Council, (ii) Thanet District Council and (iii) Dover District Council in 2008-09; and how much is planned in each case for 2009-10. [255092]

Paul Clark: The following tables show the transport capital and revenue funding the Department for Transport has allocated to Kent county council for 2008-09 and 2009-10. In county areas, funding is made to the upper tier authority. Allocations are not ring-fenced and local transport authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

The tables indicate the proportion of capital allocations allowed for within the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant settlement as supported borrowing, and the proportion of grant provided by the Department. Figures shown are in £ millions.

Kent county council—capital funding

£ million

	Integrated Transport (IT) Block	*Highways Maintenance (HM)*	*Proportion of IT and HM provided as supported borrowing (percentage)*	*Proportion of IT and HM provided as grant (percentage)*	*Other funding[1] (grant)*	*Total capital funding*
2009-10	14.627	25.775	35.575	4.827	0.516	40.918
2008-09	13.383	23.972	32.560	4.795	0.553	37.908

[1] Other capital funding comprises capital detrunking and capital road safety.

Most revenue expenditure on transport is supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant, but the Department has made the following specific revenue grants to Kent county council:

Kent county council—specific revenue funding

£ million

	Road safety revenue	*Revenue detrunking*	*Specific bus grants[1]*	*Total revenue funding*
2009-10	2.807	0.272	2.381	5.460
2008-09	2.404	0.265	2.377	5.046

[1] The figures comprise spend for the Urban Bus challenge (UBC), the Rural Bus Challenge (RBC), Kickstart bus projects and allocations for the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG).

The following table shows the allocations that the Department for Transport makes to Thanet and Dover district councils in respect of concessionary fares. (These authorities also receive additional concessionary fares funding through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.)

Concessionary fares funding[1]

£ million

	Thanet district council	*Dover district council*
2009-10	0.540	0.340
2008-09	0.520	0.330

[1] Special grant allocations.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many petrol stations in West Chelmsford constituency have active liquefied petroleum gas pumps. [254740]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held centrally by Government. However, information on geographical locations is available on the UK LPG website at:

www.drivelpg.co.uk

Local Authorities: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 509-10W, on local authorities: debt collection, whether the powers for local authorities to use certified bailiffs to collect unpaid parking fines existed prior to the introduction of the 2007 regulations. [246948]

Paul Clark: The Road Traffic Act 1991 enabled London local authorities to use certificated bailiffs. These provisions have been replicated for authorities outside London through parking designation Orders made by the Secretary of State on an individual basis.

M6: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles per day travelled between *(a)* junctions 3 and 4, *(b)* junctions 7 and 8, *(c)* junctions 8 and 11a, *(d)* junctions 11a and 15 of the M6 motorway and between *(e)* junctions 3a and 7, *(f)* junctions 7 and 9, *(g)* junctions 9 and 10 of the M42, (i) for each of the five years before and (ii) each year after the opening to traffic of the M6 Toll. [253849]

Paul Clark: The following table shows available traffic figures for the specified lengths of the M6 and M42 for each of the five years before and after the opening of the M6 Toll in December 2003.

M6

	Junctions 3 and 4		*Junctions 7 and 8*		*Junctions 8 and 11a*		*Junctions 11a and 15*	
	North bound	*South bound*	*North bound*	*South bound*	*North bound*	*South bound*	*North bound*	*South bound*
1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]59842	[1]59019	[1]55581	[1]56351
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

M6

	Junctions 3 and 4		Junctions 7 and 8		Junctions 8 and 11a		Junctions 11a and 15	
	North bound	South bound	North bound	South bound	North bound	South bound	North bound	South bound
2001	[2]49600	[2]50000	[1]53535	[1]55116	[2]77200	[2]73900	[2]45700	[1]46883
2002	[1]47273	[2]50760	[2]57530	[2]58850	[2]72983	[2]71500	[2]53100	[2]52550
2003	45963	48545	68489	59498	62174	55813	47556	48158
2004	48105	49305	64616	51364	60231	54608	54965	55397
2005	54835	50820	63507	55388	63341	58962	56581	57141
2006	54746	55367	66961	55605	61927	56291	56192	56486
2007	56428	57050	[1]71705	51285	63327	[2]58082	56042	56275
2008	52063	52908	[1]71452	59152	60846	[1]61618	52817	53126

M42

	Junctions 3a and 7		Junctions 7 and 9		Junctions 9 and 10	
	North bound	South bound	North bound	South bound	North bound	South bound
1999	n/a	n/a	[1]38947	[1]41756	[1]33988	[1]33600
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]32822	[1]30409
2002	[2]63500	[2]63300	[1]47544	[1]47587	[2]34300	[2]33200
2003	[2]59500	[2]58800	n/a	n/a	35165	33898
2004	57354	57803	n/a	39405	34929	33277
2005	61656	63087	n/a	47139	35892	34523
2006	63304	65400	52509	46940	36184	34839
2007	65137	66875	62686	[2]52050	37079	35828
2008	61336	61908	61062	n/a	33874	32454

n/a = not available

All figures are from specific traffic counts, except:

[1] denotes aggregated figure from a set period

[2] Denotes estimated figure

Parking: Disabled

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to standardise the use of Blue Badges and dedicated disabled parking facilities across public and private car parks; and if he will make a statement. [255039]

Paul Clark: The Blue Badges scheme only applies to on-street parking. The provision of parking spaces in off-street car parks, whether local authority owned or privately owned, falls under the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. In both types of car park, service providers need to ensure that they provide an adequate number of parking spaces for disabled people and that these spaces are readily available. The Department for Transport will be working with the British Retail Consortium and other stakeholders to support improved enforcement in car parks.

Railway Stations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve the efficiency and delivery of larger station projects as part of the future delivery of the Railways for All Programme; and if he will make a statement. [254934]

Paul Clark: Setting efficiency targets for Network Rail activity is a function of the Office of Rail Regulation. The "Regulator's Period Review", published in October 2008, sets challenging targets for Network Rail to improve efficiency over the five year period from April 2009.

Network Rail are moving towards a modular station design, and an integrated approach to station planning, in order to leverage efficiencies and minimise disruption to passengers during enhancement, renewal and maintenance works, including access for all.

The Department for Transport is working closely with Network Rail to support initiatives which improve performance and delivery of station projects, and present opportunities to realise economies of scale.

Railway Stations: Yorkshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new rail stations are scheduled to be opened in Yorkshire in the next three years; what the location is of each; and what car parking provision is planned to be provided at each. [254942]

Paul Clark: Responsibility for promoting new stations rests primarily with local authorities and passenger transport executives (PTEs). The Department for Transport has received outline proposals for four new stations in the West Yorkshire PTE area at Apperley Bridge, Kirkstall Forge, Horsforth Woodside and Low Moor and one in the City of York area at Haxby.

West Yorkshire PTE and the City of York council should be able to provide information on proposed opening dates and car parking provision at these stations.

Railway Track

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of sets of points are heated in the national rail network. [255011]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Railways

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how decisions are taken on whether Network Rail or train operating companies are used to deliver major projects. [254928]

Paul Clark: The majority of major rail projects are delivered by Network Rail as the company best able to undertake such tasks. It has ownership of the railway infrastructure and can co-ordinate such activities with its responsibility for both maintenance and renewal.

Some smaller scale schemes are delivered by individual train operators, often where these form part of their franchise agreement obligations.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of Railways for All projects have been delivered by *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operating companies. [254929]

Paul Clark: So far 100 per cent. of the Access for All main schemes to reach completion have been delivered by Network Rail.

Work has started on site for a station being delivered by a train operating company, but progress has been slower than anticipated and the delivery proportions as yet unaffected.

Further opportunities for train operating company led delivery are being explored for projects reaching the design stage.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operating companies in delivering Railways for All projects, including Small Schemes fund projects. [254930]

Paul Clark: Assessment of Network Rail's efficiency is a function of the Office of Rail Regulation, which publishes independent monitoring of current projects. The most recent report, which includes assessment and recommendations for the Access for All programme is available on the Office of Rail Regulations' website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/conrep-projmon07-Halcrow.pdf

The Department for Transport works closely with Network Rail to monitor delivery of the programme, and is aware that initial progress has been slower than anticipated. Following an internal review in summer 2009, Network Rail put in place a revised contracting and delivery strategy, and delivery is now gaining momentum.

Network Rail are excluded from bidding for Access for All Small Scheme funding, the majority of which has been awarded to Train Operating Companies and local authorities. Of the train operating company schemes, 96 per cent. of 505 station projects were completed in 2006-08, delivering enhancements to over 480 stations. A further 149 stations are due to receive enhancements by train operating companies by 31 March 2009, under the 2008-09 programme, 56 of which are currently complete.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what matters were discussed at his recent meeting with the Association of Train Operating Companies and chief executives of the train operating companies; and if he will make a statement. [255982]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris) on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1609W.

Railways: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place to evaluate performance against the undertakings made by those bidding for rail franchises in terms of the disability element of franchise bids. [254931]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's evaluation of franchise bids includes an assessment of compliance with the invitation to tender, which reflects the Department's equality of access policies.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure that the disability element of rail franchising is scored in accordance with the Government's disability equality duty. [254932]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's evaluation of franchise bids includes an assessment of compliance with the invitation to tender which reflects the Department's equality of access policies.

Details that bidders are required to submit include:

compliance with their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act applicable to both stations and trains, including trains' compliance with time scales required in accordance with the Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations;

consultation process to identify and address the reasonable needs of disabled passengers concerning existing facilities and planned enhancements;

procedures for the sale of tickets to disabled passengers;

staff training in disability awareness.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how local disability organisations are consulted on options for access improvements in major transport projects. [254933]

Paul Clark: Major transport project promoters are responsible for deciding how to consult with their local stakeholders, including disability organisations. If they are public bodies they have obligations under the disability equality duty to secure the views of a wide range of disabled people.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has agreed Transport for London's Metro Standards for the Southern Franchise; and whether he has had *(a)* representations from and *(b)* discussions with bidders for the Southern franchise on deferral of the bidding deadline. [256020]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport worked closely with Transport for London in the development of the South Central franchise. The Government franchise specification has a number of service and staffing enhancements that will deliver significant improvements in the London area.

Alongside this, Transport for. London is funding a number of additional incremental enhancements that will bring the franchise specification nearer to the Metro standard aspired to by Transport for London.

The Department's discussions with bidders during the bid preparation phase have not included consideration of an extension to this stage of the procurement process, and we have received no representations to this effect.

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the Hope Cove lifeboat service is re-instated in time for the Easter weekend. [254918]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's boat at Hope Cove may operate from 1 April 2009 in line with its standing instructions.

Road Traffic

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Traffic Management Act 2004 so that its provisions can be enforced in England on vehicles registered in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [254925]

Paul Clark: We have no plans to amend the Traffic Management Act. Local authorities that follow the procedures set out in paragraph 10.66 of the Department for Transport's Operational Guidance to local authorities about parking policy and enforcement should have no difficulty in taking enforcement action against vehicles where the address of the registered keeper is in Scotland.

Roads: Freight

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has carried out on charges for foreign haulage vehicles to enter the UK; what estimate he has made of *(a)* the maximum feasible charge per vehicle and *(b)* the potential annual revenue to accrue from such charges; and if he will make a statement. [254758]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport undertook a freight data feasibility study last year to identify realistic and legal options to deliver a database to link non-UK HGVs to their hauliers and enable enforcement agencies to better target their resources. This included consideration of a "vignette" scheme, a time-based user charging system.

The study found that less than 11 Euros, on average, could be raised per foreign HGV per day under a vignette—due to the limitations imposed by the EU's E'urovignette Directive. Such a scheme offered a benefit to cost ratio of between 1.06 and 1.25 including 'optimism bias', with potential gross revenues of around £350 million over 10 years from non-UK hauliers.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency reserves for salt and grit the Highways Agency has; for how many days of adverse weather conditions he estimates such supplies would last; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that supplies are adequate. [255555]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Highways Agency, for which the Department for Transport is responsible, operates a routine and winter service regime that requires its service providers to maintain sufficient supplies of salt for the treatment of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) for a continuous period of six capability days.

In the present conditions of continuous severe weather, and the provision of mutual aid to local authorities, enabling them to treat local roads and routes onto and off the SRN, the Highways Agency will aim to have salt supplies for at least three capability days.

Supplies for salt are being replenished by the Highways Agency's service providers suppliers, but the national demand is placing a strain on availability. The Highways Agency is fully engaged with these suppliers to ensure that supplies are being targeted towards areas of the network that have the highest demand and is itself marshalling its existing supplies of the salt, where this is practical, to ensure the continued availability of the network.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much grit the Highways Agency holds; and how many days use this amount represents. [255660]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Highways Agency normally retains supplies of salt that enable treatment of the Strategic Road Network for a continuous period of six capability days.

The volume of this equates to 85,000 cu m.

In the current conditions, the Highways Agency will aim to have supplies for at least three capability days.

Transport

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the period served by the Ten Year Plan for Transport will end; what assessment he has made of the merits of drawing up a successor programme; and if he will make a statement. [254699]

Mr. Hoon: The Department's approach to long-term strategic planning has been set out in the publications "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" and, more recently, "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" which enhance the direction first set out in the 10-year plan.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parking: Disabled

Roger Berry: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what provision is made for disabled holders of parliamentary passes to park in *(a)* Star Chamber Court and *(b)* Royal Court; [254408]

(2) how many disabled parking spaces there are on the Parliamentary Estate; and how many are reserved for disabled *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords. [254413]

Nick Harvey: There are four car parking spaces in Star Chamber Court which are reserved for the holders of blue disabled parking badges. Five car passes entitling the holder to park in Star Chamber Court have been issued; four of these are to Members. Parking in the House of Lords estate is a matter for that House.

WALES

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255240]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [251138]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in June 2001. Prior to that, the provision of detailed project information was the responsibility of different Departments and agencies.

Although the DWP does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new enabling, IT to a greater or lesser extent.

At present the Department has over 200 change projects, a significant number of which have an IT element which is critical to the success of the project. The number of projects in train at any one time will vary and the duration of the project lifecycle is usually more than one calendar year.

Provision of all information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. We have provided such information as is readily available in the following table. This includes:

those projects that have been formally abandoned before completion, in the last five years where the IT element is such that non-delivery of the IT would have significantly affected the project's ability to deliver the intended outcomes and where the investment in the project exceed £1 million;

the investment costs incurred and the main IT contractors involved, where appointed; and

the financial years in which the project commenced and was abandoned.

Project name	*Main IT Contractor*	*Commencement*	*Abandonment*	*Investment expenditure (£ million)*
Benefits Processing Replacement Programme[1]	IBM—Solution Design Services	2004-05	2006-07	143.0
Retirement Planner[2]	Accenture—Solution Provider; EDS—Solution Operator	2003-04	2005-06	11.2
Document Management	None appointed at time of cancellation	2004-05	2006-07	1.4

[1] BPRP: Of the total investment in BPRP, £73 million of the £143 million has been of continuing value to the Department. This is detailed in the Jobcentre Plus 2006-07 annual accounts. Part of the residual investment has been reimbursed to the Department, in work and kind, by the project's main contractor.

[2] Retirement Planner: A closure date of 2004-05 was reported in a previous parliamentary question response. Ministerial agreement to suspend the project was finalised in 2005-06.

[3] Including future commitments.

The costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included as in the great majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial and non financial benefits they generate.

Any initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of normal Departmental business are also excluded.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what proportion of time each of his Department's 25 critical systems were available in each month in 2008. [254527]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not held in the format requested. The availability of the Department's IT systems is calculated in a service measurement period (SMP) and not on a monthly basis. This cycle is based on the fiscal year.

The following information supplied shows the availability of the Department's top 25 IT systems covering the period from 14 January 2008 up to and including 11 January 2009.

Each 'Top 25' system has reported 100 per cent. availability each reporting period in 2008 except where detailed as follows.

Application	*SMP11 14/01/08 to 10/02/08*	*SMP12 11/02/08 to 16/03/08*	*SMP01 17/03/08 to 13/04/08*	*SMP02 14/04/08 to 11/05/08*	*SMP03 12/05/08 to 15/06/08*	*SMP04 16/06/08 to 13/07/08*
FRAIMS	100.00	99.77	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Messaging	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Local Payment System (LPS)	100.00	99.76	99.97	100.00	99.91	100.00
Programming Accounting System (PACS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Resource Management (RM)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.47	99.02
Customer Management System (CMS)	99.26	99.86	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Incapacity Allowance (INCAP)	100.00	100.00	99.74	100.00	100.00	100.00
Income Support GB (ISCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Job Points	100.00	99.19	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.63
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Labour Market System (LMS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Social Fund (SFCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Employer Direct Online (EDON)[1]	—	—	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Housing Benefit Subsidy Data Collection (HBSDC)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Employment Support Application (ESA)[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Customer information Service (CIS)	99.63	99.97	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.58
Pension Forecasting System (PFS)	100.00	99.89	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pension Services GB (PSCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pension Services NI (PSCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pension Transformation Programme (PTP)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.66	100.00
CA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/Attendance Allowance (AA)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Child Support (CSCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.79	100.00	100.00
CS2	100.00	99.85	99.90	99.87	99.99	100.00
CSA DMS	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Application	*SMP05 14/07/08 to 10/08/08*	*SMP06 11/08/08 to 14/09/08*	*SMP07 15/09/08 to 12/10/08*	*SMP08 13/10/08 to 09/11/08*	*SMP09 10/11/08 to 14/12/08*	*SMP10 15/12/08 to 11/01/09*
FRAIMS	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Messaging	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Local Payment System (LPS)	100.00	99.78	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Programming Accounting System (PACS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Resource Management (RM)	100.00	98.69	98.07	100.00	99.92	99.82
Customer Management System (CMS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Incapacity Allowance (INCAP)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Income Support GB (ISCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Job Points	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Labour Market System (LMS)	100.00	99.76	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Social Fund (SFCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Employer Direct Online (EDON)[1]	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Housing Benefit Subsidy Data Collection (HBSDC)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Employment Support Application (ESA)[2]	—	—	—	—	99.88	100.00
Customer information Service (CIS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.98
Pension Forecasting System (PFS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pension Services GB (PSCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	98.59
Pension Services NI (PSCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Pension Transformation Programme (PTP)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
CA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/Attendance Allowance (AA)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Child Support (CSCS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
CS2	100.00	99.15	99.98	97.14	97.71	99.46
CSA QMS	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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[1] Employer Direct Online (EDON) only became one of the top 25 critical systems from SMP 01.

[2] Employment Support Application (ESA) went live in October 2008 SMP08

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a list of each Jobcentre Plus office that has closed in each year since 2002, including *(a)* the full address, *(b)* the date on which the office closed, *(c)* a description of the services the office offered and *(d)* details of the number of staff employed in the office prior to closure, broken down by type of staff; and if he will make a statement. [246625]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will place in the Library a list of each Jobcentre Plus office that has closed in each year since 2002, including (a) the full address, (b) the date on which the office closed, (c) a description of the services the office offered and (d) details of the number of staff employed in the office prior to closure, broken down by type of staff. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information is centrally available for the year that each office closed but not the actual date. The date provided is when the building is disposed of and ceases to be a financial liability to Jobcentre Plus. This can be up to 12 months following closure to the public.

The final date of closure of an office to the public is managed locally and will be adjusted to support a managed and gradual migration of the services delivered by that office to alternative locations. As a result of this gradual migration, there is no information available that details the services being delivered by an office immediately prior to closure, as well as the number of staff employed in each office prior to closure.

I have placed the available information in the Library.

Pension Credit: Nottinghamshire

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of pension credit in each parliamentary constituency in Nottinghamshire in *(a)* November 2003 and *(b)* May 2008. [254883]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table.

Households in receipt of pension credit in each parliamentary constituency in Nottinghamshire

	November 2003	*May 2008*
Ashfield	3,550	5,180
Bassetlaw	3,190	4,400
Broxtowe	2,540	3,630
Gedling	2,690	3,700
Mansfield	3,040	4,300
Newark	3,250	4,260
Rushcliffe	2,330	3,200
Sherwood	2,530	3,800

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long the average assessment period for defined benefit schemes was for those who applied to the Pension Protection Fund in the 2007-08 levy year; and how many assessments exceeded the average period. [248834]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the 2007-08 levy year 114 schemes cases entered the PPF assessment period. Of those schemes, 15 have exited the process due to the scheme being rescued or, following further investigation, being deemed ineligible and subsequently withdrawn. No schemes that entered assessment in the 2007-08 levy year have yet transferred into the PPF.

Historically it has taken an average of seven years to wind up pension schemes in the UK. Against this background the PPF has set a challenging target of 75 per cent. of schemes, and schemes covering 75 per cent. of members, completing the assessment period within two years. By law, the Pension Protection Fund assessment period must last a minimum of one year before a scheme can transfer to the PPF, and could be longer, depending on the complexity of the financial situation of both the employer and the scheme.

Pensioners: Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government has spent on help for pensioners with fuel bills in each year since 1991. [250734]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have implemented a number of measures to assist older people with their fuel bills, including winter fuel payments and cold weather payments.

Information relating to the expenditure on winter fuel payments and cold weather payments is provided in the following tables.

£ million

	Expenditure on winter fuel payments (GB)	*Expenditure on cold weather payments (GB)*[1]
1991-92	n/a	23
1992-93	n/a	15
1993-94	n/a	12
1994-95	n/a	[2]—
1995-96	n/a	62
1996-97	n/a	42
1997-98	191	1
1998-99	194	[2]—
1999-2000	759	1
2000-01	1,749	30
2001-02	1,681	15
2002-03	1,705	14
2003-04	1,916	4
2004-05	1,962	2
2005-06	1,982	8
2006-07	2,015	3
2007-08	2,071	4

[1] Figures for winter fuel payments are for people aged 60 and over. Figures for cold weather payments are the total expenditure paid to all client groups. It is not possible to split cold weather payment expenditure between pensioners and others. For 2008-09, the proportion of benefit units eligible for cold weather payments which included a pensioner is 63 per cent. (Source: based on analysis of Quarterly Statistical Enquiries and Tax Credit data.)

[2] Amount below £0.5 million.

Source:

DWP Accounting Data

This year the winter fuel payment has increased from £200 to £250 for households with someone aged 60-79 and from £300 to £400 for households with some aged 80 or over.

This year there is also a temporary increase in cold weather payments from £8.50 to £25.

Since 1997, VAT on fuel and power dropped from 8 per cent. to 5 per cent. This reduced a typical customer's bill by around £16 per year at a cost to the Government of £450 million per year.

Since 2000 the Government have spent £1.85 billion on the warm front scheme which provides grants to help people on low incomes, including pensioners, with energy efficiency measures.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department, excluding claims for compensation, of the tendering and bidding process for the Post Office card account. [241202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not possible to give the full costs incurred by DWP on the procurement exercise. The direct salary costs (including on-costs) of the staff who worked full-time on this exercise, which extended over a 22 month period, were some £700,000. Some of these costs would have been incurred in any event to put in place a new contract with the Post Office had it been decided originally that it should be renewed. In addition, a number of other staff contributed to the procurement process alongside their other duties.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 561-62W, on the Post Office card account, if he will take steps to make the best possible estimate of the cost to his Department of the tendering and bidding process for the Post Office card account; and what information his Department holds on the costs of the processes. [241316]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I wrote to the hon. Member on 9 December 2008. As I said in my letter, it is not possible to give the full costs incurred by DWP on the procurement exercise. The direct salary costs (including on-costs) of the staff who worked full-time on this exercise, which extended over a 22-month period, were some £700,000. Some of these costs would have been incurred in any event to put in place a new contract with the Post Office had it been decided originally that it should be renewed. In addition, a number of other staff contributed to the procurement process alongside their other duties.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of the additional pension paid at the age of 80 would be if it had been indexed to *(a)* earnings and *(b)* prices since 1997. [253565]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The value of the age addition, paid at age 80, if indexed to *(a)* earnings and *(b)* prices since 1997, is shown in the following table.

Pence

	Indexed to earnings	*Indexed to prices*
1998	26	26
1999	27	27
2000	29	27
2001	30	28
2002	31	28
2003	32	29
2004	34	30
2005	35	31
2006	37	31
2007	38	33
2008	39	34

Note:
The indices used to link to earnings and prices are the average earnings index and the retail prices index, respectively.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with commoners' associations on permitting them to act as the vehicle for the allocation of single farm payments on common land. [249573]

Jane Kennedy: As a result of recent discussions with commoners' associations further consideration is being given to this issue.

Birds: Nature Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 707W, on birds: nature conservation, if he will take steps to monitor the effectiveness of sales controls provided for in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as measures to protect species removed from Schedule 4. [255705]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: My Department considers it would be disproportionate to monitor sales of non-CITES species sold under a general licence, especially when the numbers of birds in captivity and demand by aviculturalists is relatively low, and evidence of illegal taking is negligible for the species.

Should any evidence come to light to the contrary, we would consider what steps to take in conjunction with advice from Natural England.

Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 846W, on carbon emissions, what the timetable is for the completion of the navigator waste infrastructure research study. [252719]

Jane Kennedy: It is anticipated that the executive summary of the Navigator study will be completed by spring 2009.

Departmental Advertising

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on advertising in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* 1997. [247995]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The figures as follows shows how much DEFRA has spent through COI on campaign advertising in the last 12 months.

ACT ON CO_2 advertising

From January 2008—March 2008 the ACT ON CO_2 spend was approximately £685,000 (press and online advertising).

From April 2008 to December 2008 the ACT ON CO_2 spend was approximately £6,700,000 (TV, press, radio and digital advertising).

Other DEFRA advertising

Spend on non-ACT ON CO_2 advertising over the last 12 months comes to £137,100:

	£
Cattle disposal	9,000
Ecolabelling	8,100
Reach	120,000

Advertisements placed via the DEFRA recruitment and statutory advertising contract for the period January 2008 to December 2009:

Recruitment advertising—£381,019.29

Statutory advertising—£70,851.76

All figures include fees and are exclusive of VAT.

As a number of DEFRA's recruitment adverts are placed through the Cabinet Office framework as part of a whole advertising campaign (campaigns can include the preparation of application packs, advertisements, sifting and assessments) it is not possible to split out the advertising element at a proportionate cost.

DEFRA was formed in June 2001. Information on the advertising spend of legacy departments is not held centrally and could only be collated at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 162W, on departmental air travel, if he will place in the Library figures for 2007-08. [241670]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, 2007-2008 air travel mileage figures available currently for all Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) participants are as follows:

Participant	*Domestic miles*	*Short-haul miles*	*Long-haul miles*	*Total miles*
DfID	2,442,620	3,925,809	42,143,843	48,512,272
MoD	1,482,742	8,013,589	34,520,713	44,017,044
Red Arrows	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
HMRC	13,803,977	1,885,521	2,435,709	18,125,207
VOA	67,078	6,180	32,297	105,555
BERR	1,850,032	2,798,771	11,157,261	15,806,064
HO	3,096,510	1,610,014	3,956,040	8,662,564
IPS	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
CRB	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
PS	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
FSS	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
DWP	7,825,984	630,331	887,756	9,344,071
HMT	1,568,881	249,645	916,193	2,734,720
DEFRA	3,612,106	2,486,536	5,204,984	11,303,322
CEFAS	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
DCMS	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
DH	413,688	576,208	1,456,328	2,446,224
CO	183,460	7,400,226	2,466,762	10,050,448
No.10	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
DfT	603,997	821,311	1,030,471	2,455,779
RH	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
GCDA	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
DCLG	98,617	297,057	195,831	591,505
DfES	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
LOD	63,425	395,429	1,053,994	1,512,848
CPS (LOD)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
SFO (LOD)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
RCPO (LOD)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
AGO (LOD)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
HMCPSI (LOD)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Tsol (LOD)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
NIO	1,992,239	60,536	160,637	2,213,412

Participant	*Domestic miles*	*Short-haul miles*	*Long-haul miles*	*Total miles*
MoJ	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
TLR	13,842	21,630	90,170	130,663
TTBC	27,938	40,171	222,404	290,532
ECGD	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Parl HC	1,080,576	1,072,304	2,674,252	4,796,222
BAPG	tbc	tbc	121,271	121,271
Parl HL	177,040	240,040	619,933	847,844
TRS	9,180	0	0	9,180
GLA	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
MPS	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
TfL	54,309	690,967	1,459,757	2,204,293
LDA	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
SDC	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

As the deadline for returns is 30 April 2009, the abbreviation TBC used is to signify where finalised returns are yet to be confirmed/supplied.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255228]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No Ministers in DEFRA have received representations from any of these peers over the past seven months.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252031]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its agencies operate 'flexi time' arrangements that allow staff to take time off in lieu for working above their contracted hours. This would include time off for working during lunch breaks and in the evenings.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252032]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its agencies operate 'flexi time' arrangements. With the exception of CEFAS and CSL this policy allows staff to take up to three days time off in lieu per four week period for hours worked above their contractual hours. CEFAS and CSL currently allow their staff to take up to two days time off in lieu per four week period.

The working hours of employees is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the working arrangements of DEFRA's NDPB's is not available centrally.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of household waste bins fitted with radio frequency identification chips; [252412]

(2) what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance (i) his Department and (ii) the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given on the use of radio frequency identification devices attached to household waste containers. [252480]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA and neither DEFRA nor WRAP have issued any advice or guidance on the use of radio frequency identification devices.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the final report of the research project *(a)* WR0103—Household Waste Prevention Policy Side Research Programme, *(b)* WR0104—Lifestyle Scenarios: Futures for Waste Composition, *(c)* WR0106—Achieving Household Waste Prevention and Promoting Sustainable Resource Use Through Product Service Systems and *(d)* WR0506—Benefits of Third Sector Involvement in Waste Management. [252720]

Jane Kennedy: The projects (WR0103) 'Household Waste Prevention Policy Side Research Programme' and (WR0104) 'Lifestyle Scenarios: Futures for Waste Composition' referred to in the reply to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal, are publicly available on DEFRA's website.

The draft final report for project (WR0506) 'Benefits of third sector involvement in waste management' was received by DEFRA at the beginning of December. Comments and feedback on the draft are being collated prior to the project team completing a finalised version ready for publication before the end of March. The published report will be made publicly available on DEFRA's website.

Project report (WR0106) 'Achieving Household Waste Prevention and Promoting Sustainable Resource Use Through Product Service Systems' is proceeding through publication clearance procedures and will be made publicly available on DEFRA's website as soon as this is completed.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254054]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As one would expect, the Secretary of State, Ministers and officials have regular engagements with outside organisations and other Government Departments on a broad range of issues, many of which naturally incorporate discussion relating to the economy.

A list of the individual discussions could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) Ministerial colleagues and (ii) officials in the Department of Communities and Local Government on the siting of proposed eco-towns on land with environmental stewardship status. [251279]

Huw Irranca-Davies: 33 eco-town proposals have been subjected to a cross-Government review process in which DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Natural England played a full role alongside Communities and Local Government. This review considered the potential environmental impacts of each proposal in terms of water supply, wastewater treatment, water quality, flood risk management, waste management, biodiversity and landscape. A number of the eco-town proposals reviewed included land under Environmental Stewardship.

Environment Protection: Landfill

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which body is responsible for monitoring the *(a)* environmental impact of *(b)* adherence to gate-keeping procedures at landfill sites. [252610]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency is the relevant regulator for England and Wales in respect of landfill sites, including monitoring of the environmental impact and adherence to gate-keeping procedures.

Farms: Income

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm income was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland for each of the last 10 years. [254013]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the average Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, for each of the last 10 years, is shown in the following table.

Average farm business income

£ per farm

March to February	*England*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
1998/99	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	36,800	23,400	14,300
2004-05	28,300	21,000	15,500
2005-06	35,600	20,200	17,300
2006-07	34,400	21,600	20,100
2007/08	48,100	31,300	30,100

n/a = not available

Source:

Farm Business Survey[1]

[1] The FBS sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Farm Business Income is the headline measure of the profitability of farm businesses. It represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings. It is not available for years before 2003-04 given the way that data were recorded in earlier years. Scotland are in the process of adapting their Farm Business Survey to derive equivalent data.

Average net farm income

£ per farm

March to February	*England*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1998-99	11,500	4,200	4,300	2,200
1999-2000	8,700	4,000	3,900	1,100
2000-01	10,600	7,000	6,000	3,000
2001-02	14,900	8,500	12,400	6,300
2002-03	16,600	10,300	9,000	4,500
2003-04	20,300	13,000	10,800	8,700
2004-05	21,200	14,200	13,100	9,400
2005-06	21,100	12,200	10,800	10,100
2006-07	20,700	12,100	10,800	10,400
2007-08	30,600	18,400	20,800	22,000

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. It is net of an imputed rental charge on owned land and an imputed charge for unpaid labour.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253390]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA (the core Department) does not have authority to levy financial penalties without the need to resort to court proceedings.

The Environment Agency, a non-departmental public body, can levy fixed penalty notices under the following legislation:

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005

The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007

The Site Waste Management Plans Regulations 2008

The Environment Agency is also responsible for imposing civil penalties under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005 in England and Wales.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency has authority to impose administrative financial penalties for fisheries offences under the Sea Fishing(Enforcement of Community Measures)(Penalty Notices) Order 2008, SI 2008 No 984.

Due to the large number and the complexity of schemes administered by the Rural Payments Agency, I have instructed the Chief Executive to reply to you by letter.

Fisheries: Licensing

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will change the Single Area Licence requirement on Brixham fishermen to enable Brixham boats to be inspected at sea or at their nearest port of call before moving from one fishing area to another. [254977]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Single Area Licence condition was introduced to the South West beam trawl fleet in November 2008 and was considered necessary in order to safeguard the stocks of sole in the West Channel. This is of particular concern in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) division VIIe* where there is clear evidence of misrecording of area of capture, which has been admitted by industry representatives. The amount of quota available for fishing for sole in VIIe* is quite limited compared to other areas and was cut by a further 15 per cent. this year on scientific advice. Catching sole in VIIe*, and declaring that it is caught in another sector, will further deplete precious stocks and give false data to the scientists.

The new condition was discussed with fishing industry representatives prior to its introduction, and care was taken to try to ensure that it was workable and would have the desired effect. The condition sets out that beam trawler operators are prohibited from fishing in VIIe* and any other ICES division in the same trip. They are also obliged to inform the call centre in advance of leaving port whether they intend to fish in VIIe* or in any other ICES division. The scheme has worked well and the industry are complying with the condition. It has been agreed that a formal review will take place after six months of running, and the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) are maintaining close liaison with industry representatives on this measure.

The MFA have limited resources to inspect at sea across the whole of English and Welsh waters using the Royal Navy Fishing Protection Squadron. This resource is used to target vessels which pose the highest risk of non compliance, including visiting community vessels as well as UK vessels. It would be a poor use of resource to task the Navy to inspect very limited areas of operations in order to concentrate on checking vessels at boundaries between fishing areas for compliance with this particular licence condition.

There is nothing in the licence condition that requires Brixham boats to return to Brixham to land their catch prior to setting out to fish in another area. If the master or owner of a vessel wishes to amend the area of fishing, there is a requirement to come into a fishing port before any notification for a change of area can be made, but this does not need to be the home fishing port. If fishing has taken place however, any fish retained onboard must be landed before this notification is made. This element of the measure was introduced so that we can be sure that the fish retained onboard can only be from one ICES area, and hence, the risk of the ability to misreport the area of capture is reduced.

VIIe*—the exact area where the restriction applies called 'relevant area' is clearly mapped out in the licence condition.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will carry out a mid-year review of the reduction in quota levels for 7e sole in the light of new scientific advice; and what recent assessment he has made of the effect of quota levels on the livelihoods of fishermen in the south-west. [254978]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The International Council for the Exploration for the Sea (ICES) provides scientific advice to the European Commission and member states for the management of EU fish stocks. Since agreement was reached on total allowable catches and quotas for 2009 there has been no new advice concerning 7e sole. Once new information becomes available I will give it my full consideration.

I fully recognise that the loss of sole quota impacts on fishers' in the south-west. Based on average 2008 prices, this year's cut in the UK quota of 68t, is valued at approximately £500,000. However, this does not take account of fluctuations in price and catches of other species.

I am keen for my officials to continue to work with representatives of the south-west fishing industry. They have, therefore, agreed to meet throughout the year to explore the scope for developing a strategy for 7e sole based on the latest evidence.

Floods: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress he has made on implementation of the EU Floods Directive; and if he will make a statement. [253203]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We intend to consult on arrangements for implementing the directive in England this spring, as part of the draft Floods and Water Bill.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for recognition under the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme since 2004 were received from producer organisations; and how many of these were *(a)* approved, *(b)* rejected and *(c)* withdrawn. [252583]

Jane Kennedy: 34 applications for recognition under the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid scheme were received from producer organisations since 2004.

Of these, 24 were approved, nine were rejected and one was withdrawn.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money has been allocated from the Environmental Action Fund for the construction of zero-carbon housing. [249738]

Jane Kennedy: The conditions of the Environmental Action Fund did not allow grant funding for construction work. It did support several projects by voluntary and community sector organisations which encouraged sustainable consumption in the construction industry, among building professionals, communities or householders/buyers.

Examples of Government support to the house-building sector for the construction of zero carbon housing are: the Zero Carbon Hub, the Carbon Challenge Programme and the Low Impact Building Innovation Platform.

Incinerators: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of compliance of emissions from energy from waste plants with the EU Waste Incineration Directive; and if he will make a statement. [254411]

Jane Kennedy: Operators of waste incineration plants are required to comply with permits under the terms of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 which implement the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC). Assessment of compliance, and consideration of enforcement action in the event of non-compliance, are matters for the relevant environmental regulator.

Landfill: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the financial and economic impact of the EU Landfill Directive, *(b)* the costs of meeting the targets contained in the Directive by 2010 and *(c)* the likely cost to the public purse should the UK fail to meet the requirements of the Directive. [254403]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

(a) The financial and economic impact of the EU Landfill Directive in England and Wales was considered in a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) included in the consultation on the implementation of the Landfill Directive in 2001.

(b) The costs of meeting the 2010 landfill diversion targets were estimated in the RIA on the implementation of the landfill provisions of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003. The RIA identified three options that would meet the requirements as well as a business as usual base position.

(c) Failure to meet the requirements of the Landfill Directive would leave the UK open to infraction proceedings under EC law.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251156]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) has provided media monitoring services as follows to DEFRA:

	£
2005-06	53,000
2006-07	54,150
2007-08	62,700
2008-09	70,000

We do not hold records for MMU costs in 2004-05.

Durrants provides DEFRA with a daily cuttings service at the following cost per calendar year:

	£
2005	66,843
2006	137,911
2007	152,397
2008 to date	136,777

We do not hold records for Durrants costs in 2004-05.

DEFRA also subscribes to the Press Association newswire monitoring service at the following cost:

	£
2004-05	4,000
2005-06	4,136
2006-07	4,237
2007-08	4,402
2008-09	4,391

In addition since May 2008 DEFRA has used the transcript service of Wordsworth at a cost to date of £8,705.

All figures quoted exclude VAT.

Nature Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to strengthen the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species licensing system following the recent changes to Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [253749]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I do not propose to make any specific changes to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) licensing system. However my officials have recently strengthened our compliance team with the secondment of a serving police officer.

This has enabled CITES licensing to improve the service they offer to law enforcement agencies and to integrate the procedures fully into those of the police national intelligence model and the overall UK strategic assessment of wildlife crime.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of simultaneous discharges of slurry in nitrate vulnerable zones at the end of the closed season; and if he will make a statement. [254070]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Stakeholders raised concerns in response to a consultation about the potential for a "national muck spreading day" either just before or just after the closed season. To address their concerns and to manage the risk of less attention being paid to ground conditions at a time when there is a higher risk of soil damage or run-off, a provision was included in the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 which set a maximum application rate and minimum return period between the end of the closed season and the end of February. This is in addition to a number of other measures in the regulations which are aimed at reducing the risk of a national muck-spreading day occurring.

Oils: Waste Disposal

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of used cooking oil that has been disposed of in landfill sites in each year since 1997. [253282]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA.

Packaging

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has held with retailers and manufacturers in the last 12 months on reducing excess packaging. [252923]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is in discussion with retailers and manufacturers through a voluntary agreement between industry and Government called the Courtauld Commitment. There have been a number of meetings over the past 12 months to discuss the issue of excess packaging. In 2008 the Courtauld Commitment successfully achieved its objective of stopping growth in grocery retail packaging, and signatories are now working towards their second aim of reducing the amount of packaging used by 2010. Discussions are under way to agree further reduction targets for the post-2010 commitment.

Packaging: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the EU Packaging Directive; and if he will make a statement. [254408]

Jane Kennedy: The UK has fully implemented the requirements of the EU Packaging Directive via the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations and the Essential Requirements Regulations.

Pollution Prevention Control Regulations 2000

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to implement *(a)* the Pollution Prevention Control Regulations 2000 and *(b)* the pollution control regime set up under Part 1 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. [254409]

Jane Kennedy: The Pollution Prevention Control Regulations 2000 and the pollution control regime set up under part 1 of the Environment Act 1990 have been replaced by the Environment Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. These came into force on 6 April 2008 and are fully implemented.

Poverty: Rural Areas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to address rural poverty. [253825]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: National cross-cutting policies to address poverty apply to both urban and rural areas and are the responsibility of a number of Government Departments such as the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Communities and Local Government and Customs and Revenue.

DEFRA's role is to encourage other departments and agencies to understand the rural dimension to their policies and programmes. DEFRA also funds the Commission for Rural Communities to advise all Government Departments on the needs of people living and working in rural England, with a particular focus on tackling disadvantage.

Public Footpaths

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations *(a)* he and *(b)* Natural England have had with Visit Britain on Natural England's review of national trails and routes. [255777]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My officials are aware of Natural England's review of national trails and routes.

Natural England has consulted VisitEngland (formerly VisitBritain) about its review and it has been actively involved throughout all stages of the review. It is represented on a small steering group of major stakeholders which has advised and contributed to every aspect of the review from agreeing the scope, gathering, analysing and challenging the evidence, refining recommendations and consulting with tourism, user group, landowner and local authority interests. VisitEngland also attended a national consultation event.

Recycling

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes the Environment Agency has made to rules on the storage of recyclable wastes as a consequence of the reduction in market demand for recycled products. [252722]

Jane Kennedy: An Environment Agency position statement regarding the storage of recyclables was issued on 11 November 2008 and is available on their website.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to set targets for local authorities on the recycling of trade waste; and if he will make a statement. [254064]

Jane Kennedy: No specific targets have been set for the recycling of trade waste.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many councils he expects to meet their targets for recycling of household waste by 2020; and what assistance is available to local authorities to meet such targets. [254085]

Jane Kennedy: Individual local authorities do not have targets set in 2020 for recycling household waste.

Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of trade waste collected by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* private waste contractors under licence in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [254089]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost to local authorities in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas of separating household and trade waste by weight in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [255019]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA.

Waste Disposal: Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the waste provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 to be implemented; and what assessment he has made of the financial and economic effects of those provisions on *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses. [254412]

Jane Kennedy: Powers in the Climate Change Act allow up to five local authorities in England to pilot household waste incentives schemes. No local authorities have so far expressed an interest in taking up these powers. The powers are of course voluntary and were introduced in response to requests from local government.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 870W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, whether a decision has been made on which body will evaluate pilot schemes for household waste incentive schemes. [252197]

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an organisation has been appointed to carry out the evaluation of pilot schemes for charges for collection of household waste. [252713]

Jane Kennedy: No organisation has been appointed. I refer the hon. Members to the written statement I made on household waste incentives on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices for waste receptacle offences were issued in 2007-08; and how much was collected as a result. [252421]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for fixed penalty notices for waste receptacle offences issued in 2007-08 are not yet available.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records are required to be kept on the issue of fixed penalty notices to juveniles for waste receptacle offences. [252438]

Jane Kennedy: Figures collected from local authorities on fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued for waste receptacle offences are not broken down by the age of the offender.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what date his Department has set for local authorities to submit bids to pilot charges for the collection of household waste; and how many bids his Department has received. [252479]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on household waste incentives, 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation on waste incentive pilot schemes given by Ms Sarah Fisher from his Department's waste strategy division to the Thames Valley Waste Forum on 4 April 2008. [252622]

Jane Kennedy: The presentation is available on the Thames Valley Waste Forum website.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on charges for the collection of household waste. [255782]

Jane Kennedy: No such discussions have taken place.

Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many local authorities have met the criteria for the Government's private finance initiative programme to establish waste disposal projects; [254401]

(2) how much private finance initiative funding is available for energy from waste projects in England in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [254402]

Jane Kennedy: To date, £2.02 billion private finance initiative (PFI) credits have been committed to 33 local authority projects, all of which have met the required criteria.

There are an additional 11 projects in the application process, for which it is expected a further £1.18 billion PFI credits could be awarded.

The comprehensive spending review 2007 provided DEFRA with additional funding (totalling £2 billion) through PFI to provide further investment in waste infrastructure, of which £600 million is for 2008-09 and £700 million for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Water Charges

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from churches on new charging systems for surface water drainage; and what his response to those representations has been. [255245]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for South Ribble (Mr. Borrow) on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 887W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the seven individuals who have absconded from control orders have been arrested or otherwise located and returned to control. [255380]

Mr. Coaker: In relation to the locations and status of the seven individuals who have absconded from control orders, I would refer the hon. Member to written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007 (two statements), 17 September 2007 and 13 March 2008. These statements give as much information as we can provide about the individuals concerned given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W, on apprentices, how many apprentices her Department employs. [251905]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office HQ, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS), and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) are participating in the Government Skills Apprenticeships Pathfinder Programme and data on the overall take up is collated centrally. There are currently 260 members of staff registered with an apprentice provider under this programme, and a further 76 applications are being processed.

Data about other staff taking apprenticeships outside of this programme are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of applications for asylum in 2007-08 was made by people entering the UK from *(a)* another EU member state and *(b)* a country outside the EU. [254692]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information, which may not be available in all cases, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Q4 2008 statistics will be available on 24 February 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have qualified for an integration loan from the UK Border Agency under *(a)* refugee status and *(b)* humanitarian protection criteria in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [254444]

Mr. Woolas: Between 11 June 2007 (when the integration loan scheme started) and the end of December 2008 a total of 1,137 loan applicants have been awarded a loan. 383 loans were awarded in 2007 and 754 in 2008.

The integration loan is available to those granted refugee status, humanitarian protection or those granted leave as a dependant of such individuals. Consideration of eligibility takes into account these factors and does not differentiate between whether an applicant has been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection. We therefore do not collect statistics on the immigration status of successful loan applicants.

Asylum: Homosexuality

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who claimed to be gay or lesbian have been returned from the UK to *(a)* Iran, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Mauritania, *(d)* Nigeria, *(e)* Pakistan, *(f)* Saudi Arabia, *(g)* the United Arab Emirates, *(h)* Sudan and *(i)* Yemen since 1997. [255872]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only through the examination of individual cases files at disproportionate cost. Even then, this information may not be available in all cases.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Figures for the fourth quarter of 2008 will be published on 24 February 2009.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many and what proportion of UK air passenger movements *(a)* other passenger information and *(b)* passenger name record data are gathered. [253335]

Mr. Woolas: Other Passenger Information (OPI) is known in the aviation industry as Passenger Name Record (PNR) data. Carriers will only be required to provide OPI to e-Borders to the extent that it is known to the carrier i.e. held within the reservation system. OPI is currently only collected on a limited number of routes.

It is UKBA policy not to provide details of the routes for security and commercial reasons.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254085]

Mr. Woolas: This response covers staff within Home Office headquarters, the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Information on the number of staff disciplined (including any dismissed) under the Department's Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy during the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

Table 1: Staff disciplined or dismissed under Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy

	Staff disciplined (including any dismissed)
2005-06	17
2006-07	9
2007-08	19

Information on the number of staff disciplined in each specific category is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expert advisers have been commissioned by her Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246659]

Mr. Woolas: Comprehensive information on this is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253271]

Mr. Woolas: Information on how to purchase added pension and additional voluntary contributions is provided to all members of staff on joining the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). This is contained in the relevant scheme booklet sent to all those joining the Department.

This information is also made available to members of staff on the Cabinet Office website (a link to this is on the Home Office HR intranet site) and the annual benefit statements sent to all staff who are members of the PCSPS contain details on where to find further information for those interested in boosting their pension provision.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new recruits her Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate she has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254464]

Mr. Woolas: The number of new recruits in Home Office HQ is in the following table:

Home office HQ—new recruits

	Financial year					
Appointment type	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Permanent recruits	491	618	216	255	—	—
Temporary recruits	235	172	142	287	—	—
Agency recruits	17	51	77	97	—	—
Total	743	841	435	639	—	—
Forecast permanent recruits	—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—
Forecast temporary recruits	—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—
Forecast agency recruits	—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] 2009-10 and 2010-11 forecasts figures are not available as business planning has not been finalised in detail.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2292-3W, on redundancy, what estimate has she made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate she has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254459]

Mr. Woolas: The savings resulting from staff exit schemes could only be calculated following examination of individual records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251358]

Mr. Woolas: The following table details total annual salary costs to the Department for casual and fee paid employees who are paid on the Department's payroll system. The data cover Home Office headquarters, UK Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

The Department employs agency staff and consultants who are paid from individual business unit budgets. Salary costs are not held centrally for these employees and to obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost.

£

	Total annual salary costs of casual and fee paid staff in HQ, UKBA, IPS and CRB
2005-06	1,469,927.07
2006-07	503,593.29
2007-08	420,924.08
2008-09 (to end of January 2009)	372,012.41

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure her Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each of the last five years. [251875]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 5W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in her Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249142]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners are subject to deportation notices. [252821]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Those who meet the published criteria for deportation will be considered for deportation action. Additionally any non-EEA foreign national prisoners who receive a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, as well as any non-EEA national convicted of a drug or gun offence irrespective of the length of their sentence, will face automatic deportation and, in many cases, will not receive a right of appeal within the United Kingdom. According to the Agency's own provisional internal management information, which is subject to change, over 5,000 foreign national prisoners were deported in 2008. This means that the UK Border Agency yet again exceeded its target for the year as well as exceeding the previous year's record number of removals and deportations of foreign national prisoners.

Domestic Violence: Refuges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refuges for victims of domestic violence there were in each year since 1997. [254907]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not record these figures.

There is a range of support for victims of domestic violence. Some victims will be accommodated in refuges, but sanctuary schemes and mainstream local authority accommodation may be an option for others, while some victims will pursue independent solutions with help and advice from support schemes as necessary.

A national survey of refuge places in 1998 showed that there were 409 domestic violence refuge properties in England with approximately 7,269 bed-spaces.

The Department have recently commissioned new research that will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need. It will involve establishing the extent and type of temporary and settled accommodation available for households at risk of domestic violence in England, including the provision of housing related support services delivered to both temporary and settled accommodation, and to households' own homes.

In 2003 the Government announced major investment in refuge provision in England in 2003 to 2006. A total of £34 million capital was allocated and 511 units of accommodation were refurbished or newly built. More recently the Hostels Capital Improvement programme (2005 to 2007) funded six new and refurbished refuges at a cost of £4 million.

The Department for Communities and Local Government provides essential revenue support for victims of domestic violence through the Supporting People Programme—£64.5 million in 2007-08 up from £61.6 million in 2006-07.

Entry Clearances

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a decision to be made on the application for a family reunion visa in Pretoria, South Africa by the relatives of the hon. Member for West Lancashire's constituent Mr. Katona: Loyce Gaka, visa reference number VFS-ZA-01-011915-X and Amanda Katona, visa reference number VFS-ZA-01-011916-X. [254577]

Mr. Woolas: These applications were resolved on 26 January 2009.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the definition is of a temporary worker under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services; how such workers will be identified; and how their departure from the UK at the end of their contract will be enforced. [253507]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The definition of a temporary worker under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services can be found in the current European Union services offer in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations on the World Trade Organisation website:

www.wto.org

Intra company transferees coming to the United Kingdom under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services will be required to qualify under the Tier 2 (Intra Company Transfers) category of the Points-Based System. Contractual Service Suppliers coming to the United Kingdom under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services will be required to qualify under Tier 5 (Temporary Workers)—International Exchange sub-category of the Points-Based System.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on responding to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* January to July 2008. [251759]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

An assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics 2006 report "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act". A copy of this report is available in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of her Department are specifically employed to manage freedom of information requests. [251761]

Mr. Woolas: Across the Home Office and its agencies, 10 staff deal exclusively with freedom of information requests, four of whom are employed on a part-time basis. A further 17 staff have managed freedom of information requests as a substantial part of their role. Overall, the equivalent of 19.6 full-time posts manage freedom of information requests.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department *(a)* fulfilled and *(b)* refused in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) up to July 2008. [251762]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested has been published in the Ministry of Justice's annual reports on the operation of the FOI Act in central Government. These can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-annual-report-central-gov-2006.pdf

for requests received in 2006,

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-report-2007-final-web.pdf

for cases received in 2007.

Information on cases received between January and July 2008 can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/quarterly-stats-jan-mar-08.pdf

and

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/quarterly-stats-apr-jun-08.pdf

these are also available in the Library.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Metropolitan police have received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the release of the report of the review conducted by Chief Constable Ian Johnston of the arrest and investigation of the hon. Member for Ashford; [254562]

(2) if she will obtain a copy of the final report of the review conducted by Chief Constable Ian Johnston of the British Transport Police of the arrest and investigation of the hon. Member for Ashford; and if she will place a copy of the report in the Library. [254734]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answers 5 and 9 February 2009]:* No request has been made to my Department. The review of the handling of the investigation by the Metropolitan police was made at the request of the then Acting Commissioner. The report of the review is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police and I have no plans to call for a copy of the report.

Immigration: Deportation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who were normally resident in Peterborough constituency and had no legal basis to remain in the UK have been removed since May 2007; and if she will make a statement. [250807]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 January 2009, *Official Report,* column

702W, in which he asked a similar question. The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Detainees

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what compensation payments have been made by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* private contractors working for her Department to immigration detainees in (i) response to allegations of unlawful detention, (ii) response to allegations of assault and (iii) total in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [253316]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only through examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Marriage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the application of the two-year rule to the right of a spouse to apply to remain in the UK. [253495]

Mr. Woolas: In April 2003 the probationary period for those seeking settlement on the basis of marriage was increased from one to two years. The two year probationary period is intended to protect the system against abuse. This probationary period allows the UK Border Agency to assess that the relationship is subsisting and acts as a safeguard against those who might enter into a sham marriage solely for immigration purposes.

The UK Border Agency keeps its policies under continuous review to ensure that they operate effectively and meet the Government's wider immigration objectives.

Luton Borough Council

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants her Department has made in respect of the Luton borough council area in each year since 1997. [252647]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's accounting systems show the following specific area grant payments to Luton borough council, Luton Primary Care Trust and Safer Luton Partnership.

	£
2004-05	984,248
2005-06	1,447,135
2006-07	867,702
2007-08	1,514,467
2008-09	1,136,007

An analysis by individual grants, payments made before 2004-05, and other related payments, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of her Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251220]

Mr. Woolas: The total cost of the Department's contracts with press monitoring services in the last four financial years (2004-05 to 2007-08) is provided in the following table. The information for 2003-04 is no longer readily available and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Total (£)
2004-05	203,393
2005-06	164,457
2006-07	276,747
2007-08	255,992

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 21 August 2008, on behalf of Mr. Paul Butler, transferred from the Ministry of Defence and acknowledged by her Department with reference M16298/8. [254294]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 6 February 2009.

Offenders: Deportation

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of procedures for the deportation of illegal immigrants who are convicted of a criminal offence. [253530]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee advising of progress that the Agency has made in deporting such individuals and improvements to the system. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House. According to provisional internal management information, which is subject to change, the UK Border Agency deported or removed over 5,000 foreign national prisoners in 2008 meaning that it has again exceeded its Government set target and deported or removed record numbers of foreign criminals.

Offenders: Foreigners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners have been given leave to remain in the UK in the last 12 months. [254025]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Secretary has made it clear that those foreign national prisoners who commit crimes within the United Kingdom and meet the relevant criteria will face deportation action. Where an individual who does not meet this criteria but has no lawful basis upon which to remain in the United Kingdom, the UK Border Agency will pursue removal action against them.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide them with all of the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

Passports

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits to each passport office members of the public made in each of the last 10 years. [253672]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service does not hold data on the actual number of visits made by members of the public. However the total number of actual counter applications processed over a five year period, under the one week and same day service are in the following table.

	London	*Liverpool*	*Peterborough*	*Newport*	*Glasgow*	*Belfast*	*Durham*	*Total*
2002-03	170,374	64,275	51,265	44,798	35,595	13,638	23,611	403,556
2003-04	192,288	73,478	55,309	46,943	41,251	15,279	31,008	455,556
2004-05	197,084	83,087	60,515	55,040	45,031	19,119	40,223	500,099
2005-06	223,707	92,726	69,740	58,750	48,731	21,613	48,297	563,564
2006-07	226,201	105,022	77,611	59,108	55,408	23,311	58,381	605,042
2007-08	228,829	95,888	74,870	56,067	55,354	21,119	43,048	575,175

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2479W, on the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: Government Departments, what the purpose was of each of the conferences for her Department organised by R Glasgow and Associates Public Relations Ltd held in the QE2 Conference Centre. [252455]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

SCS Leadership Conference—October 2007

The conference focused on the quality of management and leadership within the Home Office and the steps to be taken to further improve performance.

SCS Leadership Conference—March 2008

The conference focused on the quality of management and leadership within the Home Office, the Department's strategy, progress being made on the Department's reform programme and preparations for the Capability Review.

The NETWORK AGM

Under the title 'Diversity Reflects us all—Equality Protects us all', the AGM

Presented the NETWORK Annual Report;

Presented awards for outstanding work within the NETWORK;

Announced results of the National Executive Committee Elections.

Sri Lanka

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department classifies Sri Lanka as a safe country. [254578]

Mr. Woolas: Sri Lanka is not one of the 24 countries currently designated under Section 94 (4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 as a country from which asylum or human rights claims are to be certified as clearly unfounded unless the applicant is able to satisfy the Secretary of State that their asylum claim is not clearly unfounded.

Terrorism Act 2006: Prosecutions

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for the offence of encouragement of terrorism contained in the Terrorism Act 2006; and how many in each case involved glorification of terrorism as defined in section 1(3) of that Act. [254861]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently held.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data on arrests and convictions under terrorist legislation and other related legislation. As soon as this is complete a statistical bulletin to cover information on arrests and convictions will be published, but as yet we do not have a confirmed date.

The bulletin will say how many individuals have been charged and convicted for encouragement of terrorism; however it will not break it down any further.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took the UK Border Agency to reply to letters from hon. Members in 2008. [249404]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Cabinet Office publish annually a report detailing departmental performance in handling Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 will be published shortly and will be made available in the House Library.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 453-4W, on entry clearances: employment, how many work permit applications by non-EU workers were approved in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by the 20 most frequent occupations. [253987]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The table shows the number of work permit applications for non-EU workers approved in each of the last three years broken down by the 20 most frequent occupations.

Figures are rounded to nearest five.

Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The occupational categories used are not compatible with those in the Standard Occupational Classification.

Caveats:

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Number of individual approved work permit applications from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008

Top 20 occupations	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Other IT related occupation	15,275	17,065	17,485	49,830
Other manager related occupation	17,500	16,455	15,095	49,055
Nurse	13,615	8,515	8,770	30,900
Software engineer	9,535	10,610	7,410	27,555
Other financial occupation	7,480	8,705	7,450	23,635
Other engineering occupation	7,605	7,440	7,330	22,375
Chef	5,840	4,340	3,475	13,655
Researcher	4,570	4,515	4,160	13,250
Other health/medical occupation	6,495	3,305	3,135	12,935
Senior carer	5,690	2,180	3,475	11,340
Teacher (school/college)	4,040	3,800	3,445	11,285
Analyst programmer	2,925	3,790	3,465	10,180
System analyst	2,035	2,360	2,150	6,545
Project manager	1,475	1,665	1,845	4,985
Doctor	3,035	905	905	4,845
Other hotel catering occupation	2,090	1,445	1,205	4,740
Other education/cultural occupation	1,515	1,500	1,330	4,345
Accountant	1,380	1,185	1,090	3,655
Business analyst	785	1,335	1,425	3,550
Marketing/sales manager	1,135	1,240	1,105	3,485
Others	30,935	25,975	25,320	82,235
Total	144,950	128,325	121,080	94,355

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are applied in determining applications to work in the UK from *(a)* non-EU nationals resident in the UK, *(b)* EU nationals resident in the UK and *(c)* nationals of Commonwealth countries resident in the UK. [254439]

Mr. Woolas: Full details of the criteria applied to these categories for assessing applications for work can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Work Permits: Africa

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses and auxiliary nurses from each African country in the last two years for which figures are available. [254881]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2009]:* The following table provides numbers of work permits issued to nationals from each African country for occupations containing the word 'nurse' or 'doctor' for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008.

Country	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*
Botswana	[2]—	75	75
Burundi	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Cameroon	5	55	60
Congo	[1]—	5	5
Egypt	90	[1]—	95
Gambia	[2]—	15	15
Ghana	-15	415	430
Kenya	5	205	210
Lesotho	5	60	65
Liberia	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Libya	10	[2]—	10
Malawi	[1]—	85	90
Mauritius	[1]—	295	295
Mozambique	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Namibia	[2]—	30	30
Nigeria	50	870	915
Rwanda	[2]—	5	5
Seychelles	[2]—	10	10
Sierra Leone	[2]—	35	35
Somalia	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
South Africa	250	950	1,205
Sudan	35	[2]—	35
Swaziland	[2]—	45	45
Tanzania	[1]—	30	35
Togo	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Uganda	5	60	65
Zaire	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Zambia	[2]—	265	265
Zimbabwe	10	2,185	2,195
Total	485	5,700	6,185

[1] Indicates one or twp

[2] Indicates nil

Notes:

1. The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.
2. The term doctors/nurses refers to the occupation description containing the word 'nurse' or 'doctor'.
3. Numbers exclude persons admitted under the highly skilled migrant programme or the points-based system.
4. Figures are rounded to nearest five
5. Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. Industry sectors used are not consistent with the Standard Industrial Classification.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Lambeth

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the extent to which Lambeth council's proposed rental charges from 1 April 2009 comply with her Department's guidance to local authorities on social rents. [255823]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authority social housing rents are set by the individual authority, not by central Government.

The Government want the rents charged by social landlords to be fair and affordable. But, ultimately authorities are free to make their own decisions about the actual levels of their rents, in consultation with their tenants, and may decide not to follow the Government's advice.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average percentage change in the level of council housing rents her Department is *(a)* expecting and *(b)* recommending for 2009-10 over the previous year. [252549]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department expects local authorities to follow its policy for social rents, but does not recommend specific rent increases to landlords. Guideline rents for each local authority form part of each year's Housing Revenue Account Subsidy determination for the purposes of making assumptions about a local authority's income, and its entitlement to subsidy.

The Department does not expect any particular average actual rent increases for 2009-10. Rent setting is a matter for each local authority landlord.

Council Housing: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on the council house waiting list in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster; and what the equivalent figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [255828]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households registered on council housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The latest available data is at April 2008 and can be found on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists in Barnsley and Doncaster are given in the following table.

Number of households on the council house waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)

	April 1998	*April 2003*	*April 2008*
Barnsley	4,448	6,131	6,097
Doncaster	14,413	10,763	13,973

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get on to the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Council Tax: Students

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the High Court ruling in the case of Merseyside Valuation Tribunal and Wirral borough council *v.* Farthing, whether she plans to amend council tax regulations to allow full-time students on a condensed course of study to be eligible for a student council tax discount for the duration of their study. [254253]

John Healey: There are no plans to amend council tax regulations in this way.

Empty Property: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many empty dwellings there were in the eastern region in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [254845]

(2) how many empty dwellings there were in Mid-Bedfordshire constituency in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [254846]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of empty dwellings in local authority areas covering the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency, and in the eastern region, in each year since 2004 are shown in the following table. Information for years prior to 2004 is not available.

	Bedford B.C.	*Mid Bedfordshire D.C.*	*Eastern region*
1 November 2004	2,361	1,465	65,665
10 October 2005	2,270	1,375	66,783
9 October 2006	1,935	1,398	68,483
8 October 2007	2,024	1,469	69,107
6 October 2008	2,040	1,703	75,190

The data are as reported annually to Communities and Local Government on the CTB and CTB (supplementary) forms that are completed by all billing authorities in England. The data relate to particular dates in the autumn of each year.

Housing Revenue Accounts: City of Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Westminster city council's housing revenue account subsidy position *(a)* was in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* is expected to be in 2009-10. [255875]

Mr. Iain Wright: Westminster city council's housing revenue account subsidy annual entitlement for the period 1999-2000 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table:

	£
1999-2000	3,441,142
2000-01	2,925,014
2001-02	15,679,461
2002-03	15,626,573
2003-04	17,449,143
2004-05	16,167,991
2005-06	13,430,874
2006-07	12,648,424
2007-08	10,274,925
2008-09	[1]6,896,466

[1] Provisional

Data for 2009-10 are not available. The authority's subsidy entitlement is dependent upon housing stock levels, which are not due to be made available until the end of March. We anticipate that the authority will continue to receive subsidy.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* Westminster city council and *(b)* CityWest Homes contributed to the housing revenue account in each of the last 10 years; and how much they are expected to contribute to it in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10. [255870]

Mr. Iain Wright: Westminster city council has been a net recipient of housing revenue account subsidy in each of the last 10 years. The authority does not contribute surpluses for redistribution elsewhere and we expect this to continue to be the case in 2009-10.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial incentives are available to improve the efficiency of low carbon building projects in *(a)* England and *(b)* Buckinghamshire. [255383]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are several financial incentive schemes at national and local levels which support energy efficiency and low carbon building projects. These are summarised as follows:

England

Landlords Energy Saving Allowance—A financial incentive introduced in 2004 to encourage landlords to invest in the energy efficiency of their properties. It offers a deduction against taxable profits for private landlords' expenditure on cavity wall, loft, solid wall and hot water system insulation as well as draught-proofing.

Low Carbon Buildings programme—The Low Carbon Buildings programme was launched in 2006. It is the Government's £86 million capital grant programme funding the installation of on-site technologies for householders, communities, public sector and businesses. Over £42 million has been committed to 9,305 projects in England so far.

Stamp Duty Land Tax Exemption—Stamp Duty relief for zero carbon homes was announced in Budget 2007 to act as an incentive to developers of new zero carbon homes. The exemption covers the first acquisition of a zero carbon home costing up to £500,000. For homes costing in excess of £500,000 there will be a reduction of £15,000. The exemption is in place for all new homes for a period of five years ending on 30 September 2012.

Other programmes which can provide financial support include:

Act on CO2/Energy Saving Trust—In April 2008, the Government launched an advice line which offers a "one-stop-shop" for advice and tips on reducing carbon emissions and saving energy in the home with £26 million of support.

Decent Homes programme—The Decent Homes Standard includes a thermal comfort element that requires efficient heating and effective insulation in homes. From 2001-2007 the Government have spent £4 billion on heating and insulation as part of the wider Decent Homes programme.

Buckinghamshire

The Low Carbon Buildings programme (see above) has committed over £500,000 to 140 projects in Buckinghamshire so far.

All Buckinghamshire local authorities, and Milton Keynes, are participating in a region-wide programme designed to retrofit energy efficiency measures to existing private housing. Alongside funding made available for authorities to make their council housing decent my Department's "Private Sector Renewal" initiative provides funding through the Regional Housing Pot for authorities to cut household CO2 emissions by providing a range of services such as loft and cavity wall insulation, energy efficient boilers and renewable energy technology. The Thames Valley partnership is focusing its resources on an innovative loan facility, "the Flexible Home Improvement Loan". The Thames Valley-wide consortium has £7 million to spend over two years.

Milton Keynes Offsetting scheme—this is a local authority scheme whereby new housing that does not meet a stipulated level of the Code for Sustainable Homes is charged a levy that goes into a local retrofitting fund. Local sources suggest that this will create a funding pot of around £2 million for the improvement of the borough's housing stock.

Housing: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the moratorium on house building was lifted in the Chorley borough council area. [256026]

Mr. Iain Wright: No moratorium on housing was imposed on any local authority in the north-west.

Regional planning guidance published in 2003 set targets for overall house-building in each upper tier local authority area in the north-west. It was for local authorities to decide how to manage housing supply within that context taking into consideration any under or over supply and the impact on neighbouring housing markets.

A new regional spatial strategy was published in September 2008 establishing new annual average figures for housing provision. These are not absolute targets and may be exceeded, where justified.

Housing: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the average cost of constructing affordable housing units in London; and what the projected average cost is of constructing such units in 2010. [256121]

Mr. Iain Wright: Affordable housing is constructed in the same way as all other domestic housing, and similarly costs vary according to size and specification. Communities and Local Government has not carried out any recent work on the average cost of constructing an affordable housing unit in London. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform publishes data on construction costs, in the form of the Construction Cost and Price Indices which are available on a quarterly basis either in hard copy or online via the Building Cost Information Service website at:

http://www.bcis.co.uk/BCISWEB/ProductSearch/ProductSearch.aspx?sect=product&productid=136

Housing: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing association properties there were in each of the wards of Leeds West constituency in each year since 2005; and what percentage of all dwellings in each ward they represented. [illegible]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not available centrally. It is being collected through the National Register of Social Housing but this is not yet complete.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average cost has been of the homes brought into use as affordable housing through the Clearing House Programme; [254827]

(2) what proportion of the 4,800 homes brought into use as affordable housing through the Clearing House Programme are flats. [254828]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average grant per unit of all developer stock that has been purchased with funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme (AHP) since May is set out in the following table. This includes both those schemes that were assessed through the National Clearing House and the smaller schemes that were assessed through the HCA.

Product	*Average grant per unit (£)*
Low cost home ownership	12,223
Social rent	61,115
Grand total	33,102

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Over 2,700 flats out of the total of over 4,800 affordable homes are being provided through the £160 million allocated from the initial £200 million earmarked from within the Affordable Housing programme.

Local Government: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures apply to planning applications made to themselves by local planning authorities. [illegible]

Mr. Iain Wright: The procedures dealing with development by local authorities are contained in the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992. The general principle underlying these regulations is that local authorities must make planning applications in the same way as any other person and must follow the same procedures as would apply to applications by others. In particular, the application must be advertised in the same way as any similar application from any other applicant. Such applications cannot be decided by a committee or officer responsible for the management of any land or buildings to which they relate.

Local authority development proposals, like those of other persons applying for planning permission, must be decided in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. They must be notified to the Secretary of State if they are not in accordance with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area, so that she can consider whether to 'call in' the application for her own determination.

Mobile Homes

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the Green Paper on park home owners. [illegible]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department intends to publish two consultation papers this year on park homes. In April we propose to publish a paper on reforms to site licensing of park home sites. During the summer we hope to publish a paper on options for reform to certain provisions in the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (as amended) to improve the transparency of dealings between site owners and residents.

Multiple Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards gathering information on homes in multiple occupation and the employment status of people who live in such accommodation in order to address the gap in evidence identified in her Department's second response to the Communities and Local Government Committee's Report on coastal towns. [illegible]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have improved the evidence base by publishing Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) data at local authority level. For statistics on applications received for licenses issued by the local authorities that relate to the English seaside towns I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 372W.

National Clearing House Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much and what proportion of expenditure on the National Clearing House scheme will come from the Homes and Communities Agency's; [251793]

(2) how many unsold domestic dwellings in each local authority area have been bought under the National Clearing House scheme; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* target for the total number of dwellings to be purchased under the scheme is. [251794]

Mr. Iain Wright: In May, the Government announced a plan to take advantage of market opportunities to bring private sector developer stock into the affordable housing sector by providing £200 million of funding in 2008-09 from the overall budget of the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) for the purchase of homes from house builders. This represents around 8 per cent. of the overall Affordable Housing Programme for 2008-09. We have not set a specific target for the number of properties to be purchased as we want to ensure that they are appropriate and of the right quality.

To help facilitate this, the Housing Corporation set up the National Clearing House to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders. Housing Corporation Investment partners, mainly registered social landlords, wishing to buy smaller numbers of units from developers could bid for funding directly to the Corporation in the normal way.

To the end of December over £160 million had been allocated from the initial £200 million. A table has been deposited in the Library showing the distribution of these allocations by local authority and social rent and low cost home ownership.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to withdraw the requirement on businesses in statutory ports in England and Wales to pay backdated business rates bills. [255846]

John Healey: The Secretary of State has no discretion to waive a liability for taxation.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Shareholder Executive to report on its examination of the operation of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. [254763]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are planning an update on their consideration of the options for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre by Budget 2009.

Regional Planning and Development: South-East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the timetable is for the analysis of responses to the south-east plan consultation submitted to the Government office for the south-east; [255844]

(2) when she expects analysis of responses to the south-east plan consultation to be available; and whether she has any plans for its publication. [255845]

Mr. Khan: The analysis of the responses to the consultation is currently being undertaken by the Government office for the south-east.

We are expecting to publish the regional spatial strategy for the south east in the spring together with an analysis of responses received during the consultation.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role regional Ministers are playing in the development of regional spatial strategies. [253886]

Mr. Iain Wright: Regional Ministers represent regional interests in the formulation of government policy; facilitate a joined up approach across Government Departments and agencies to enable effective delivery; champion the region at high level events and with regard to high profile projects. They also represent the Government with regard to central Government policy at regional select committee hearings and at parliamentary debates focussed specifically on the region.

Regional Ministers also promote the importance of regional planning and encourage regional stakeholders to engage positively in the regional planning process and in their implementation. However, Regional Ministers are not part of the decision making process in relation to the review and issuing of RSSs. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is responsible for issuing RSSs.

Social Rented Housing

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the guideline social housing rent increase for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 is for each local authority in England. [253238]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authority social housing rents are set by the individual authority, not by central Government.

I have placed a table setting out guideline rent changes for 2009-10 by authority in the Library of the House. Changes for 2010-11 between individual local authorities have not been set.

To protect tenants from large annual rent rises, we have put in place arrangements so that no authority need raise its actual rent per property above RPI+½+£2 in any one year.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets for new traveller sites have been included in each draft regional spatial strategy. [255187]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities are required to assess the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers in the same way that they assess the housing needs of other members of their local communities.

Local planning authorities do this through Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs). The GTAAs inform the preparation of policies in the draft regional spatial strategy (RSS).

The RSS identifies the number of pitches required (but not the location or sites); it is for local planning authorities to consider the location or sites where pitches required for their area, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring local planning authorities.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what areas were identified by his Department's June 2008 stakeholder survey as needing improvement, as referred to in his Department's autumn 2008 performance report; and if he will place a copy of the survey in the Library. [246258]

David Miliband: Areas identified as needing improvement are outlined in the Department's June 2008 stakeholder survey, a copy of which I will place into the Library of the House.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 162W, on departmental training, if he will place in the Library a copy of the audit of skills in his Department conducted in 2008. [240673]

David Miliband: A copy will be placed in the Library, once work on the audit of skills has been completed.

Developing Countries: Trade

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the next proposed World Trade Organisation Ministerial meeting on the Doha Development Agenda to take place; and if he will make a statement. [244134]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* No timing has been set for a ministerial meeting in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). The possibility of such a meeting in December 2008 did not materialise and now further consultations will be needed, including with the new US Administration, before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Director-General is likely to be able to propose a new timetable for negotiations.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and other Ministers have worked tirelessly in support of a DDA deal and the Government's determination to work for fairer trade rules remains undimmed. Early conclusion of the DDA remains a top priority and we will continue to work closely with the WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, the European Commission and EU partners to secure a deal. The revised negotiating texts on agriculture and industrial goods issued in December captured the key aspects of the progress made at the July WTO ministerial. We must now build on this, bridging the few remaining gaps to reach agreement. In the meantime, we urge WTO members to resist resorting to protectionism.

International Relations

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the countries which have been recognised by *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the US, *(c)* Russia, *(d)* France, *(e)* Germany, *(f)* China and *(g)* Israel since 1998 without the approval or with only partial approval of the countries in question. [246320]

Gillian Merron: Since 1998, the UK has recognised the following states: East Timor (20 May 2002), Montenegro (13 June 2006) and Kosovo (18 February 2008). In each case, the Government of the state in question has welcomed its recognition by the UK.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not systematically hold information on which countries have been recognised by the US, Russia, France, Germany, China or Israel.

Mujaheddin-e Khalq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy towards the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran is in the light of the recent judgment by the European Court of First Instance. [245442]

Bill Rammell: On 26 January 2009, taking account of the judgment by the Court of First Instance on 4 December 2008, the General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted a list which did not include the MeK (Mujaheddin-e-Khalq, also known as the People's Mojaheddin of Iran).

However, we remain mindful of the MeK's history as an organisation responsible for a number of serious terrorist attacks—it claimed responsibility for large numbers of violent attacks inside Iran for a number of years, including 96 in a three-month period in early 2001. We do not agree with its claim that it represents a credible democratic opposition in exile.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department provides to UK citizens on travel to Zimbabwe. [246332]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The latest travel advice for Zimbabwe and elsewhere can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at

www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his definition of the low-carbon sector is as referred to in the pre-Budget report 2008. [255081]

Angela Eagle: We have used the definition from the forthcoming independent study by Innovas, commissioned by BERR, which includes:

Renewable energy, such as:

Hydro;
Wave and Tidal;
Biomass;
Wind;
Geothermal;
Renewable Consulting;
Photovoltaic.

And emerging low carbon technologies and activities, such as:

Alternative Fuel Vehicles;
Alternative Fuels;
Additional Energy sources;
Carbon Capture and Storage;
Carbon Finance;
Energy Management;
Building Technologies.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal incentives are available for the research and development of low-carbon technologies. [255082]

Angela Eagle: The Government provide a range of tax incentives to encourage the adoption of new energy technologies:

Exemption from the climate change levy for supplies of electricity generated from certain renewable sources;

Enhanced capital allowances (ECAs) for energy-efficient equipment provide 100 per cent. first year allowances for spending on designated energy-saving technologies and products;

Stamp duty exemption for new zero-carbon homes;

Reduced rate of VAT (5 per cent.) for the professional installation of microgeneration equipment in residential and charitable properties.

And further tax incentives to support investment in innovative new technologies and higher risk ventures:

R and D tax credits provide enhanced tax relief for companies investing in scientific and technological R and D.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much pooled funding is available to support cross-departmental co-operation on building a low-carbon economy. [255084]

Angela Eagle: Funding is allocated to individual Departments. Cross-departmental co-operation is supported through the Cabinet Office.

Coastal Areas

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who owns the foreshore in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Cornwall and *(f)* the Isles of Scilly. [254698]

Angela Eagle: The Crown Estate owns around 55 per cent. of the foreshore around the UK. The rest of the foreshore is owned by various bodies, including the Crown and the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, such as port authorities, local authorities, the National Trust and private individuals.

The Duchy of Cornwall owns all of the Isles of Scilly foreshore, and the majority of the foreshore in Cornwall.

Departmental Assets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [251662]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury does not publish asset sales by Department. Figures for aggregate central Government asset sales in 2007-08 to 2010-11 can be found in the 2008 pre-Budget report: the economy and public finances—supplementary material, table 2.3

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_chartstables_501.pdf

The actual assets disposed of will depend on the decisions made by specific Departments.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12-month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255064]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not led on or undertaken any formal equalities impact assessments in the last 12 months. The Treasury works with other Government Departments on a wide range of policies and the Departments implementing the policies and services are responsible for producing equalities impact assessments.

The Treasury's equality schemes (race, disability and gender) are available on the Treasury's public website and give examples of how the Treasury has promoted best practice and worked with other Departments to assess equalities impacts.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255221]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Environment

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his definition is of the UK's environmental industries as referred to in the pre-Budget report 2008. [255085]

Angela Eagle: We have used the definition from the forthcoming independent study by Innovas, commissioned by BERR. The UK's environmental industries are broadly defined by three categories:

'Traditional' Environmental Goods and Services: i.e. those related to solutions for problems such as air/noise/marine pollution and land/water contamination, environmental analysis and consultancy, and waste management and recycling;

a wider range of rapidly growing renewable energy technologies, such as hydro, wave and tidal power, geothermal, wind and biomass; and

a number of other emerging low carbon activities such as reduced emissions from within the transport and construction sectors, nuclear energy, energy management, carbon capture and storage and carbon finance.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is of the estimate in the pre-Budget report 2008 that over the next 20 years more than one million people could be employed in the UK's environmental industries. [255087]

Angela Eagle: The UK CEED (Centre for Economic and Environmental Development) report on 'Emerging Markets in the Environmental Sector' (November 2006) estimated that the UK environmental sector employed around 400,000 with an annual turnover of £25 billion. This report predicted that the market would grow to £46 billion by 2015.

Other studies, such as that undertaken by Roland Berger, suggest that the global market could double by 2020. It is therefore reasonable to assume that if the UK maintains its share of the growth, more than one million could be employed in this sector over the next 20 years.

A more recent study (the forthcoming independent study by Innovas, commissioned by BERR) estimates that the UK already employs 880,000 in this sector if the wider supply chain is included.

Government Departments: Consultants

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each central Government Department spent on the purchase of consultancy services, standard chart of account code 51401400, in 2007-08. [247568]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Government Departments: Temporary Employment

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each central Government Department spent on contract and agency staff, standard chart of account code 51404000 in 2007-08. [247567]

Yvette Cooper: The spending recorded against account 'Contract and Agency Staff (excluding Consultants)' is combined with other accounts in all published outputs. It is only at this aggregated level that accurate information is available centrally.

Housing Market

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government has taken to stimulate the housing market. [255839]

Angela Eagle: On 2 September 2008 the Government announced a £1 billion package of measures to help and support home owners in financial difficulty, first-time buyers, and the house building industry. This included the announcement of the launch of HomeBuy Direct, a new shared equity scheme which offers first-time buyers the opportunity to buy their own homes. In addition, the Government announced that Stamp Duty Land Tax would not apply to purchases of residential property of £175,000 or less for the next 12 months from 3 September 2008.

Furthermore, the Government announced at the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008 that it would bring forward up to £775 million on investment in housing and regeneration to help offset the impact of economic shocks to priority programmes, and provide support to the construction sector.

Income Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to £11,000 and raising the higher rate of income tax by *(a)* 1 per cent., *(b)* 2 per cent., *(c)* 3 per cent., *(d)* 4 per cent. and *(e)* 5 per cent. in 2009-10; [255673]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to £11,000 and lowering the higher rate of income tax by *(a)* 1 per cent., *(b)* 2 per cent., *(c)* 3 per cent., *(d)* 4 per cent. and *(e)* 5 per cent. in 2009-10; [255674]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to £12,000 and lowering the higher rate of income tax by *(a)* 1 per cent., *(b)* 2 per cent., *(c)* 3 per cent., *(d)* 4 per cent. and *(e)* 5 per cent. in 2009-10; [255698]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to £8,000 and lowering the higher rate of income tax by *(a)* 1 per cent., *(b)* 2 per cent., *(c)* 3 per cent., *(d)* 4 per cent. and *(e)* 5 per cent. in 2009-10; [255699]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to *(a)* £8,000, *(b)* £9,000, *(c)* £10,000, *(d)* £11,000 and *(e)* £12,000 in 2009-10; [255714]

(6) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to *(a)* £8,000, *(b)* £9,000 and *(c)* £10,000 and raising the higher rate of income tax by (i) 1 per cent., (ii) 2 per cent., (iii) 3 per cent., (iv) 4 per cent. and (v) 5 per cent. in 2009-10. [255715]

Mr. Timms: The estimates of increasing the personal allowance alone or increasing the personal allowance and raising or lowering the higher rate of income tax can be approximated from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to *(a)* £8,000, *(b)* £9,000, *(c)* £10,000, *(d)* £11,000 and *(e)* £12,000 and raising the basic rate of income tax by (i) one per cent., (ii) two per cent., (iii) three per cent., (iv) four per cent. and (v) five per cent. in 2009-10; [255687]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to *(a)* £8,000, *(b)* £9,000, *(c)* £10,000, *(d)* £11,000 and *(e)* £12,000 and lowering the basic rate of income tax by (i) one per cent., (ii) two per cent., (iii) three per cent., (iv) four per cent. and (v) five per cent. in 2009-10. [255688]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. The information available on the Exchequer effect of changes to personal allowances and income tax rates provides for costs estimates to be made where one variable, either personal allowances or income tax rates, is altered. In scenarios involving the changing of both variables cost estimates cannot be derived as in these cases the margin of error would be excessive.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department was of external legal services in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [251365]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's net spending on legal advice in 2007-08 was £1,331,000. For the earlier year, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member by the former Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1494W.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to extend the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme beyond the end of March 2011. [255766]

Mr. Timms: The Government's long-term objective is to secure the necessary agreement at European level to allow the introduction of a reduced rate of VAT for church repairs, which is not currently permitted by EU VAT agreements. The European Commission has proposed changes to Directive 2006/112/EC to allow a reduced VAT rate to be applied to church repairs, as part of a broader proposal on reduced VAT rates, but member states' discussions of the proposal are ongoing. The Government will take into account any changes to EU VAT agreements when reviewing whether the current arrangements should be extended beyond 2011.

National Insurance Contributions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the earnings threshold on national insurance contributions to *(a)* £5,000, *(b)* £6,000 and *(c)* £7,000 and lowering the class one employee main rate of national insurance contributions to (i) five per cent., (ii) six per cent., (iii) seven per cent., (iv) eight per cent., (v) nine per cent. and (vi) 10 per cent. in 2009-10; [255689]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the upper earnings level on national insurance contributions to £45,000 and raising the class one employee additional rate to *(a)* two per cent., *(b)* three per cent., *(c)* four per cent., *(d)* five per cent. *(e)* six per cent., *(f)* seven per cent., *(g)* eight per cent. and *(h)* nine per cent. in 2009-10; [255691]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the upper earnings level on national insurance contributions to *(a)* £45,000, *(b)* £46,000, *(c)* £47,000, *(d)* £48,000, *(e)* £49,000, *(f)* £50,000, *(g)* £51,000, *(h)* £52,000, *(i)* £53,000, *(j)* £54,000 and *(k)* £55,000 and lowering the Class 1 employee main rate to (i) two per cent., (ii) three per cent., (iii) four per cent., (iv) five per cent., (v) six per cent., (vi) seven per cent., (vii) eight per cent., (viii) nine per cent and (ix) 10 per cent. in 2009-10; [255694]

(4) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising the upper earnings level on national insurance contributions to *(a)* £45,000, *(b)* £46,000, *(c)* £47,000, *(d)* £48,000, *(e)* £49,000, *(f)* £50,000, *(g)* £51,000, *(h)* £52,000, *(i)* £53,000, *(j)* £54,000, and *(k)* £55,000 and raising the Class 1 employee main rate to (i) 12 per cent., (ii) 13 per cent., (iii) 14 per cent. and (iv) 15 per cent. in 2009-10. [255697]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. The information available on the Exchequer effect of changes to national insurance contributions (NICs) rates and limits provides for costs estimates to be made where one variable, either NICs rates or limits, is altered. In scenarios involving the changing of both variables cost estimates cannot be derived as in these cases the margin of error would be excessive.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the Class 1 employee additional rate on national insurance contributions by *(a)* one percentage point, *(b)* two percentage points, *(c)* three percentage points, *(d)* four percentage points, *(e)* five percentage points, *(f)* six percentage points, *(g)* seven percentage points, *(h)* eight percentage points, *(i)* nine percentage points and *(j)* 10 percentage points in 2009-10; [255692]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the upper earnings level on national insurance contributions to *(a)* £45,000, *(b)* £46,000, *(c)* £47,000, *(d)* £48,000, *(e)* £49,000, *(f)* £50,000, *(g)* £51,000, *(h)* £52,000, *(i)* £53,000, *(j)* £54,000 and *(k)* £55,000 in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the cost of lowering the level to (i) £40,000, (ii) £41,000, (iii) £42,000 and (iv) £43,000 in 2009-10. [255696]

Mr. Timms: The Exchequer effect of changes in the Class 1 employee additional rate and to the upper earnings limit on national insurance contributions can be derived from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

National Insurance Fund

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of using future national insurance fund surpluses to fund an increase in the state pension. [255767]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend (Mr. O'Brien) the Minister for Pension Reform on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2605W.

Any increase in the basic state pension has a cumulative impact on Government spending going forward. The Government consider the short-term use of the surplus on the national insurance fund in this way to be unsustainable in the long term.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce the level of liability for national non-domestic rates of empty business properties; and if he will make a statement. [255675]

Angela Eagle: In the pre-Budget report, the Government temporarily raised the threshold for exemption from national non-domestic rates on empty properties from £2,200 to £15,000 to take affect from 1 April 2009. As a result, an estimated 70 per cent. of empty properties will be exempt from business rates in the 2009-10 tax year.

Any further decisions on taxation are matters for the Budget and pre-Budget report.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Valuation Office Agency in relation to the issuing of backdated business tax bills for businesses in statutory ports in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [255841]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is responsible solely for the assessment of business properties for rating, not for billing and collection matters and the date from which changes to rating lists take effect is prescribed by regulation.

The VOA has recognised that, in the exercise of re-assessing rateable values within ports, it should have done more to inform businesses of developments. In common with other executive agencies, the performance of the agency is reviewed on a regular basis. A planned three-yearly review of the framework within which it operates is currently under way and will report by 31 May 2009. Full details can be found at

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Public Sector: Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of public sector net investment in real terms, using 2006-07 prices, for each year from 2005-06 to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [255289]

Yvette Cooper: Figures for public sector net investment (PSNI) in nominal terms from 2005-06 to 2007-08 can be found on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) first release for the public sector finances (Table PSF1). The December 2008 release is available on:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/psf0109.pdf

Projections for PSNI in nominal terms (£ billion) and as a percentage of GDP up to 2013-14 can be found in Table B10 and Table B11 respectively of the 2008 pre-Budget report (p198).

Historical figures for PSNI in real terms using 2007-08 prices and GDP deflator values are available on Table B5 of the Public Finances Databank, which is available on:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm

GDP deflator values and projections can also be found on Table B1 of the 2008 pre-Budget report (p186) and are available on:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_fig.htm

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-70W, on public sector: pensions, whether he has received representations on the affordability of public sector pensions since the publication of the report in March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [250358]

Yvette Cooper: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Revenue and Customs: Brecon

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the effect on HM Revenue and Customs expenditure of the closure of its office in Brecon, identifying *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings separately; and if he will make a statement. [255829]

Mr. Timms: The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Brecon is held under the terms of a PFI contract. Its closure will contribute to estimated annual estate savings of £4 million in Wales. These savings are only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve as a result of business efficiencies arising from restructuring.

While HMRC recognises that there will be short-term costs associated with the closure of its office in Brecon, reliable figures will only be established once solutions have been found for all staff and the building has been vacated.

Revenue and Customs: Consultants

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on consultants in *(a)* total, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [255606]

Mr. Timms: During the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, HMRC spent a total of £254,470,000 on consultancy services, the split for each of the last three years is as follows:

	£
2005-06	106,020,000
2006-07	88,906,000
2007-08	59,544,000

The HMRC accounting codes do not enable identification of the geographical area of this spend.

State Retirement Pensions

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse if the pension addition at age 80 were increased to *(a)* £2.50 and *(b)* £5.00 in each of the next five years. [252780]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The estimated cost of increasing the age addition, at age 80, to *(a)* £2.50 and *(b)* £5.00, in each of the next five years is shown in the following table, as well as additional expenditure relative to that of the current level.

Estimated cost of increasing the value of the age addition:

	(a) Cost of age addition at £2.50	*Additional expenditure*	*(b) Cost of age addition at £5.00*	*Additional expenditure*
2008-09	345	310	685	650
2009-10	340	305	685	650
2010-11	340	305	680	645
2011-12	340	310	685	650
2012-13	350	315	700	665

Notes:

1. Costs are presented in £ million, for Great Britain, in 2008-09 terms, rounded to the nearest £5 million.

2. Additional expenditure is relative to the cost of the current level of age addition—£0.25.

Source:

DWP modelling.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many accountancy firms have been investigated for selling tax avoidance schemes in the last 12 months. [255257]

Mr. Timms: Selling a tax avoidance scheme is not in itself an offence or a breach of statutory obligations that might trigger an HMRC investigation. However, scheme promoters are required to disclose information to HMRC about schemes falling within certain statutory descriptions. HMRC has investigated or is currently investigating more than 90 promoters suspected of failing to comply with a disclosure obligation.

Tax Credit: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of inaccurate records held on HM Revenue and Customs tax credit database. [256071]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will put right inaccuracies as they are identified. Information on the level of accuracy of processing tax credits awards can be found in HMRC's Departmental Reports available on its website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

VAT: Construction

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of a single 5 per cent. value added tax rate for all types of construction work on the construction industry. [255327]

Mr. Timms: No estimate of the effects of applying the reduced rate of VAT to all types of construction work has been made.

VAT: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on consumer spending in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituencies of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. [255037]

Mr. Timms: The economic forecast made in the pre-Budget report, based on realistic assumptions, assumed that, over time, the majority of the reduction in VAT will be passed on to consumers through lower prices, and that households will spend around half of the increase in real disposable income that results. Overall, GDP growth in 2009 is forecast to be around half a percentage point higher than it would be in the absence of the discretionary action that the Government have taken. A regional breakdown has not been made.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the Cumbrian economy of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. [255038]

Mr. Timms: The economic forecast made in the pre-Budget report, based on realistic assumptions, assumed that, over time, the majority of the reduction in VAT will be passed on to consumers through lower prices, and that households will spend around half of the increase in real disposable income that results. Overall, GDP growth in 2009 is forecast to be around half a percentage point higher than it would be in the absence of the discretionary action that the Government have taken. A separate assessment of the effect on the Cumbrian economy has not been made.

VAT: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in discussions at EU level on reducing the rate of value added tax on energy-efficient products and energy-saving materials in the EU. [255086]

Mr. Timms: The European Commission announced in the "European Economic Recovery Plan" (COM (2008) 800) that it plans to bring forward a legislative proposal to allow reduced VAT rates for "green products and services, aimed at improving in particular (the) energy efficiency of buildings". The Commission is expected to adopt this legislative proposal in the coming months, at which point European Council discussions of the proposal will begin.

VAT: Schools

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that the liability for value added tax in respect of construction projects should be the same for *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* further education institutions. [255815]

Mr. Timms: Construction projects undertaken by both maintained schools and further education institutions are liable to VAT at the standard rate.

The only exceptions are those projects which involve the construction of buildings intended for use by a charity solely for a non-business purpose. In such circumstances, the projects are liable to VAT at the zero rate.

However, local authorities can usually reclaim from HMRC all VAT costs relating to the educational institutions that they maintain. These refund arrangements for local authorities reflect a commitment made when VAT was first introduced that VAT would not fall as a burden on local taxation. Since 1997, bodies other than local authorities have been admitted to these refund arrangements where they undertake a function ordinarily carried on by local government and have the power to draw their funding directly from local taxation. Unlike local authority maintained institutions, further education institutions do not meet the second of these conditions.

Bids for public funding by further education institutions are therefore expected to take into account that they are not eligible for the VAT refund arrangements that apply for local authority maintained institutions.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of companies which have not passed on the recent reduction in value added tax to 15 per cent. to customers; and if he will make a statement. [255098]

Mr. Timms: The Office for National Statistics published statistics on UK inflation in December on 20 January 2009 including detail on the pass-on rate of the temporary VAT reduction, and found that most businesses had passed on the reduction. The ONS report can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cpi0109.pdf.

Welfare Tax Credits: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants in Wimbledon constituency were overpaid tax credits in each of the last five years. [255953]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2007-08 are not yet available.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Witnesses

Simon Hughes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many Crown Prosecution Service prosecutions have been discontinued as a result of prosecution witnesses being unwilling to give evidence in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [255563]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the number of defendants whose case was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) before evidence was heard in magistrates and Crown courts in each of the last three years. The reasons for these decisions are divided into evidential reasons, public interest reasons, cases that were unable to proceed, and other reasons. Further explanation of each division is illustrated, including cases that were dropped because a victim or witness refused to give evidence.

The table also shows the number and proportion of defendants whose case resulted in a conviction.

The number of cases that were dropped because a victim refused to give evidence fell from a total of 8,785 in 2006 to 5,991 in 2008 or, in proportional terms, from 0.8 per cent. of completed cases to 0.6 per cent. The number of cases dropped because other witnesses refused to give evidence fell over the same period from 1,097 (0.1 per cent. of completed cases) to 725 (0.1 per cent.). These improvements illustrate the growing success of a number of initiatives which aim to provide vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses with more effective support. These include special measures allowing evidence to be given, for example, from behind screens or via live video links. The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (the Victims' Code) sets out the standards of service which victims can expect of the Criminal Justice System. These commitments are reinforced by the CPS Public Policy Statement on the Delivery of Services to Victims (the Prosecutors' Pledge), launched by the Attorney-General in October 2005, which sets out the level of service that victims can expect of prosecutors. Police and CPS Witness Care Units (WCU) now provide an enhanced level of service to victims and witnesses in cases where charges have been brought, and procedures have been put in place to measure and respond to witness satisfaction through the Witness and Victim Experience Survey.

Victims and witnesses remain a core priority for the CPS for the years ahead.

Crown Prosecution Service prosecutions dropped

		2006		*2007*		*2008*	
		Vol.	*Percentage*	*Vol.*	*Percentage*	*Vol.*	*Percentage*
E10	Key witness does not support case	1,841	0.2	1,859	0.2	1,637	0.2
E11	Unreliable/lack of identification	5,962	0.5	4,951	0.5	4,005	0.4
E1	Inadmissible evidence—Breach of PACE	189	0.0	228	0.0	186	0.0
E2	Inadmissible evidence—other than Breach of PACE	422	0.0	336	0.0	262	0.0
E3	Unreliable confession	75	0.0	81	0.0	79	0.0
E4	Conflict of evidence	7,322	0.7	7,487	0.7	7,521	0.7
E5	Essential medical evidence missing	279	0.0	195	0.0	153	0.0
E6	Essential forensic evidence missing	952	0.1	949	0.1	972	0.1
E7	Essential legal element missing	31,224	2.8	26,947	2.5	23,729	2.3

Crown Prosecution Service prosecutions dropped

		2006		2007		2008	
		Vol.	*Percentage*	*Vol.*	*Percentage*	*Vol.*	*Percentage*
E8	Unreliable witness or witnesses	3,862	0.4	3,482	0.3	3,031	0.3
E9	Key victim does not support case	6,797	0.6	7,026	0.7	6,383	0.6
	Evidential reasons	58,925	5.4	53,541	5.0	47,958	4.6
P12	Effect on victim's physical or mental health	473	0.0	441	0.0	369	0.0
P13	Suspect/Defendant elderly or in significant ill health	1,647	0.1	1,628	0.2	1,485	0.1
P14	Loss or harm minor and single incident	845	0.1	922	0.1	740	0.1
P15	Loss or harm put right	1,345	0.1	1,278	0.1	1,030	0.1
P16	Long delay between offence/charge or trial	3,292	0.3	2,647	0.2	2,015	0.2
P17	Very small or nominal penalty	3,744	0.3	3,209	0.3	2,478	0.2
P18	Other indictment/sentence	8,652	0.8	8,760	0.8	7,034	0.7
P19	Informer or other public interest immunity issues	1,107	0.1	929	0.1	745	0.1
P20	Caution more suitable	4,865	0.4	4,703	0.4	3,667	0.4
P21	Youth of offender	305	0.0	342	0.0	238	0.0
P22	Conditional Caution more suitable	0	0.0	42	0.0	407	0.0
P36	Inappropriate to compel victim	393	0.0	630	0.1	474	0.0
P37	Inappropriate to compel witness	165	0.0	212	0.0	201	0.0
	Public interest reasons	26,833	2.4	25,743	2.4	20,883	2.0
U22	File not received from police—adjournment refused	1,252	0.1	1,182	0.1	1,133	0.1
U23	CPS not ready—adjournment refused	995	0.1	917	0.1	706	0.1
U24	Offence taken into consideration	420	0.0	401	0.0	324	0.0
U25	Victim refuses to give evidence or retracts	8,785	0.8	7,717	0.7	5,991	0.6
U26	Other witness refuses to give evidence or retracts	1,097	0.1	956	0.1	725	0.1
U27	Victim fails to attend unexpectedly	5,202	0.5	6,075	0.6	5,260	0.5
U28	Other civilian witness fails to attend unexpectedly	1,827	0.2	1,771	0.2	1,346	0.1
U29	Police witness fails to attend unexpectedly	1,349	0.1	1,157	0.1	909	0.1
U30	Victim intimidation	10	0.0	9	0.0	3	0.0
U31	Other civilian witness intimidation	15	0.0	9	0.0	5	0.0
U32	Documents produced at court	5,934	0.5	4,728	0.4	3,779	0.4
	Unable to proceed	26,886	2.4	24,922	2.3	20,181	1.9
033	Bind over acceptable	9,207	0.8	6,431	0.6	4,240	0.4
034	Acquittal after trial	522	0.0	468	0.0	386	0.0
035	Other	2,728	0.2	1,451	0.1	1,174	0.1
	Other reasons	12,457	1.1	8,350	0.8	5,800	0.6
	Total prosecutions dropped	125,101	11.4	112,556	10.5	94,822	9.1
	Total unsuccessful outcomes	185,801	16.9	164,410	15.3	140,518	13.5
	Total convictions	914,063	83.1	907,907	84.7	900,836	86.5
	Total prosecutions	1,099,864	—	1,072,317	—	1,041,354	—

Homicide

John McDonnell: To ask the Solicitor-General how many successful prosecutions the Crown Prosecution Service has brought for offences related to corporate manslaughter under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2008. [254211]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) data collection system records the number of offences under each Act and section, which have been referred to the CPS for prosecution. CPS records show that, up to 30 January 2009, no offences under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 (no similarly named statute was enacted in 2008) have been referred to the CPS for prosecution. However, the outcomes of any cases prosecuted under this statute will be subsumed into data held on various categories of homicide cases, as the CPS electronic data system currently cannot hold information on the outcome of proceedings at the level of detail requested by the hon. Member.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many civil recovery actions in respect of criminal assets the Crown Prosecution Service has initiated in the first nine months of 2008-09. [254982]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has initiated no civil recovery actions in respect of criminal assets in the first nine months of 2008-09.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General when she expects the *(a)* Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office and *(b)* Serious Fraud Office to begin to undertake civil recovery actions in respect of criminal assets; and if she will make a statement. [254983]

The Solicitor-General: The RCPO considers whether, on the facts of the cases it has before it, civil recovery proceedings are appropriate and it will continue to do so. In so doing, it bears in mind the Guidance by the Secretary of State to the Director of the Assets Recovery Agency dated 7 February 2005.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) recently completed an in-depth review of its approach to all aspects of proceeds of crime activity. This review resulted in a number of recommendations to the director, who has since formed a dedicated proceeds of crime team. The structure of this team is being finalised, with resources being drawn from across the organisation. The team will be fully operational by April 2009.

In order to undertake a civil recovery investigation, staff are required to obtain accreditation for Part 5 powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) from the National Policing Improvements Agency. The SFO is assisting in the development of the training that leads to accreditation in order to accelerate this process. To date no officers within the SFO hold accreditation under part 5 of POCA.

The organisation is expecting civil recovery action to commence once the new team is in place. The SFO does not have any assets under restraint in relation to civil recovery cases.

In October last year the SFO successfully obtained its first civil recovery settlement for £2.5 million with Balfour Beatty plc. Approximately £1 million of this settlement will be used by the SFO to invest in its asset recovery work, further strengthening its capability to conduct civil recovery investigations.

Proceeds of Crime: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many civil recovery actions against criminal assets have been initiated by the Public Prosecutions Service in Northern Ireland in the first nine months of the 2008-09 financial year. [255661]

The Solicitor-General: The PPS has not, to date, initiated any civil recovery actions against criminal assets. Such actions are currently initiated by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The PPS is in discussion with SOCA to develop a memorandum of understanding to provide advice and assistance between the PPS and SOCA, including arrangements to deal with civil recovery cases. The PPS remains responsible for criminal confiscation following conviction.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Energy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much energy suppliers have spent on their carbon emissions reduction target obligations to date; and how the level of such spending is monitored by the Government. [246285]

Joan Ruddock: Energy suppliers' targets under the carbon emissions reduction target are set in terms of household carbon savings rather than spending. Ofgem, the scheme administrator, does not collect data on energy supplier spend. Based on the costs of the measures promoted by suppliers we estimate that the overall costs to suppliers of delivering their obligations will exceed £3 billion over the period 2008-2011.

Supplier spend under the energy efficiency commitment over the period 2002-2008 has been independently estimated at £1325 million.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff since it was established. [251234]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has spent *(a)* £186,000 on agency staff and *(b)* £172,000 on temporary staff since it was established.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in his Department for working *(a)* in lunch breaks and *(b)* at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252034]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The final details of staff transferring from these Departments are yet to be confirmed.

However, it has not been the policy of these Departments to manage and monitor time off in lieu centrally. Authority is delegated to local line managers. The Department would incur a disproportionate cost if it were to manage this process centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister for Housing will reply to the letters of 13 October 2008 and 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, reference FD 7358, on free loft cavity insulation for those aged over 70 years. [250409]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 22 January and apologise for the delay in responding, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Oil: Balance of Payments

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the contribution to the UK balance of payments of the UK oil and gas sector. [255150]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what assessment has been made of the contribution to the UK balance of payments of the UK oil and gas sector. (255150).

Exports of energy products (including oil, gas, electricity and coal) were £24.7 billion in 2007 compared with total exports of goods of £220.7 billion. In the first 11 months of 2008, exports of energy products were £32.8 billion compared with total exports of goods of £230.8 billion. Imports of energy products were £31.9 billion in 2007 compared with total imports of £310.0 billion. In the first 11 months of 2008, imports of energy products were £44.8 billion compared with total imports of goods of £317.0 billion.

Earnings on direct investment abroad (credits) by oil and gas (extraction and production) companies were £14.9 billion in 2007 out of a total for all industries of £89.9 billion. Earnings on direct investment in oil and gas (extraction and production) companies in the UK (debits) were £10.0 billion in 2007 out of a total for all industries of £44.8 billion.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what grant provision is available from the Warm Zone scheme to otherwise eligible citizens for materials for insulation work carried out by themselves rather than through a contractor. [251199]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Zones Ltd., operated by National Energy Action, brings together, using an area-based approach, all of the assistance available to households through the Government-funded Warm Front scheme and energy supplier activity under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). Whilst these schemes do not provide direct grant to—individuals who choose to carry out insulation work themselves, energy suppliers do work with major retailers to provide subsidies for DIY loft insulation materials. Additionally, tailored, free and impartial advice is available through the government-funded Act on CO_2 advice line run by the Energy Saving Trust.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254245]

Paul Goggins: Information on appointments made by the Department is published in the Northern Ireland Office's Annual Report on the Department's website:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/.

More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's Annual Report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at www.publicappointments.gov.uk. The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, complies with the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Road Traffic Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles have been seized from *(a)* disqualified and *(b)* uninsured drivers in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [254266]

Paul Goggins: Vehicles can be seized if they are unlicensed, being driven while uninsured, or in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance. Driving while disqualified does not in itself permit the seizure of a vehicle.

Unlicensed vehicle seizure is a matter for the Driver and Vehicle Agency, and the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland can supply the relevant information.

New regulations permitting the seizure of vehicles being driven while uninsured came into effect on 6 January 2009. Similar regulations came into effect on the same date permitting the seizure of vehicles causing alarm, distress or annoyance (such as quad bikes, go-peds, or scramblers). Figures are not yet available for the numbers seized to date.

In terms of convictions for the substantive offences, in 2005 and 2006 (the latest years for which data are available) there were 1,314 and 1,104 convictions respectively for driving while disqualified. For the same years, 3,884 and 3,868 convictions were secured for driving without insurance.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

DEFENCE

Absent Without Leave

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel went absent without leave in each month of 2008. [253715]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records held centrally on service personnel who have gone absent without leave (AWOL) relate to the number of incidents reported, not to the number of personnel. Information about the number of incidents of AWOL reported monthly in the Army is not held centrally.

The following table shows AWOL statistics for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force for each month of 2008, and the total number of AWOL incidents reported in the Army for 2008.

	Incidents of reported AWOL		
	Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
January	10	—	1
February	10	—	0
March	5	—	0
April	5	—	1
May	10	—	1
June	20	—	0
July	15	—	1
August	10	—	0
September	15	—	0
October	10	—	0
November	5	—	1
December	10	—	0
Total	125	2,100	5

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. All three services record AWOL statistics by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL, so there may be a number of people who are represented more than once in these figures. While the figures reflect the number of reports of AWOL, it may come to light later that there are extenuating circumstances and therefore does not reflect the number of personnel who went on to be formally charged with AWOL.

Armed Forces

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units form part of each UK-based regional brigade; and at which location each such unit is based. [254726]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Regional brigade	*Unit*	*Location*
HQ London District	Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment	Knightsbridge
	1 Grenadier Guards	Birdcage Walk
	1 Irish Guards	Windsor
	106 Regiment RA (V)	Grove Park
	151 Transport Regiment RLC (V)	Croydon
	The Honourable Artillery Company	Finsbury Park
	The London Regiment	Clapham
	The Royal Yeomanry	Croydon
15 North East Brigade	4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment	Leeds
	4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	York
	5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (V)	Durham
	34 Signal Regiment (V)	Middlesbrough
	72 Engineer Regiment (V)	Gateshead
	101 Regiment RA (V)	Gateshead
	102 Battalion REME (V)	Aycliffe
	150 Transport Regiment (V)	Hull
	Queen's Own Yeomanry	Newcastle
42 North West Brigade	4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	Preston
	33 Signal Regiment (V)	Liverpool
	75 Engineer Regiment (V)	Warrington
	103 Regiment (V)	St. Helens
	156 Transport Regiment (V)	Liverpool
51 Scottish Brigade	6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Glasgow
	7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Perth
	71 Engineer Regiment (V)	St. Andrews
	105 Regiment RA (V)	Edinburgh
	225 Medical Regiment (V)	Dundee
	Scottish Transport Regiment RLC (V)	Dunfermline
2 (South East) Brigade	3rd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	Canterbury
	103 Battalion REME (V)	Crawley
43 (Wessex) Brigade	6th Battalion The Rifles	Exeter
	155 Transport Regiment RLC (V)	Plymouth
	The Royal Wessex Yeomanry	Bovington
145 (South) Brigade	7th Battalion The Rifles	Reading
49 (East) Brigade	3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	Bury St. Edmunds
	73 Regiment RE (V)	Nottingham
	100 Regiment RA (V)	Luton
	158 Transport Regiment (V)	Peterborough
	254 Medical Regiment (V)	Cambridge
143 (West Midlands) Brigade	4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment	Wolverhampton
	35 Signal Regiment (V)	Coventry
	159 Supply Regiment RLC (V)	West Bromwich
	The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry	Telford
160 (Wales) Brigade	3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh Regiment	Cardiff
	104 Regiment RA (V)	Newport
	The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)	Monmouth
	Welsh Transport Regiment RLC (V)	Cardiff
38 Irish Brigade	2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment	Armagh
	152 Transport Regiment RLC (V)	Belfast
	253 Medical Regiment (V)	Belfast

Armed Forces: Qualifications

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what levels of academic qualification were reached by recruits to the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Air Force in 2008; and how many recruits at each level there were. [249573]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information on academic qualifications of recruits is not held in the format requested and differs between the three services. However, the available data for the Navy and Army are provided: the Navy section providing a breakdown of the academic qualifications overall, while the Army section offers a summary split by officer and other ranks. Unfortunately, due to IT problems within the RAF it is not currently possible to extract the necessary data. I will write to the hon. Member with information for the RAF when this is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

NAVY

The following table reflects the numbers of each qualification held by all new recruits who joined between 1 January-31 December 2008.

		Number
Level 7	Masters	2
Level 6	Bachelors	46
Level 5	BTEC HNCs, HNDs, Foundation Degrees and HNDs	14
Level 4	CHE	1
Level 3	A levels	438
	AS Levels	283
	GNVQ Advanced	8
	BTEC National Certificate	27
	BTEC National Diploma	59
	NVQ Level 3	28
	Key Skills Level 3	30
	VCE Double award	1
	VCE A Level	1
	VCE AS Level	1
Level 2	GCSEs A-C	5290
	BTEC First Diploma	20
	BTEC First Certificate	7
	NVQ Level 2	112
	GNVQ Intermediate	61
	Key Skills Level 2	387
Level 1	GCSE D-G	486
	GNVQ Foundation	6
	Key Skills Level 1	183
	NVQ Level 1	40

In addition, here are the figures for the Scottish qualifications framework

Scottish Advanced Higher	3
Scottish National Certificate	1
Scottish Higher	69
Scottish Intermediate 1	40
Scottish Intermediate 2	87
Scottish Standard A-C	190
Scottish Standard D-G	27

Recruits were also recorded as having 658 'Basic Skills', 39 'GCEs', two 'CSEs' and three Modern apprenticeships.

ARMY

Basic Skills Levels—The Army reflects the national basic skills picture (within 1 per cent.). Roughly 45 per cent. of all soldiers joining the Army are below Level 1 (GCSE D-G) but since August 2003 80 per cent. of soldiers achieve L1 literacy and numeracy within three years. Since 2002, 21,874 national literacy and numeracy qualifications have been awarded to soldiers.

Apprenticeships—65 per cent. of soldiers (4,800) embark on an apprenticeship at either Level 2 (GCSE A*-C) or 3 (A Level) either within Phase 2 training or the Field Army. The Army's achievement rate of apprenticeships is 75 per cent. compared to the national average of 60 per cent. Apprenticeships also include support for literacy and numeracy and as part of the apprenticeship soldiers gain Level 1 literacy and numeracy qualifications.

Accreditation—The majority of training within the Army is accredited to nationally recognised qualifications (March 2007 to April 2008 there were 15,451 Awards). These awards range from Level 1 qualifications through to masters degrees.

Learning credits—All soldiers are entitled to claim learning credits to support their elective educational courses which include academic and vocational qualifications.

Officers

In 2007-08, 585 cadets who commenced training at the Royal Military academy Sandhurst (RMAS) were graduate entrants this represents 82 per cent. of a total of 715 who began the standard career courses.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruitment advertisements have been commissioned by his Department for each service in each month since 1998. [248609]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of individual advertisements produced will depend on the messages to be communicated and the weight of planned exposure which varies from campaign to campaign. It is not, therefore, possible to calculate how many individual advertisements were commissioned in the last 10 years without incurring disproportionate cost. The information for each of the services that is available is given in the following tables:

Navy

Year	*Number of campaigns*	*Media used*	*Time period*
	Royal Navy	TV	August + January
		TV partnership	January
		Online	August (running through to March 2009)

Navy

Year	Number of campaigns	Media used	Time period
	Royal Marines	Cinema	November + December to March
		Pub TV	November + January to March
		TV sponsorship	January
		Out of Home	January to February
		Mobile	January to February
		Online	October (running through to March 2009)
2007-08	Royal Navy	TV	October to November + January to March
		Online	October to March
	Royal Marines	Cinema	October to March
		Pub TV	February—March
		Out of Home	October to February
		Press partnership	February to May
		Online	October to March
2006-07	Royal Navy	TV	January + March
		Pub TV	January + March
		Cinema	February to March
		Magazine advertorials	January to March
		Regional press classifieds	February
		Online	January—March
2005-06	Royal Navy	TV	September to October
		Pub TV	September to November
		Out of Home	September
		Radio	September to November
		Online	September to November
	Royal Marines	TV	September to October + February to March
		Radio	September to October
		Press magazines	September to November + February to March
		Online	September to November + January to March
		Out of Home	September
2004-05	Royal Navy	TV	August to September + January
		Pub TV	August to November + January to March
		Radio	August to November + January to February
		Online	August to March
	Royal Marines	Cinema	August to October + January to February
		Radio	September to November
		Press magazines	August to December + February to Mar
		Online	October to November + February to March
		Out of Home	August + February
		Direct Marketing	November to March
2003-04	Royal Navy	Pub TV	September to November + January to March
		Cinema	September to March
		Press magazines	September to November + January to March
		Online	August to March
		Radio	August to November + January to Feb
		National press	August
	Royal Marines	TV	August to November + January to February

Navy

Year	*Number of campaigns*	*Media used*	*Time period*
		Cinema	June + September + November + January
		Press magazines	July to November + January to March
		Online	September to October + January to February
		Out of Home	August + January

Army

Year	*Time period*	*Campaign name*
1998	January	Officer TV
	January—February	Soldier TV
	February—March	TATV
	April	Soldier TV
	June—July	Soldier TV
1999	January	Soldier TV
	February—March	TATV
	April—May	Soldier and Officer TV
	June	10" TV
2000	February—March	TATV
	April	Soldier TV
	September—October	Soldier TV
2001	January	Soldier TV
	April	Soldier TV
	May	Soldier TV
	September—November	Soldier TV
2002	January—February	Soldier TV
	March	TATV
	April	National Press
	April—June	Soldier TV
	September	National Press/Specialist Trade media
	September—November	Soldier TV
	October—November	Officer National Press
	April—December	Officer Careers Titles and Online
2003	January	National Press
	January—March	Soldier TV
	January—March	Officer Careers Titles and Online
	April—May	National Press
	April—June	Soldier TV
	April—December	Officer Career Titles
	June	Army Medical Services National Press
	September—October	TV and National Press
	November	Officer Online
2004	January—March	Regular/TA TV
	January—December	Officer Career Titles
	February—March	Army Medical Services National Press
	March	Officer National Press
	April	Regular/TA national press
	April	TA cinema
	April—May	TA, Combat roles, NI TV
	August—November	NITV

Army

Year	*Time period*	*Campaign name*
	August	Gatekeepers national press
	September—November	Technical Trades TV
	September—October	TA national press
	November	Army Cadet Force TV
	November	Regular national press
	December	Army Grants TV
	December	Future Army structure national and regional press
2005	January—March	Future Army structure, NI, Trade specific, ACF and Grants Regular TV, Young Officer and Medical Services TA TV
	January—March	Army Medical Services specialist press and online
	January—March	Officer careers titles
	February	Regular national press
	February—March	Future Army structure national/regional press
	March—April	TA Radio
	April—May	Soldier TV, interactive TV
	April—June	NI TV, Technical Trades TV (Scotland)
	August	Officer clearing press and online
	June—September	TA TV—Soldier and Medical Services
	July	Soldier TV and national press advertorials
	July—September	Army Grants TV
	July—December	Interactive TV
	September	Soldier TV
	September—October	TA Young Officer TV
	September—December	Welbeck Defence College TV, NI TV, Soldier advertorials and radio editorial, Intelligence Corps magazines
	October—December	Officer TV, magazines, online
	October—November	Officer national/regional press, online, outdoor
	November	TA Medical Services radio
2006	January	Infantry radio advertising and bus supersides/headliners, Welbeck TV
	January—February	Infantry national press
	January—March	Infantry TV, NI TV, Infantry mobile, Soldier radio editorial and magazine advertorials, Intell Corps magazines, interactive TV
	February—March	Infantry magazines
	April—June	Everest West Ridge TV, radio editorial
	April	Everest West Ridge outdoor and national press
	April—December	Specialist press/online, interactive TV
	May	Everest West Ridge radio advertising/sales and promotion
	May—June	Everest West Ridge online search and display
	July—December	Infantry TV
	July—August	Infantry radio editorial
	August	Officer clearing press and online search
	November	Camouflage Youth CRM programme TV
	October—November	TA Officer radio editorial
	October—November	HE campus pilot—Nottingham: Local radio advertising, campus ambassadors, Union bar TV, campus/local cinema/local pub postcards, six sheet posters and phone boxes, bus headliners and streetliners, washroom panels/mirror stickers and beermats in local pubs
2007	January—March	Infantry TV, interactive TV, online search, national press/magazine advertorials, radio editorial
	January—March	Specialist press/online
	April—August	One Army Recruiting (OAR) TV
	April—June	Interactive TV
	April	OAR radio advertising, national press, outdoor
	April—December	Online search

Army

Year	*Time period*	*Campaign name*
	May—December	Magazines
	July	Online display—recruitment sites
	July—August	Radio sales and promotion
	August—September	Officer clearing press/online
	August	NW regional press
	September—December	OAR II TV, magazine advertorials, national press partnerships
	September	NE/NW radio advertising, Scottish regional press
	September—October	Scottish radio editorial, NE/NW bus streetliners
	October—November	OAR II radio advertising
	December	TA Young Officer press, Management Today
2008	January—March	OAR II TV, radio editorial, national press partnerships, magazine advertising and advertorials
	January—February	Infantry and Professionally Qualified Officers advertorials
	March	Radio advertising
	April—June	OAR II TV
	April—May	Reputation TV
	July—August	Women in the Army TV and advertorials
	September—December	Infantry TV, national press, magazines, online search
	September—October	Infantry radio
	September—November	Infantry outdoor (gyms/golf centres)
	November—December	TV, radio, press, online
	December	Graduate national press and online

RAF

The RAF run one major recruitment campaign each year using a variety of media outlets. It is not possible to identify how many separate advertisements are run within this campaign without disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps he has taken to increase recruitment from ethnic minority groups into the armed forces. [250034]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces have established ethnic minority recruiting teams in areas with large ethnic minority populations aimed at promoting service careers.

They are engaged in numerous and varied initiatives to encourage more young people from ethnic minority backgrounds to join the armed forces. These include forming new community partnerships, holding personal development courses for schools and community groups, and holding open days and visits to service establishments. The Royal Navy's diversity action team gives presentations in schools, colleges and to community groups, organises five-day personal development courses, attends careers, and cultural and religious festivals and events and engages potential recruits and their gatekeepers. The Army's diversity action recruiting team (DART) provides role models to young people from ethnic minority backgrounds at recruiting events throughout the country. The RAF's motivational outreach team participates in schools' careers conventions, festivals and sporting events, and visits to youth organisations and ATC/CCF squadrons. They also arrange visits for young people from ethnic minorities to RAF stations.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to order battlefield evacuation vehicles in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [254996]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A number of battlefield evacuation vehicles (ambulances) are in service. These include variants of Mastiff, Vector, Viking, Bulldog, CVR(T), Land Rover and Saxon. In addition to these, there are ambulance variants in the current orders for Ridgeback, Warthog and tranche 2 of Mastiff. Plans for the next 12 months include the ordering of an ambulance variant in the procurement of the Husky Medium Tactical Support Vehicle.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253360]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

The Defence intranet provides comprehensive coverage of the terms and conditions of employment of the Department's civil servants. This includes information on pension schemes and the ways in which staff can increase their pension benefits. The intranet gives links to the civil service pensions website that explains added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets which can be accessed via the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251280]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Until November 2006, MOD business units were individually responsible for engaging their own temporary staff. Since November 2006, a limited service to engage temporary staff has been provided through the People Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA). This does not yet cover all the grades employed by the MOD, or all MOD locations and therefore individual business units are still making their own arrangements to engage temporary staff in some circumstances. This means that information on how much was spent on agency and temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06 is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Since November 2006, the Department has spent £12.3 million on temporary staff engaged through the PPPA.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and which *(a)* troops and *(b)* military assets the United Kingdom has contributed to each EU Force Catalogue in each year since 2000. [255628]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The UK has contributed to two EU Force Catalogues, one for the Helsinki Headline Goal in 2004 and the other for the Headline Goal 2010 which superseded the Helsinki Headline Goal in 2006.

For details on our Headline Goal 2010 return, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2348W.

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what naval resources he *(a)* has deployed and *(b)* plans to deploy to (i) the Indian Ocean off the coast of Somalia and (ii) the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Gaza. [illegible]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy is providing the following assets in the Indian ocean off the coast of Somalia.

> An enduring commitment of a frigate to the Combined Maritime Forces: currently HMS Portland operating in the Gulf of Aden;
>
> An enduring commitment of an Arabian Gulf Ready Tanker, supporting coalition operations in the Middle East region, including the Indian ocean: currently RFA Wave Knight;
>
> HMS Northumberland for the first period of the EU counter-piracy mission, Operation Atalanta.

In the Mediterranean sea, we have an enduring commitment of a frigate to Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2): currently HMS St. Albans.

We are also considering the provision of naval resources to counter the smuggling of weapons into Gaza in co-operation with international efforts.

RAF Menwith Hill: Security

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who meets the costs of policing outside the perimeter of RAF Menwith Hill. [255672]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence and North Yorkshire Police share the costs of policing outside the perimeter of RAF Menwith Hill.

RAF St. Athan: Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the costs for contractors working on the defence training establishment proposed for St. Athan of providing all their services bilingually under the terms of the Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order. [254702]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No estimate has been made by the MOD of potential bilingual costs. The costs for contractors are a responsibility of the Metrix Consortium as developer of the Defence Technical Academy on the St. Athan site.

The Department has a Welsh language scheme and in the conduct of its business with the public in Wales treats the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality.

SERCO

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of his Department's contracts held with SERCO in each of the last five financial years. [253255]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The value of contracts with SERCO Group PLC, in terms of spend, in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	244
2004-05	361
2005-06	431
2006-07	433
2007-08	763

The figures are shown exclusive of VAT rounded to the nearest million. They exclude any contracts placed by MOD Trading Funds or by British Defence staff (Washington) and low-value purchase transactions, for which records are not held centrally.

Warships

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be able to announce the decision on where to base port the Royal Navy's frigates. [254864]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 113W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which websites are operated by his Department in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for those websites is. [251421]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information is as follows:

Website operated by DFID		*Operating budget (£)*
Research for Development (R4D) (www.research4development.info)	2007-08	20,850
	2008-09	34,625
Developments (www.developments.org.uk)	2007-08	9,039
	2008-09	9,039

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many new recruits his Department employed in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; how many of these were (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of equivalent recruitment numbers in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254426]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows the number of new recruits into DFID between 1 April 2005 and 31 January 2009 broken down into (i) permanent and (ii) temporary staff.

Central records of agency staff employed during this period are not held.

Date	*Permanent*	*Temporary (fixed term contract)*
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	60	16
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	51	26
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	47	11
1 April 2008 to 31 January 2009	68	27

DFID has not made a detailed estimate of recruitment numbers for future years, but does not anticipate any significant increases from recent years.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, dated 9 October 2008, on the engagement of his Department's offices in Uganda with the Kingdom of Bunyoro Kitara. [254205]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A reply to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood has been issued.

Palestinians: Health Services

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment has been made of the availability of medicines and medical supplies in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [253962]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations reports that many medicines and medical supplies are generally available. However there are critical shortages of, for example, certain anaesthetics and essential medical equipment such as defibrillators and syringe pumps.

Gaza's health infrastructure has long been under severe strain due to the restrictions on access for people, commercial goods and humanitarian supplies. Going forward repairing and maintaining health facilities will be a priority. Frequent power cuts and subsequent reliance on generators increases the risk of damaging medicines that need consistent temperature regulation, as well as of harming patients dependent on medical equipment in intensive care. The conflict has exacerbated all these problems as restrictions on Gaza's borders have been further tightened.

The UK Government have repeatedly raised the issue of allowing enough humanitarian supplies and fuel into Gaza with the Israeli Government. We are also supporting organisations that provide direct medical treatment to the sick and injured such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). UNRWA has 18 health centres in Gaza and ICRC's medical teams were among the first to be allowed in during the conflict.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he took the decision to write to the Director General of the BBC requesting that the BBC broadcast an advertisement for the Disasters Emergency Committee's Gaza Crisis appeal; and if he will make a statement. [254212]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I took the decision to write to heads of the BBC, Sky and ITV on 23 January 2009. I refer my hon. Friend to my statement to the House of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 20WS.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Israeli authorities to ensure continuous access for humanitarian relief into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [253961]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As a priority, the UK Government continue to press the Israeli Government to allow full, unhindered and consistent access for humanitarian supplies into Gaza. The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster) discussed this issue with Israeli Minister of Welfare and Social Services Isaac Herzog during his visit to the region on 19 January 2009. The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have also consistently pressed UK concerns with Prime Minister Olmert and the Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni respectively.

The UK welcomes the recent letter from the European Union to the Israeli Government expressing these concerns and calling for

> "all humanitarian items to be allowed automatic entry to the Gaza strip".

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Afghanistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which organisation has managed each project funded by his Department in Helmand province since 2005; what the budget of each was; how much has been spent in each case; what monitoring, impact assessments and evaluations have been undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [245778]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has not funded any projects in Helmand. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1097-98W and by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1202W.

Death: Asthma

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on deaths: asthma; if he will set out the figures by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex; and if he will make a statement. [255827]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2009, Official Report, column 1180W, on asthma-related deaths; to set out the figures broken down by (a) age and (b) sex. (255827)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where asthma was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause (table 1) or as a contributing factor (table 2), broken down by (a) age group and (b) sex from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Deaths with an underlying cause of asthma[1], by age group and sex, England and Wales[2], 2003-2007[3]

Deaths

	Males					Females				
Age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
01-04	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1
05-09	3	11	5	13	6	3	9	4	2	1
10-14	10	11	6	7	5	4	6	6	7	4
15-19	6	5	1	5	7	3	7	5	5	2
20-24	4	12	7	5	5	6	11	8	2	4
25-29	9	8	7	6	6	5	4	3	9	5
30-34	6	9	12	4	8	12	11	2	4	11
35-39	22	13	9	9	10	10	6	8	5	11
40-44	11	18	18	14	9	22	27	15	17	17
45-49	17	18	17	20	17	18	24	19	21	25
50-54	26	18	26	11	22	32	22	21	22	19
55-59	24	29	18	22	17	41	38	44	33	26
60-64	36	37	24	24	15	48	31	37	32	33
65-69	43	30	31	18	24	58	47	36	35	34
70-74	38	45	26	21	18	76	57	60	46	40
75-79	44	48	36	36	43	100	107	90	99	88
80-84	44	63	48	34	43	146	152	149	124	91
85+	69	84	81	58	81	270	245	302	308	283

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J45-J46.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Deaths where asthma was mentioned as a contributory factor[1,2], by age group and sex, England and Wales[3], 2003-2007[4]

Deaths

	Males					Females				
Age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
01-04	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	1
05-09	3	12	7	13	6	3	9	4	3	1
10-14	11	12	7	7	7	4	6	7	8	4
15-19	9	8	2	9	8	6	8	8	6	2

Table 2: Deaths where asthma was mentioned as a contributory factor[1,2], by age group and sex, England and Wales[3], 2003-2007[4]

Deaths

	Males					*Females*				
Age	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
20-24	10	14	8	7	9	9	15	10	4	6
25-29	12	13	10	10	8	9	6	4	10	10
30-34	13	13	15	10	11	17	14	6	11	16
35-39	23	24	17	15	20	15	13	11	13	20
40-44	20	29	26	20	18	31	35	20	25	29
45-49	27	37	28	37	26	34	39	33	33	41
50-54	46	36	45	31	44	50	45	50	42	40
55-59	55	60	43	53	35	81	66	80	80	57
60-64	83	78	56	67	56	89	76	79	71	71
65-69	95	99	70	94	74	124	127	111	108	93
70-74	119	114	113	84	85	170	152	158	129	138
75-79	132	137	125	127	146	271	240	209	220	232
80-84	133	146	135	132	130	330	306	314	299	281
85+	145	168	173	185	182	482	511	584	602	594

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J45-J46.

[2] Figures presented in table 2 include those where asthma was recorded as the underlying cause (table1)

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254745]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 582W.

Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people and what proportion of the workforce in employment in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each Government Office region (i) aged 16 and over and (ii) of working age are (A) UK-born, (B) non-UK born, (C) EU-born, (D) non-EU born and (E) EU A8-born. [256024]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10th February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people and what proportion of the workforce in employment in (a) the UK and (b) each Government Office Region (i) aged 16 and over and (ii) of working age, who are (A) UK-born (B) non-UK born, (C) EU-born, (D) non-EU born and (E) EU A8 born. (256024)

The requested information is shown in the attached tables. Table 1 attached provides employment levels and rates of people aged 16 and over, for the UK and each Government Office Region by country of birth. Table 2 attached provides employment levels and rates by working age for the UK and Government Office Region by country of birth. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Table 1: Employment levels and employment rates of people aged 16 and over in each government office region, by country of birth July to September 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and per cent

	UK		*Non-UK[1]*		*Non-UK EU*		*Non-EU*		*EU A8[2]*	
	Level	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*
North East	*1,102	56	***58	56	****[1]—	69	****[1]—	48	****[1]—	86
North West (inc Merseyside)	*2,927	58	**235	55	***77	57	**158	54	***39	78
Yorkshire and Humberside	*2,284	60	**195	56	***77	71	***118	50	***46	88
East Midlands	*1,979	61	**204	61	***80	69	***125	57	***42	82
West Midlands	*2,203	58	**260	51	***69	56	**191	49	***35	78
Eastern	*2,528	62	**295	64	***125	66	**170	63	***45	79
London	*2,307	63	*1,452	60	**403	67	*1,049	58	**141	75
South East	*3,725	63	**515	68	**168	67	**346	68	***55	87
South West	*2,380	61	**201	66	***77	66	***124	65	****[1]—	84
Wales	*1,272	56	***70	59	****[1]—	65	***35	54	****[1]—	81
Scotland	*2,364	61	**185	66	***82	77	***102	60	***41	85
Northern Ireland	*729	57	***39	68	***35	67	****[1]—	70	****[1]—	91

Table 1: Employment levels and employment rates of people aged 16 and over in each government office region, by country of birth July to September 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and per cent

	UK		*Non-UK*[1]		*Non-UK EU*		*Non-EU*		*EUA8*[2]	
	Level	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*
Total	*25,799	60	*3,727	61	*1,254	66	*2,474	58	**516	81

[1] Excludes those who did not state their country of birth.

[2] The A8 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

[3] The estimates have been suppressed as they are deemed unreliable for practical purposes.

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Employment levels and employment rates of the working age[1] population in each government office region, by country of birth July to September 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and per cent

	UK		*Non-UK*[2]		*Non-UK EU*		*Non-EU*		*EUA8*[3]	
	Level	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*
North East	*1,063	71	***58	62	****[4]—	78	****[4]—	53	****[4]—	90
North West (inc Merseyside)	*2,806	73	**229	63	***75	76	**154	59	***39	83
Yorkshire and Humberside	*2,187	75	**192	64	***76	83	***116	56	***46	90
East Midlands	*1,893	77	**201	71	***78	83	***123	65	***42	86
West Midlands	*2,100	74	**255	61	***66	77	**189	56	***35	86
Eastern	*2,384	78	**286	74	***122	80	**165	71	***45	81
London	*2,209	73	*1,411	68	**393	78	*1,018	65	**140	78
South East	*3,516	80	**494	77	**160	81	**334	75	***54	91
South West	*2,244	80	**195	77	***75	80	***120	76	****[4]—	91
Wales	*1,207	71	***68	68	****[4]—	79	***34	61	****[4]—	82
Scotland	*2,266	77	**181	72	***81	84	***100	65	***41	88
Northern Ireland	*706	69	***58	79	***35	80	****[4]—	78	****[4]—	91
Total	*24,580	76	*3,629	69	*1,221	80	*2,408	65	**513	84

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[2] Excludes those who did not state their country of birth.

[3] The A8 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

[4] The estimates have been suppressed as they are deemed unreliable for practical purposes.

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Flood Control

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department has taken to determine which agency takes the lead role in responding to national flood emergencies since the publication of the Pitt Report on flooding. [253761]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Planning for, and responding to, the challenges of a predicted or actual flooding event requires the combined and co-ordinated effort, experience and expertise of all levels of government, public authorities or agencies and a wide range of private and voluntary organisations. During a national flood emergency, DEFRA will be the lead Government Department in England. The Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Executive will take the lead role in their respective devolved Administrations. The National Flood Emergency Framework, currently out for consultation, will look at whether there is a need to further clarify roles and responsibilities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bingo: Government Assistance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will introduce measures to assist the bingo industry through regulation; and if he will make a statement. [253926]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I signed The Gambling Act 2005 (Gaming Machines in Bingo Premises) Order 2009 on 3 February 2009 and this came into force on 4 February 2009. The Order increases the number of category B3 gaming machines that a bingo hall can offer from four to eight.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on official entertainment in each year since 1997-98. [241209]

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what expenditure his Department has incurred on hospitality in each year since 1997; [248897]

(2) how much his Department has spent on entertainment for its staff in each of the last five years. [250492]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested by the hon. Members is not readily available from the Department's accounting system. To provide the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249858]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Non-consolidated performance payments to the SCS are based on the recommendations of the independent Senior Salaries Review Board. The total SCS pay bill for 2008 was £2,416,714 of which 8.6 per cent. was used for non-consolidated performance payments. The SCS pay bill for 2007 was £2,659,835 of which 7.6 per cent. was used for non-consolidated performance payments.

The figures in the following table are the performance bonuses awarded to senior civil servants in each of the years requested. Figures include bonuses made by our agency, the Royal Parks.

	Number of SCS performance bonuses awarded	*Total amount of SCS performance bonuses awarded (£)*
2006-07	30	206,400
2007-08	26	268,250

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1090W, on departmental plants, which organisations provided services to his Department related to the provision of *(a)* plants and *(b)* flowers. [254801]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following organisations provided services to the Department via its facilities management contractor MITIE Managed Services.

(a) Plants

	Organisation
2006-07	Ambius Canon
2007-08	Ambius Canon
2008-09	Ambius[1] Canon

[1] Contract terminated November 2008

(b) Flowers

	Organisation
2006-07	Ambius
2007-08	Ambius
2008-09	Ambius[1] Canon[2]

[1] Contract terminated November 2008
[2] Contract started December 2008

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 815W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251327]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 815W.

Other Ministers have taken the following courses at public expense since 1 January 2008: Action Learning Set.

Football Association

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions in the last five years he and his predecessors have met the Football Association to discuss *(a)* alleged irregularities in and *(b)* unusual betting activity on football matches; and if he will make a statement. [254701]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers at the Department meet with the Football Association, as well as a wide variety of other sports bodies, on a regular basis to discuss a number of issues. In the last five years the general subject of integrity in sports betting has been discussed during those meetings, but the Secretary of State has not met the Football Association to specifically discuss irregularities in, or unusual betting activity on, football matches.

The Government take any allegations relating to the integrity of sport seriously. The Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) introduced tough new penalties to ensure gambling is free from crime and corruption. In particular the Act established the offence of cheating at gambling where any person found guilty faces a maximum prison sentence of two years.

Legacy Trust UK

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Legacy Trust UK has awarded in grants since its establishment. [254433]

Andy Burnham: The Legacy Trust UK was established with a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund, the Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities for all, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the United Kingdom.

Since LTUK was established, a total of £22,433,000 has been awarded in grants. This is split between UK school games, an annual sporting competition based on an Olympic games model with multiple sports events held across an intensive four-day period for elite school age athletes, and the UK regions and nations.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate closed during each of the last five years. [255048]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold the information in the format requested, but can provide information on the number of premises licences which were surrendered, lapsed or suspended since April 2006. Some of these may relate to premises which are not authorised to sell or supply alcohol, because under the Licensing Act 2003, premises licences and club premises certificates are not confined to authorising the sale or supply of alcohol; they can also provide regulated entertainment and/or late night refreshment.

Since the implementation of the Act, DCMS has been collecting alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment statistics on an annual basis by financial year from licensing authorities. During the period April 2006 to March 2007, 2,630 premises licences were surrendered, 232 lapsed, and 70 were suspended, based on returns from around 76 per cent. of licensing authorities. For the same period, 210 club premises certificates were surrendered, two lapsed and 13 were withdrawn.

The April 2007 to March 2008 bulletin reported 3,786 premises licences were surrendered, 423 lapsed, 18 were suspended by a court, and 44 were subject to a closure notice (based on returns from around 93 per cent. of licensing authorities). For the same period, 255 club premises licences were surrendered, seven lapsed and 13 were withdrawn.

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, data on the number of alcohol licences revoked in England and Wales were collected by petty sessional division (magistrates court areas), on a triennial basis. Between July 2003 and June 2004, there was a total of 354 revocations of on and off-licences, 11 of which related to licensed clubs.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken or will be taking to ensure that hon. and right hon. Members will not be delayed in travelling to the House during the period of the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [255394]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

The Olympic Delivery Authority's transport planning is well under way and aims to minimise disruption immediately before and during the Games for all of London's visitors, residents and commuters, including Members of Parliament.

The detailed planning now commencing will take this principle into account and will include detailed consideration of the central London area of Westminster and its environs.

Serco

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of his Department's contracts held with Serco in each of the last five financial years. [253254]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has held no contracts with Serco in the last five years.

Sports Council Trust

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the Sports Council Trust Company is owned by Sport England; and which other organisations have a share in the company. [254381]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the Sports Council Trust Company is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. As such it is not 'owned' and does not have any share capital. It has two members which are the English Sports Council (trading as Sport England) and Tim Marshall, whose membership is held in trust on behalf of the English Sports Council. Further information is available from Companies House. No other organisations are members or have shares in the company.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many competition managers were in post in each of the last five years; [254355]

(2) what the average salary of a competition manager was in each of the last three years; [254356]

(3) how much has been spent on employing competition managers in each of the last five years; [254431]

(4) how many competition managers *(a)* were appointed and *(b)* left their posts in each of the last five years; and how many competition managers were employed in each region on the latest date for which figures are available. [254432]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Competition Manager programme was piloted in 2005, with 20 Competition Managers deployed in five county areas and working on a one to one ratio with 20 targeted school sport partnerships. There were no formal Competition Manager posts prior to 2005. The programme has expanded over the last four years and there are now 226 Competition Managers in post.

Table 1 contains a breakdown of the number of Competition Managers who were funded by awards made by the Department of Children, Schools and Families for Competition Manager posts during the last four years as part of the National School Sport strategy. We do not have data available on Competition Managers who have left their posts.

Table 1

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of senior competition managers		14	23	49
Number of competition managers	20	48	68	177
Total	20	62	91	226

Table 2 contains current data on how many competition managers are employed in each Government region:

Table 2

Region	Number of senior competition managers in post	Number of competition managers in post	Total
East Midlands	5	16	21
East of England	6	22	28
London	5	22	27
North East	4	10	14
North West	5	26	31
South East	7	26	33
South West	7	16	23
West Midlands	6	20	26
Yorkshire and Humberside	4	19	23
Total	49	177	226

Table 3 contains data on the amount of funding awarded to hosts of Competition Managers for the roles of Senior Competition Managers and Competition Managers during the last four years of the programme.

Table 3

£

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Award funding issued for Competition Manager and Senior Competition Manager posts	750,000	1,597,750	2,960,500	8,340,183

We have been advised that it is not possible to provide the average salary of a competition manager as a number of these posts receive funding from other sources.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been provided to UK School Games from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the National Lottery in each of the last three years; and what [illegible]imate he has made of the amounts to be so provid[illegible] of the next three years. [254357]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Sports Trust has advised that the following funding has been provided to the UK School Games:

(a) No funding was provided in 2006 or 2007 from the public purse. In 2008 a total of £2.8 million was provided from the public purse: £2.3 million came from the Legacy Trust and £500,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

(b) In 2006 the National Lottery provided £1.486 million in funding via the Millennium Commission and in 2007, £2.3 million through the Big Lottery. There was no funding given in 2008.

For the next three years from 2009, funding will be provided as follows:

(a) The public purse will provide a total of £3.7 million from the Legacy Trust. There will be no further National Lottery funding during this period.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of staging each UK School Games has been since it was established. [254358]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Sports Trust has advised that the cost of staging the UK school games since it was established has been £8,886,000 in total.

For 2006 the cost was £2,036,000; for 2007, £3,150,000; and for 2008, £3,700,000. This includes the legacy support provided by non governmental bodies.

Music: Teachers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications to the fund established to support the professional development of music teachers were received in each of the last three years; how many applicants were granted funding; and how many have subsequently completed programmes so funded. [254393]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

In the pilot programme from 2007 to 2008, 733 teachers had completed some modules and 304 of these had completed portfolios by the end of 2008. Under the programme from September 2008, 930 teachers have begun work.

The aim of the Key Stage 2 Music continuing professional development programme is to establish a growing body of music practitioners who have considered at a deep level the issues surrounding teaching and learning in the context of whole class instrumental and vocal activity. Participants complete up to 14 modules through workshops and online learning, as well as benefiting from one-to-one mentoring. As with all professional development this is an ongoing process. The completion of a portfolio indicates a key milestone but does not indicate that a teacher's professional development is complete, or necessarily that the professional development of other teachers is somehow deficient. Teachers who have engaged with the programme have expressed high levels of satisfaction and even at this early stage we have every reason to believe that children's experience of music making is benefiting as a result. The first report on the effectiveness of the programme will be published in March.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his most recent estimate of the number of apprenticeship places in each local authority area is. [253481]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 64,000 with only 27 per cent. completions to last year's record high of 225,000 with 64 per cent. completions, a remarkable achievement.

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by age in 2007/08, broken down by local authority. A copy of this table has been provided and the relevant data will be placed in the Library.

This information is also available on the Data Service website, and was released alongside the post-16 education statistical first release, which was published on 18 December 2008:

www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics

Apprenticeship starts by age in 2007/08 - programme starts, additional information by government office region and local authority

Region	*Local authority*	*LA code*	*Below 19*	*19+*	*Total*
North East	Darlington	841	300	400	700
	Durham	840	1,500	1,600	3,100
	Gateshead	390	600	700	1,300
	Hartlepool	805	400	300	700
	Middlesbrough	806	500	400	1,000
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	391	700	700	1,400
	North Tyneside	392	600	600	1,200
	Northumberland	929	900	1,000	1,900
	Redcar and Cleveland	807	300	500	800
	South Tyneside	393	600	600	1,200
	Stockton-On-Tees	808	700	600	1,300
	Sunderland	394	1,000	600	1,600
North West	Blackburn with Darwen	889	400	300	700
	Blackpool	890	300	600	1,000
	Bolton	350	900	700	1,600
	Bury	351	400	500	900
	Cheshire	875	1,400	1,700	3,100
	Cumbria	909	1,800	1,000	2,800
	Halton	876	300	400	700
	Knowsley	340	500	500	1,000
	Lancashire	888	1,100	2,600	3,800
	Liverpool	341	1,300	1,100	2,400
	Manchester	352	600	800	1,400
	Oldham	353	600	500	1,100
	Rochdale	354	500	500	1,000
	Salford	355	600	500	1,100
	Sefton	343	700	800	1,500
	St Helens	342	500	400	900
	Stockport	356	600	600	1,200
	Tameside	357	700	500	1,200
	Trafford	358	500	400	900
	Warrington	877	500	600	1,100
	Wigan	359	1,100	1,000	2,000
	Wirral	344	900	1,000	1,900

Apprenticeship starts by age in 2007/08 - programme starts, additional information by government office region and local authority

Region	*Local authority*	*LA code*	*Below 19*	*19+*	*Total*
Yorkshire and The Humber	Barnsley	370	700	800	1,500
	Bradford	380	1,200	1,000	2,200
	Calderdale	381	600	500	1,000
	Doncaster	371	1,000	1,000	2,000
	East Riding of Yorkshire	811	1,400	2,300	3,800
	Kingston Upon Hull	810	1,000	600	1,600
	Kirklees	382	1,100	900	2,000
	Leeds	383	1,400	1,400	2,800
	North East Lincolnshire	812	400	400	800
	North Lincolnshire	813	500	400	1,000
	North Yorkshire	815	2,800	1,400	4,200
	Rotherham	372	700	700	1,400
	Sheffield	373	1,400	1,300	2,700
	Wakefield	384	800	700	1,500
	York	816	300	400	800
East Midlands	Derby	831	800	700	1,400
	Derbyshire	830	2,000	1,000	3,000
	Leicester	856	500	600	1,100
	Leicestershire	855	1,400	1,400	2,800
	Lincolnshire	925	1,600	1,700	3,300
	Northamptonshire	928	1,600	1,800	3,400
	Nottingham	892	700	700	1,400
	Nottinghamshire	891	2,200	2,100	4,300
	Rutland	857	—	100	100
West Midlands	Birmingham	330	1,600	1,800	3,400
	Coventry	331	600	800	1,400
	Dudley	332	800	700	1,500
	Herefordshire	884	500	500	1,000
	Sandwell	333	700	700	1,400
	Shropshire	893	600	1,000	1,600
	Solihull	334	400	300	700
	Staffordshire	860	1,900	2,600	4,500
	Stoke-On-Trent	861	700	1,300	1,900
	Telford and Wrekin	894	400	500	900
	Walsall	335	700	600	1,300
	Warwickshire	937	1,000	1,300	2,300
	Wolverhampton	336	600	600	1,200
	Worcestershire	885	900	1,200	2,100
East of England	Bedfordshire	820	700	800	1,400
	Cambridgeshire	873	1,000	1,200	2,100
	Essex	881	2,400	2,600	5,000
	Hertfordshire	919	1,300	1,300	2,600
	Luton	821	300	300	600
	Norfolk	926	1,600	2,000	3,600

Apprenticeship starts by age in 2007/08 - programme starts; additional information by government office region and local authority

Region	*Local authority*	*LA code*	*Below 19*	*19+*	*Total*
	Peterborough	874	300	400	700
	Southend on Sea	882	200	300	500
	Suffolk	935	1,800	1,900	3,700
	Thurrock	883	200	300	500
Inner London	Camden	202	100	100	200
	City of London	201	—	—	—
	Hackney	204	100	200	300
	Hammersmith and Fulham	205	100	100	200
	Haringey	309	100	200	300
	Islington	206	100	100	200
	Kensington and Chelsea	207	—	100	100
	Lambeth	208	100	300	400
	Lewisham	209	200	300	500
	Newham	316	200	400	600
	Southwark	210	100	300	400
	Tower Hamlets	211	200	300	500
	Wandsworth	212	100	200	300
	Westminster	213	100	200	300
Outer London	Barking and Dagenham	301	200	300	500
	Barnet	302	100	300	400
	Bexley	303	500	300	800
	Brent	304	100	300	400
	Bromley	305	400	400	800
	Croydon	306	400	500	900
	Ealing	307	200	400	500
	Enfield	308	200	300	500
	Greenwich	203	300	300	500
	Harrow	310	200	200	300
	Havering	311	400	400	800
	Hillingdon	312	400	400	800
	Hounslow	313	200	400	600
	Kingston Upon Thames	314	100	200	300
	Merton	315	100	200	300
	Redbridge	317	200	300	500
	Richmond Upon Thames	318	100	100	200
	Sutton	319	300	300	600
	Waltham Forest	320	200	300	500
South East	Bracknell Forest	867	200	200	400
	Brighton and Hove	846	300	400	700
	Buckinghamshire	825	800	800	1,600
	East Sussex	845	800	1,100	1,900
	Hampshire	850	3,000	3,300	6,300
	Isle Of Wight	921	300	600	900
	Kent	886	3,000	3,400	6,400
	Medway	887	500	700	1,200
	Milton Keynes	826	400	600	1,000
	Oxfordshire	931	1,000	1,100	2,000
	Portsmouth	851	200	400	600
	Reading	870	200	300	500
	Slough	871	200	300	400
	Southampton	852	400	500	900
	Surrey	936	1,200	1,900	3,100
	West Berkshire	869	300	400	700
	West Sussex	938	1,200	1,500	2,700
	Windsor and Maidenhead	868	200	200	400
	Wokingham	872	900	1,100	2,000
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	800	300	200	500
	Bournemouth	837	300	400	700
	Bristol	801	700	700	1,400
	Cornwall (Includes Isles of Scilly)	908	1,200	2,000	3,200
	Devon	878	1,800	1,800	3,600
	Dorset	835	1,500	1,900	3,400
	Gloucestershire	916	1,000	1,200	2,200
	North Somerset	802	400	400	800
	Plymouth	879	700	700	1,400
	Poole	836	300	300	600
	Somerset	933	1,300	1,100	2,400
	South Gloucestershire	803	600	500	1,100
	Swindon	866	300	500	800
	Torbay	880	300	500	700
	Wiltshire	865	900	1,500	2,500
England Total			108,100	115,400	223,600
Other			1,500	1,800	3,200
Grand Total			109,600	117,200	226,800

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. These figures include WBL apprenticeships only.
3. The following data sources have been used; WBL 2007/08.
4. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
5. Programme-Led Apprenticeships recorded in WBL ILR returns are included in the above figures.
6. Government Office Region and Local Authority are based upon the home postcode of the learner. Where the postcode is outside of England, learners are included in the 'Other' category. Where postcode is not known this is also included in the 'Other' category.
7. '—' indicates a base value of less than 50.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to ensure that apprentices who become unemployed are able to complete their apprenticeships in alternative employment. [253080]

Mr. Simon: We have established a matching service to help those apprentices in the construction sector at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. We are currently working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to explore how this approach might be extended to other sectors. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. Such arrangements are being used to help former Woolworth apprentices complete their apprenticeship framework and find alternative employment or training.

The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister last month for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public sector and private sector, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy. This package will further boost the number of people starting an apprenticeship which has increased from 65,000 in 1996-97 to 225,000 last year.

On 12 January 2009 the new online National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service went live. The first chief executive of the new National Apprenticeship Service took up post this week and our National Apprenticeship Service will be fully functional from 1 April 2009 with a remit to expand apprenticeships and provide a single point of contact for employers and apprentices. To raise awareness and encourage more employers to take on or offer more apprenticeships a new national advertising campaign started on 2 February, fronted by Sir Alan Sugar.

Our New Opportunities White Paper published 13 January 2009 announced the Government's commitment to extending group training associations, ensuring all apprentices have clear progression routes, and commitment to work towards an entitlement to an apprenticeship for all young people leaving care. Looking to the future, we have set ambitious targets for the growth of the apprenticeships programme. Apprenticeships provisions will be taken forward as part of forthcoming legislation, including provisions to ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people began an adult apprenticeship in the last academic year; and how many such people were in employment when their apprenticeships began. [254167]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: Table 1 shows the number of adult apprenticeship starts in 2007-08, by age.

Information about apprentices' employment status at the start of their apprenticeship is not available. Total starts figures are provided. Framework completions (all ages) have increased from 39,000 in 2001-02 to 111,800 in 2006-07 and 112,600 in 2007-08.

Table 1: Adult apprenticeship starts by age in 2007-08

Apprenticeship starts	2007-08
19-24	90,100
25+	27,200
All adult apprenticeship starts	117,300
All apprenticeship starts	224,800

Notes:
1. Age is based on age at start of course.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
WBL ILR

Apprentices: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking in West Chelmsford constituency to increase the number of apprenticeships. [254771]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 443W. We are taking a wide range of steps to encourage more people to take up apprenticeships and to encourage more employers to offer high quality places both in West Chelmsford and across the rest of England. On the 4 February we introduced our Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, including provisions to an entitlement to an apprenticeship place for all suitably qualified young people from 2013.

The Government are committed to apprenticeships and since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 64,000 with only 27 per cent. completions to last year's record high of 225,000 with 64 per cent. completions, a remarkable achievement.

Apprentices: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new apprenticeships have been created in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [255028]

Mr. Simon: This Government are committed to apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 64,000 with only 27 per cent completions to last year's record high of 225,000 with 64 per cent. completions, a remarkable achievement.

Tables 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Cumbria local authority, Copeland constituency and the total for England. Figures are presented from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the latest year for which fully audited data is available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Cumbria local authority and Copeland constituency, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Cumbria local authority	3,000	3,000	3,300	3,700	3,800
Copeland constituency	600	630	520	620	640

Notes:
1. Volumes for Cumbria are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Volumes for Copeland constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.
4. These figures include WBL (apprenticeships only).
5. This table uses programme starts/completions as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts/completions at any point during the year. Learners starting/completing more than one course will appear more than once.
6. Local authority and constituency are based on home postcode of the learner.
Source:
WBL ILR

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding has been provided by his Department to support apprenticeship schemes in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [255030]

Mr. Simon: Information on apprenticeships funding in Cumbria is provided in the following table. This funding relates to providers contracted in the LSC Cumbria area and is not available at constituency level.

Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 64,000 with only 27 per cent. completions to last year's record high of 225,000 with 64 per cent. completions, a remarkable achievement. We will build on this with funding for apprenticeships in England planning to be increased to over £1 billion in 2009-10. Last month my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide 35,000 extra apprenticeship places in the coming year.

LSC Cumbria apprenticeships funding allocation

	Apprenticeships funding allocation (£ million)
2004/05	9.0
2005/06	9.2
2006/07	9.0
2007/08	10.4
2008/09 (provisional)	15.5

Source:
Learning and Skills Council.

Apprentices: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people were undertaking apprenticeships in Leeds West constituency in each year since 2005. [255473]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 64,000 with only 27 per cent. completions to last year's record high of 225,000 with 64 per cent. completions, a remarkable achievement.

Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in the parliamentary constituency of Leeds West, in each academic year from 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Starts in 2005-06 to 2007-08

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Leeds West constituency	290	300	410
All apprenticeships	175,000	184,400	224,800

Notes:
1. Parliamentary Constituency is based on learner's home postcode.
2. Numbers for Leeds West have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Numbers for England have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:
WBL ILR

Chelmsford Prison: Education

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* young offenders in HM Prison Chelmsford he estimates have literacy problems. [254752]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not routinely make estimates of the percentage of offenders, by establishment, with literacy problems. The first report from the Ministry of Justice's Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction study ("The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey", October 2008) showed that 48 per cent. of young offenders starting a new prison sentence and 46 per cent. of adult offenders starting a new prison sentence had no academic or vocational qualifications.

The principle of screening all offenders, with a full assessment of those who take up learning, lies at the heart of offender learning and skills delivery. Following the October 2008 Public Accounts Committee report, we are working closely with the Ministry of Justice to strengthen the screening and assessment process. Later this year, the Learning and Skills Council will introduce a new screening tool, developed in consultation with Dyslexia Action, to screen for a range of learning difficulties.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department have been disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues since its inception. [254084]

Mr. Simon: There have been no recorded cases of bullying or harassment of employees in the Department or the former Department for Education and Skills which resulted in staff being disciplined.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256222]

Mr. Simon: The information could be obtained only in the form requested at disproportionate cost as once individuals are appointed to the Department, having cleared nationality, passport, proof of identity, reference and criminal records bureau checks, our human resource information systems do not distinguish between EU or non-EU nationality.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253299]

Mr. Simon: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website (www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk) where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

The Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

In the Department, the human resources intranet site which is being developed will include detailed information on the pension options available to staff. The new site is due to be launched in April. In the interim, staff are signposted to DIUS's pension administrator and the civil service pensions website for information.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254241]

Mr. Simon: Information on appointments made by my Department is published on the Department's website. More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's Annual Report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in both Libraries.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 952W, on redundancy, what estimate has he made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254458]

Mr. Simon: The information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Educational Institutions: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which colleges submitted applications in respect of the Building Colleges for the Future programme for approval in *(a)* principle and *(b)* detail at the December meeting of the Learning and Skills Council; and if he will make a statement. [253278]

Mr. Simon: The total capital expenditure in further education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Gentleman with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff at the Learning and Skills Council are employed in administering education maintenance allowance payments. [254272]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Cotswold with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Engineering: Higher Education

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on funding for postgraduate courses in nuclear engineering. [253942]

Mr. Lammy: It is the role of the Research Councils to make decisions on the funding of postgraduate courses. The Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) is the main UK Government Agency for funding research and training in nuclear engineering. The EPSRC has invested £1 million and industry partners £1.6 million to the Nuclear Technology Education Consortium, involving 11 institutions, to provide masters level training for the nuclear industries. The EPSRC also funds the £7.1 million Postgraduate Nuclear Research/Nuclear Engineering Doctorate programme in Nuclear Engineering, based at the university of Manchester. Successful candidates receive a standard EPSRC doctoral stipend enhanced by a contribution from a sponsoring company. We are currently looking at the supply and demand for postgraduate courses in nuclear engineering in the years to come.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* successful applicants of each sex and socio-economic group there were to study (i) medicine, (ii) engineering, (iii) physics, (iv) chemistry, (v) veterinary medicine, (vi) accountancy, (vii) dentistry and (viii) economics at university in each year since 2002. [254370]

Mr. Lammy: The information has been placed in both Libraries.

For the academic years recorded in the tables, for those aged up to 20, UCAS recorded socio-economic class based on the applicant's parent's occupation; for those aged 21 and over, the applicant's socio-economic class was based on their own occupation. UCAS has released figures for 2008/09, but because of changes it has made to their application form, it is only possible to compare the social backgrounds of 18-year-olds and under. This is why socio-economic class data for 2008-09 are listed in a separate table.

The 2008-09 data are also not directly comparable with previous years due to the fact that they also contain applicants and accepted applications to nursing and midwifery (NMas) courses.

Some time series data may also be affected by changes in the maximum number of courses which could be applied for. In 2008/09 a maximum of five applications could be made per applicant, whereas in the years prior to this up to six applications could be made by each applicant.

Higher Education: Nuclear Physics

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of nuclear engineering graduates. [255176]

Mr. Lammy: The Government have designated all engineering degrees as strategically important and vulnerable subjects. These subjects benefit from a £350 million programme of support administered by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to stimulate demand and secure supply. Additionally, there is a £140 million strategy over 2008 to 2011 to support the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) agenda. We are currently keeping the supply and demand for undergraduate nuclear engineering courses under review.

Perfect Gift Scheme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what evaluation has been made of the Perfect Gift scheme; and if he will place a copy of the evaluation report in the Library. [251280]

Mr. Simon: The Perfect Gift scheme was launched as a pilot project in October 2007 in nine further education colleges across England (one college per Learning and Skills Council region). Following the launch, individual colleges were responsible for ongoing promotion and communication. Initial evaluation with participating colleges showed that despite encouraging media coverage at launch, the take-up of vouchers during the pilot was lower than anticipated. The low take-up determined that the pilot would not be developed further. As a result, the production of a formal evaluation document was not deemed necessary.

Research and Science

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Wales and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Education on the results of the recent Universities Research Assessment Exercise; and if he will make a statement; [255338]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on UK science policy with *(a)* Scottish Executive Ministers, *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and *(c)* Northern Ireland Executive Ministers; and if he will make a statement; [255340]

(3) what recent discussions he has had on UK science policy with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales; and if he will make a statement. [255341]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills has regular meetings with his counterparts in the devolved administrations and relevant Cabinet colleagues on a range of issues including research and science policy, as do his ministerial team and senior officials. Last week the Secretary of State met Jane Hutt the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on a visit to the university of Cardiff.

Students: Debts

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average amount of debt of *(a)* full-time undergraduate, *(b)* part-time undergraduate and *(c)* postgraduate students was on leaving university in each year since 1997. [255386]

Mr. Lammy: The personal debt of students is a reflection of their overall financial position when they leave university. It takes into account student loan and commercial borrowing less their savings.

The most recent assessment made of the personal debt of students on graduation for English domiciled full-time and part-time undergraduate students was the 2004/05 Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES). The survey found that full-time undergraduates left university with average personal debt of £7,918, and part-time students graduated in credit by £347 on average.

A consistent time series for these estimates is not available because earlier surveys were based on samples with differing characteristics. For example, in 1998/99, average personal debt on graduation was estimated to be £3,462 for UK full-time undergraduates, and in 2002/03, £8,666 for English and Welsh full-time undergraduates under 25 years old.

The 2007/08 SIES is expected in the spring, and this will provide an assessment of the financial position of students who left university in 2008.

Students: Loans

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many student loans have been made by the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years. [255026]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows.

Maintenance loans taken out, England[1]

Academic year	*Loans taken out*[2]
2003/04	682,900
2004/05	693,100
2005/06	719,100
2006/07	728,100
2007/08 (provisional)	746,200

[1] The table covers English domiciled students studying in the UK.
[2] Figures rounded to nearest 100.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Tuition fee loans taken out, England[1]

Academic year	*Loans taken out*[2]
2006/07	397,300
2007/08 (provisional)	553,900

[1] The table covers English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England.
[2] Figures rounded to nearest 100.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Tuition Fee Loans were introduced in 2006/07. They are available to both current system students and pre-2006/07 entrants who make a contribution to their fees.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on Train to Gain brokers in 2007-08; and what percentage of Train to Gain expenditure in that year this figure represents. [254456]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 5 February 2009]*: Train to Gain total spend for 2007-08 financial year was £312,959,000 of which £38,630,000 was spent on brokerage. This represents 12.3 per cent. of the overall spend.

Train to Gain is the key service for supporting employers to invest in the future productivity and profitability of their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees. Train to Gain offers quality-assured, impartial advice from skills brokers, to help business, identify the skills needs at all levels and make the right, informed choices.

Since Train to Gain was rolled out nationally in August 2006, it has engaged over 101,000 employers and supported over 570,000 learners to begin learning, of whom over 290,000 have achieved a qualification.

Train to Gain total spend for 2007-08 financial year was £312,959,000 of which £38,630,000 was spent on brokerage. This represents 12.3 per cent. of the overall spend.

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on the provision of careers advice to *(a)* young people and *(b)* adults by agencies for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [254376]

Mr. Simon: Information on the total amount spent on careers advice is not collected. Young people and adults receive careers advice from a range of sources including from learning providers, Connexions services, nextstep and the Careers Advice Service. Funding for learning providers does not include a sum ring-fenced for careers advice.

(a) Connexions services advise young people on a range of issues including careers. Prior to 2001, careers services provided advice and guidance on careers and related issues. Funding has been provided to Connexions/careers services as set out in the following table.

	Funding
1997-98	£192 million to careers services
1998-99	£210 million to careers services
1999-2000	£223 million to careers services
2000-01	£233 million to careers services
2001-02	£110 million to Connexions £173 million to careers services
2002-03	£337 million to Connexions £52 million to careers services
2003-04	£439 million to Connexions
2004-05	£458 million to Connexions
2005-06	£464 million to Connexions
2006-07	£466 million to Connexions
2007-08	£467 million to Connexions
2008-09	£469 million to Connexions

(b) Prior to 1999, the delivery of careers advice to adults was largely delivered by local initiatives and no information was collected on funding for careers advice within these. The information and advice for adults programme began in April 1999. Responsibility for planning and funding the adult information and advice service transferred to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in April 2001. Funding allocated for the adult information and advice service includes delivery of the local face to face service through nextstep, Careers Advice Service (formally learndirect careers advice), development projects and quality assurance arrangements.

	Funding
1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02	£54 million across the three years
2002-03	£54 million
2003-04	£58 million
2004-05	£58 million
2005-06	£63 million
2006-07	£63 million
2007-08	£63 million
2008-09	£72 million

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of Learning and Skills Council-funded work-based learning provision has been allocated to non-UK nationals in the academic years *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [254186]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the number of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded work-based learners in 2007/08, split by whether the learner is UK or non-UK domiciled. 2007/08 is the latest year for which we have fully-audited information.

To be eligible for LSC funding an individual needs to satisfy the residency criteria set out in LSC Learner Eligibility Guidance. In general, this means that they need to have been lawfully living in the UK, European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) for the three years prior to the start of their course. There may also be additional criteria directly linked to the type of work based programme they are undertaking such as the need to be in employment.

Less than 1 per cent. of LSC-funded learners studying work-based learning were non-UK domiciled in 2007/08. Non-UK domiciled learners will include those from both the EU and EEA.

LSC-funded work-based learning in 2007/08, by whether the learner is UK or non-UK domiciled

	Number
UK domiciled learners	495,000
Non-UK domiciled learners	500
Not known	200

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. This information is based on country of domicile—institutions are advised that the country of domicile field should be treated as a self-assessment field and reflect the country where the learner was ordinarily resident for the three years preceding the start of their programme.
3. These figures include apprenticeships and entry to employment.
4. This table uses learner volumes as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year.

Source:
WBL ILR

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

SERCO

Mr. Fiello: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of his Department's contracts held with SERCO in each year since his Department was established. [253252]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the value of contracts held with SERCO in each year since the Department was established is as follows:

	£
2007-08	
Cornwell Management Consultants plc/ T/A SERCO consulting	128,868.10
SERCO Ltd.	6,577,744.02
Grand Total	6,706,612.12
2008-09	
SERCO Ltd.	655,478.99
Grand Total	655,478.99

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Merton

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to establish bail hostels in *(a)* Wimbledon constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Merton. [255951]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 151-152W.

No bail hostels are being established in the constituency of Wimbledon. The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provides private, rented accommodation in small houses and flats with up to five people sharing, not hostels. The Director of Offender Management for London has identified a need for one three-bedroom property in Merton and ClearSprings are seeking an appropriate property. When properties are identified ClearSprings consult the police, probation and local authority before proceeding. In Merton they have consulted in relation to a property that was considered but not proceeded with and have held meetings with council officials and councillors. It is my practice to write to the relevant Member of Parliament when first a property is being readied for use in his/her constituency. At 26 January 2009 ClearSprings were providing 176 properties in England and Wales.

Cannabis: Penalty Notices

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to issue guidance to police forces under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 on issuing penalty notices for disorder for cannabis possession. [254365]

Maria Eagle: Secretary of State guidance to forces on the issue of penalty notices for disorder for cannabis possession will be issued shortly. Additionally, the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued guidance on the escalation process of enforcement under which a penalty notice for disorder may be issued for a second possession offence.

Compensation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims for compensation under the Human Rights Act 1998 have been brought against his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* by prisoners since 2000. [255247]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at significant disproportionate cost requiring individual examination of thousands of files.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has paid out in compensation in respect of claims made under the Human Rights Act 1998 since 2000. [255393]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is not held centrally. Given that issues relating to the Human Rights Act may be raised in any proceedings in any court or tribunal, the information could be obtained only by a member of staff manually sifting through all files held in respect of proceedings brought against the Department (or its predecessors) during the last nine years, to identify whether any compensation paid was in respect of a claim involving the Human Rights Act. The cost of doing so would be disproportionate.

Coroners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of inquests held into potential finds of treasure have been held within three months of the case being referred to the coroner in each year since the Treasure Act 1996 came into force; and if he will make a statement; [254535]

(2) what the average length of time was between *(a)* the referral of a case regarding potential treasure finds to a coroner and the commencement of the inquest, *(b)* the referral of a case regarding potential treasure finds to a coroner and the completion of the inquest and *(c)* the commencement of an inquest regarding potential treasure and the completion of the inquest was in each year since the Treasure Act 1996 came into force; and if he will make a statement. [254549]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the number of finds under the Treasure Act 1996 reported to coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, the number of treasure inquests concluded during the year and, of these, the number of verdicts of treasure returned. Information is not collected on the time taken to conduct treasure inquests.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the annual running cost of an office of a Coroner for Treasure; what proportion of such costs he expects to be incurred in relation to main funds; and if he will make a statement. [254548]

Bridget Prentice: We estimate that the total annual running cost of implementing an office of a coroner for treasure would be £324,000.

There is no provision in the Coroners and Justice Bill for a Coroner for Treasure.

Courts: Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much courts in Wales spent on *(a)* translation and *(b)* interpretation between English and Welsh in each year since 2000. [254196]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested for translation costs is contained in the following table.

Translation between English and Welsh

These costs relate to the translation of the written word and include the cost of an internal translator's post.

English/Welsh translation costs incurred in courts in Wales

£

	Translation cost	Salary of Translator
2002-03	37,051	24,000
2003-04	32,125	24,000
2004-05	46,002	25,000
2005-06	89,000	23,000
2006-07	87,051	11,000
2007-08	112,000	26,360

Records do not go back further than 2002. Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) came into existence in April 2005. The costs for the years preceding this date have been collated from pre-HMCS records and therefore exclude the translation cost incurred in Welsh magistrates courts committees.

Interpretation between English and Welsh

HMCS would only be able to identify spend on interpreters at a disproportionate cost as expenditure records are not kept at this level of detail.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255224]

Bridget Prentice: Ministers in the Ministry of Justice have not received any representations from these four peers in the last seven months.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's procurement success review (1) how many roles within his Department will not be available via the redeployment pool; [254343]

(2) how long employees of his Department will have in which to make decisions on their re-employment under the procurement success review proposals; [254344]

(3) whether the new Director's post will be advertised under the job matching process; [254345]

(4) who the members of the job matching panel will be; and what powers the panel will have; [254347]

(5) whether senior managers who are required to take jobs at a lower grade level as a result of reclassification will be entitled to maintain their current level of pay; and what information has been supplied to such managers on the matter; [254352]

(6) what information has been given to employees on the appeals procedure relating to the reclassification of grades; [254353]

(7) whether public interest transfer terms will apply in circumstances where a post is relocated as part of the review. [254354]

Mr. Malik: The availability of roles through the redeployment pool will not be known until the job matching process is complete. Posts not filled via job matching will be available to surplus procurement staff first.

Job descriptions for the new organisation were issued on 13 January 2009. Organisation charts and information about the matching process had previously been issued (on 9 January). Staff have until 4 February to submit their job matching forms.

The Director of Procurement post will be subject to the normal selection process for senior civil service posts.

The job matching panel will consist of two senior managers within procurement and a representative from human resources from within the National Offender Management Service or central Ministry of Justice Human Resources. There will also be a member of staff from the Ministry of Justice part of procurement who will work with the panel members to verify the process. Senior managers will be called on as appropriate where additional information is required for specialist roles. The panel will identify staff who match roles in the new organisation.

Should senior managers be required to fill posts at a lower level, they will have protection, in line with current policies, in respect of their pay at the higher level. Staff have been advised of this both in writing and verbally.

Where this has been asked staff have been advised that this should be raised through line management. It will then be handled in line with departmental human resources policy.

Public interest transfer terms will apply where jobs are relocated and staff need to move. Affordability will also be taken into account in making decisions about relocating staff. This has been advised to staff.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254060]

Maria Eagle: Ministers and officials within the Ministry of Justice have regular engagements with a range of organisations, including relevant Government Departments, on a number of issues relating to the economy.

Magistrates Courts: Powers

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the redacted paragraphs of the Magistrates' Court Guidance - Search and Entry Powers (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004). [255246]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 372W.

The Information Commissioner agreed with the proposed redactions when the guidance was first released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 9 December 2008 and the Government have no plans to release the redacted parts.

Offences against Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions in cases of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 there were in each of the last three years. [253853]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 in England and Wales for the years 2005 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data provided are for those statutes where the age of the victim is specified.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of persons found guilty of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	2005	2006	2007
Found guilty	1,351	1,764	1,866

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The following sections of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 have been used for this table:

1, 5, 6, 7, 8(1) & (2), 8(1) & (3), 9(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & (2), 9(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (2), 9(1)(a)(b)(c)(iii) & (2) & (13), 9(a)(b)(c)(iii) & (3), 9(1)(a)(b)(c)(iii) & 9(2) & (13), 9(a)(b)(c)(i)(3) & 13, 9(a)(b)(c)(ii)(3) & 13, 10(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & (3), 10(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (3) 10(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & 13, 10(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & 13, 10(1)(a),(b),(c)(i)(2) & (13), 10(1)(a),(b),(c)(ii)(2) & (13), 11(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(iii) & (13), 12(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & (2), 12(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (2), 12(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & (13), 12(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (13), 14, 15, 16(1)(a)-(c)(e)(i)&(5), 16(1)(a)-(c)(e)(ii)&(5), 16(1)(a)-(d)(e)(i) & (2) to (5), 16(1)(a)-(d)(e)(ii) & (2) to (5), 17(1)(a)-(d)(e)(ii) 2 & (5), 17(1)(a)-(c)(e)(i)&(5), 17(1)(a)-(c)(e)(ii)&(5), 18(1)(a)-(e)(f)(ii) & (2) to (5), 18(1)(a)-(e)(f)(i) & (2) to (5), 18(1)(a)-(d)(f)(i)&(5), 18(1)(a)-(d)(f)(ii)&(5), 19(1)(a)-(c), (e)(i) & (5), 19(1)(a)-(c)(e)(ii) & (5), 25(1)(a)-(d)(e)(i) & (5), 25(1)(a)-(d)(e)(ii) & (5), 25(1)(a)-(d)(e)(i) (4)(a) & (6), 26(1)(a)-(d)(e)(i)(4)(a) & (6), 25(1)(a)-(d)(e)(i) & (4)(b), 25(1)(a)-(d)(e)(ii) & (4)(b), 26(1)(a)-(d)(e)(i) & (4)(b), 26(1)(a)-(d)(e)(ii) & (4)(b), 26(1)(a)-(d)(e)(ii) & (5), 47(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & (4)(b), 47(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) & (4)(b), 47(1)(a)(b)(c)(ii)(3) & (6), 47(1)(a)(b)(c)(i)(4)(a) & (6), 47(1)(a)(b)(c)(i) & (5) 48(1)(a)(b)(i) & (2), 48(1)(a)(b)(ii) & (2), 50(1)(a)(b)(i) & (2), 50(1)(a) (b)(ii) & (2), 71

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Our ref: PQ 253853 (Table)

Offenders: Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 17, (ii) between 17 and 21, (iii) between 21 and 25, (iv) between 25 and 29 years of age and (v) over 30 years of age and older were convicted of drug offences in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [254367]

Maria Eagle: Information showing the number of males and females found guilty at all courts for drug offences in England and Wales broken down by age is given in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007, broken down by age and sex[1, 2, 3]

Age	*Sex*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[4]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Male	1,137	1,395	1,748	2,176	2,455	2,630	2,420	2,513	2,431	2,842
	Female	75	92	118	133	155	168	162	186	147	177
10 to 16	Total	1,212	1,487	1,866	2,309	2,610	2,798	2,582	2,699	2,578	3,019
	Male	8,950	9,296	9,251	9,547	10,284	10,399	7,096	6,926	7,277	8,479
	Female	705	775	725	742	735	660	522	521	470	490
17-20	Total	9,655	10,071	9,976	10,289	11,019	11,059	7,618	7,447	7,747	8,969
	Male	9,075	8,829	8,222	8,650	9,348	9,605	6,686	6,450	6,439	7,510
	Female	1,018	966	829	893	907	936	751	675	629	627
21-2[illegible]	Total	10,093	9,795	9,051	9,543	10,255	10,541	7,437	7,125	7,068	8,137
	Male	10,183	9,592	8,147	7,809	7,963	7,958	6,189	6,114	6,430	7,191
	Female	1,257	1,216	1,003	897	1,011	1,024	844	824	792	825
25-29	Total	11,440	10,808	9,150	8,706	8,974	8,982	7,033	6,938	7,222	8,016
	Male	14,380	14,413	12,[illegible]7	12,989	14,239	15,490	12,600	12,882	13,073	14,396
	Female	2,041	2,137	1,881	1,785	1,939	2,292	1,927	1,999	1,894	2,028
30 and over	Total	16,421	16,550	14,578	14,774	16,178	17,782	14,527	14,881	14,967	16,424
All ages	Total	48,821	48,711	44,621	45,621	49,036	51,162	39,197	39,090	39,582	44,565

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

[4] Cannabis was reclassified from a class B drug to a class C drug in January 2004, which also saw the introduction of the cannabis warning as an out of court disposal.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons were exceeding their *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* operational capacity at the latest date for which information is available. [252827]

Mr. Straw: As at 19 December 2008, there were 85 prisons exceeding their certified normal accommodation. The in-use certified normal accommodation (CNA) level is the uncrowded capacity of an establishment, taking into account those places not available for immediate use (i.e. damaged cells or cells affected by building work)

There are no prisons exceeding their operational capacity. The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold, taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by area managers on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

Prison Sentences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of sentences of imprisonment for public protection on *(a)* levels of discipline among and *(b)* the size of the prison population. [255447]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on prison discipline are published annually by the Ministry of Justice in chapter 8 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics, available publicly at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/omcs2007.pdf

It is not possible to provide figures on discipline hearings for prisoners subject to indeterminate sentences for public protection because the National Offender Management Service does not collect centrally information on adjudications by sentence type.

The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population, most recently in September 2008.

Indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) are included in the modelling of the prison population. At the time the projections were made, the rate at which IPP were being issued was around 140[1] per month. However, changes made in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 are expected to reduce that to around 45 per month. On 15 December 2008, there were 4,960[1] IPPs in the prison population. The impact of IPP as a sentence on the population will take some time to work through as most, if not all, offenders sentenced to IPP would have in any event received a prison sentence. Any change to the population will therefore be as a result of length of time served.

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2008-2015" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 18 September 2008. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 10.

Prison Service: Surveys

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will instruct the management of the Prison Service to allow the Prison Officers' Association to conduct a ballot of its members in relation to the workforce management proposals. [255010]

Mr. Hanson: At their Special Delegates' Conference, the Prisoner Officers' Association called for a workplace ballot on the work force modernisation proposals. A timetable for this to take place has now been set and the ballot is due to take place between 8 and 18 February. It is anticipated that results will be known by 20 February.

Prisons: Education

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what companies have been contracted to provide education services to each prison in Wales in each of the last five years; what the value of each contract was; and what courses were provided under each contract. [256023]

Mr. Hanson: From 1998 until end of August 2005 the provision of education services for all public prisons in Wales was contracted to Coleg Gwent. Since then the Prison Service has directly employed teaching staff to deliver education services in Wales and to arrange specific specialist courses to be provided.

The following table shows the total funding for education services, including library provision, in each of the last five years in public prisons in Wales, which are Cardiff, Usk and Prescoed and Swansea.

	£ million
2004-05	1.6
2005-06	1.8
2006-07	2.1
2007-08	2.2
2008-09	2.3

In general the courses delivered in each year during the five year period across the prison estate included the following:

Basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Key communication skills.

Generic courses such as the Arts, English, Maths, Creative Writing, Welsh.

Vocational courses such as Food Safety and Hygiene, painting and decorating.

Personal and Social skills.

Employability skills such as First Aid and Health and Safety.

Further Education and Open University courses.

HMP/YOI Parc is a contracted prison and provides education services as part of the overall contract delivery. In addition to the core services which are equivalent to those delivered in HMPS establishments, a supplementary allocation is provided to support the education provision at the prison as follows:

	£
2004-05	195,000
2005-06	195,000
2006-07	195,000
2007-08	195,000
2008-09	195,000

In general the courses delivered in each year during the five year period included the following:

Basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Key communication skills.

Generic courses such as the Arts, English, Psychology, Maths, Creative Writing.

Vocational skills such as food hygiene, painting and decorating.

Personal and Social skills.

Employability skills such as First Aid and Health and Safety.

Further Education and Open University.

Road Traffic Offences: East of England

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* fined for speeding offences in (i) St Albans constituency, (ii) Hertfordshire and (iii) the East of England in each of the last five years. [254224]

Maria Eagle: Speeding offences, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regulations 1973, can be dealt with by way of written warnings, court proceedings or the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

Available information collected centrally on the Court Proceedings Database, held by the Ministry of Justice, on the number of persons given a court fine for speed limit offences within the Hertfordshire police force area and the east of England Government office region from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided in table 1 as follows.

Information collected centrally by the Home Office on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences, by area, for the period 2002 to 2006 (latest available) is given in table 2 as follows. Data for 2007 are due to be published in the spring of 2009.

Formal cautions are not given for motoring offences.

Data collected centrally are available at police force area level only and therefore information for St. Albans constituency is not available.

Table 1: Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] for speed limit offences[2] within the Hertfordshire police force area, and the east of England Government office region[3], 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

		Number of offences
	Area	*Number of fines[1]*
2003	Hertfordshire	2,167
	East region	19,249
2004	Hertfordshire	1,806
	East region	17,607

Table 1: Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] for speed limit offences[2] within the Hertfordshire police force area, and the east of England Government office region[3], 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

	Area	Number of offences Number of fines[1]
2005	Hertfordshire	2,990
	East region	25,685
2006	Hertfordshire	2,915
	East region	24,907
2007	Hertfordshire	2,525
	East region	24,261

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown Court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.
[3] Includes, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk police force areas.
[4] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] in Hertfordshire police force area and the east of England local government office region, 2002 to 2006

Number of offences

Police force area	2002[3]	2003[3]	2004	2005	2006
Hertfordshire	23,203	28,896	61,637	49,738	81,805
East of England[4]	206,632	238,442	274,838	290,362	270,846

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.
[4] Includes following police force areas: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Theft: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of people convicted of theft who have a drug addiction in the last 12 months. [254336]

Maria Eagle: From information held by the Ministry of Justice it is not possible to separately identify those persons convicted of theft who have a drug addiction.

War Crimes: Prosecutions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consents are required for the prosecution of an alleged offence relating to war crimes committed overseas following a citizen's arrest in the UK. [254550]

Maria Eagle: The Attorney-General's consent is required for the prosecution of war crimes under the War Crimes Act 1991 or the International Criminal Court Act 2001. The Attorney-General's consent is also required for the prosecution of offences under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957.

HEALTH

Tuberculosis/HIV

10. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of tuberculosis (TB) patients in England are co-infected with HIV; and what plans there are to reduce HIV-TB co-infection rates. [255404]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent data from the Health Protection Agency indicate that approximately 8 per cent. of tuberculosis (TB) cases in England are co-infected with HIV.

Guidelines for the management of patients with co-infection are available from the British HIV Association, and in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for TB.

Safe Drinking

11. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to increase public awareness of safe drinking levels. [255405]

Dawn Primarolo: In May 2008, we launched a national campaign to increase awareness of alcohol units, lower-risk levels for regular consumption and the health risks of exceeding these levels.

Early analysis shows promising results, with campaign recall running at 73 per cent. We intend that this campaign should be sustained over a number of years.

Mixed-sex Wards

12. **Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to minimise the number of mixed sex wards in NHS hospitals. [255406]

Alan Johnson: The national health service has already made significant progress in reducing mixed sex accommodation and two weeks ago, I set out measures for the next six months to eliminate mixed sex accommodation altogether except where clinically justified.

This will provide practical assistance where problems remain and ensure that, once eradicated, mixed sex accommodation does not re-emerge in the future.

BASICs Doctors

13. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the role of British Association for Immediate Care doctors in emergency response; and if he will make a statement. [255407]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last 12 months, we have received a small number of letters on the role of BASICs in emergency response. There was an adjournment debate in June 2008 and an Early Day Motion tabled by the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten).

We think BASICs doctors provide an excellent service and regional strategic health authorities, who are responsible for trauma care in their areas are examining how pre-hospital care can be improved including the sort of services provided by BASICs doctors.

Alternative and Complementary Medicine: Regulation

14. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plans to provide for the statutory regulation of the professions of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine before the EU Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products comes into force in 2011. [255408]

Mr. Bradshaw: We plan to consult shortly on how best to regulate the activities of these practitioners.

National Dementia Strategy

16. **David Lepper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department is planning to issue to NHS organisations and local authorities on the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy for England. [255410]

Phil Hope: My hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced publication of the first ever National Dementia Strategy on 3 February this year. Alongside the strategy, the Department also published an implementation plan, which is available on the Department's dementia website. We will also be providing a nationwide regional support programme.

NHS Constitution

17. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways the NHS Constitution will provide rapid access to high-quality healthcare services. [255411]

Ann Keen: The NHS Constitution reaffirms people's rights to be treated with a professional standard of care, by appropriately qualified and experienced staff, and to expect NHS organisations to make efforts to improve the quality of health care they provide. It also contains a pledge to provide access to services within published waiting times.

NHS Dentistry

18. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry. [255412]

Ann Keen: 26.9 million people saw an national health service dentist in the 24 months ending June 2008.

We have increased dental funding to over £2 billion and made providing access to anyone who seeks help in finding services a national priority. The NHS is planning that all areas will deliver this by March 2011.

Financial Incentives: Secondary Care Referrals

19. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he provides to primary care trusts and GPs on the use of financial incentives to reduce numbers of referrals to secondary care. [255413]

Mr. Bradshaw: General Practitioners have a duty to provide the best care for each patient. Where primary care trusts (PCTs) agree local incentive schemes these should not cut across this duty or restrict patient care. Any incentive scheme must help patients get the right treatment in the most appropriate setting.

The Department's "Care and Resource Utilisation" guidance (published in December 2006) set out how PCTs and clinicians can work together to improve the appropriateness of care that patients receive.

Epilepsy Care

20. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of adherence by primary care trusts and acute trusts to guidance on epilepsy care issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [255414]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment. The Healthcare Commission investigates whether national health service organisations have systems in place for the implementation and monitoring of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance, including clinical guidelines, and will assess each organisation's performance against core standards.

Funding Formula: North Yorkshire/York

21. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect the new NHS funding formula has had on North Yorkshire and York primary care trusts' cash allocation for 2009-10. [255415]

Mr. Bradshaw: The new formula recognises that the needs of the primary care trust (PCT) population have increased due to the combined effects of age, health status and deprivation. This is reflected in the additional funding the PCT will receive, which places North Yorkshire and York PCT in the top 30 per cent. in terms of increased funding. The PCT will receive an increase of £118.6 million or 11.6 per cent. over the next two years.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

22. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the arrangements for commissioning drug and alcohol treatment services. [255416]

Dawn Primarolo: The recent National Audit Office report on alcohol services and the joint Healthcare Commission/National Treatment Agency annual reviews of drug services, show that there is room for improvement in the commissioning of these services. We have introduced the World Class Commissioning programme to improve commissioning of all services by the national health service.

Stroke Awareness

23. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to raise public awareness of stroke and stroke symptoms. [255417]

Ann Keen: On 9 February we launched a national stroke awareness campaign. Through television advertisements, radio and press we are raising awareness of stroke symptoms and educating people to become stroke savers—to be able to spot the signs of stroke and know when to call 999 for an ambulance.

This will contribute to significantly reducing the number of deaths and the disability caused by stroke as part of the implementation of the Stroke Strategy as well as reducing long-term disability for stroke survivors.

Asthma: Hospital Admissions

24. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reducing the number of hospital admissions for patients with asthma. [255418]

Ann Keen: From 2004-05 to 2006-07 asthma hospital admissions ranged between 66,055 and 70,907, with 70,136 in 2006-07. We have made significant progress in reducing bed days by more than 27,000 over the same period. We support and encourage the national health service to improve the care offered to people with asthma.

Acute Sector Staff: Assaults

25. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in reducing the number of assaults on NHS staff in the acute sector. [255419]

Ann Keen: The national health service security management service (SMS) was created in 2003, with responsibility for leading on security management work within the NHS. A network of local security management specialists, supported nationally by the SMS, addresses proactive and reactive security needs.

In April 2004, conflict resolution training was introduced for frontline NHS staff. This enables staff to recognise and defuse potential violence. By 31 March 2008 428,000 frontline staff had received this training.

In 2007-08, 10,983 physical assaults against NHS staff and 472 criminal sanctions following assaults were reported in the acute sector.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 creates an offence of causing nuisance or disturbance in NHS hospitals and gives trusts the power to remove people suspected of committing the offence from the premises, preventing incidents from escalating into violence. Those convicted of the new offence could face prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000. Guidance on the use of these powers is being prepared and, following a public consultation, the legislation will be commenced and trusts will be able to use these powers.

Venous Thromboembolism

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include risk assessment for venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients as an indicator in the NHS Operating Framework. [255409]

Ann Keen: The national priorities for the national health service are set out in the Operating Framework which reflects the three-year settlement determined by the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The Operating Framework includes the need to reduce mortality rates; and it is for primary care trusts to determine how to do so locally.

We expect thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment policy to be adopted throughout the NHS. Currently, at the request of the Chief Medical Officer, the chair of the national implementation group is visiting throughout the NHS to discuss with senior managers and doctors their strategies for implementing VTE risk assessment in their hospitals. We will be monitoring the position closely and formally reviewing the policy before the end of this year.

If there is inconsistency in or lack of commitment to implementation, we will consider making it mandatory to perform risk assessment.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there were at *(a)* major accident and emergency departments, *(b)* single speciality accident and emergency departments, *(c)* other types of accident and emergency departments, including minor injury units and *(d)* walk-in centres in each year since 2002. [255605]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of attendances at major accident and emergency departments, single speciality accident and emergency (A and E) departments, other types of accident and emergency departments including minor injury and walk-in centres in each year since 2002.

Attendances at accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk-in centres, England, 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Type 1	*Type 2*	*Type 3*	*Walk-in centres*	*Total*
2002-03	11,994,874	515,808	1,880,840	n/a	14,391,522
2003-04	12,665,482	606,573	1,862,949	1,381,841	16,516,845
2004-05	13,265,820	619,232	1,920,698	2,031,430	17,837,180
2005-06	13,553,686	640,732	2,046,789	2,508,957	18,750,164
2006-07	13,602,589	623,587	2,323,107	2,372,992	18,922,275
2007-08	13,393,554	636,496	2,420,742	2,677,201	19,127,993

Notes:
1. In the table, type 3 excludes walk-in centres.
2. From Q1 2002-03, A and E attendances by type were first collected.
3. From Q1 2003-04, attendances at A and E walk-in centres were included.
4. From Q1 2007-08, attendances at independent sector provided type 3 (and walk-in centre) services were included.

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the table showing the number of accident and emergency departments by type from his Department's Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency for *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* in the earliest year for which his Department holds records. [254022]

Mr. Bradshaw: A table showing the number of accident and emergency (A and E) departments by type from the Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency for *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* in the earliest year for which data are held is set out as follows:

A and E departments, 1996-97 to Q2 2008-09

Year	*Type 1 (Major)*	*Type 2 (Single specialty)*	*Type 3 (Other type of A and E minor injury unit)*
Number of trusts reporting A and E services			
(d) 1996-97	205	33	84
(a) 1997-98	202	33	92
Number of A and E services			
(b) Q3 2002-03	207	47	214
(c) Q2 2008-09	203	75	289

Notes:
1. Prior to 2002-03, Trusts submitted information on whether or not they provided A and E services by type. They did not submit a count of the number of services provided. The guidance also stated: "Where there is more than one A and E Department, indicate the A and E Department type that provides the most comprehensive service."
2. From Q1 2003-04, Walk in Centres are included as a Type 3 department.
Source:
Department of Health datasets KH09 and QMAE.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related disease in each of the last 10 years. [254611]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of alcohol-related finished hospital admissions in England is only available from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and is presented in the following table.

	Number of alcohol-related finished hospital admissions in England
2002-03	510,173
2003-04	569,417
2004-05	644,185
2005-06	735,512
2006-07	799,120

Notes:
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions".
Includes activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis:
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Secondary diagnoses:
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis:
These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received liver transplants for alcohol-related conditions in each year since 1997. [255203]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of people who received liver transplants in the United Kingdom in each financial year since 1 April 1997, where the patient's primary, secondary, or tertiary liver disease was recorded as alcoholic liver disease (ALD):

Number of liver transplants for alcoholic liver disease in the UK, between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2008

Financial year of transplant	*Number of liver transplants for ALD*	*Percentage of all UK liver transplants*
1997-98	94	14
1998-99	86	13
1999-2000	124	18
2000-01	105	16
2001-02	108	16
2002-03	121	17
2003-04	118	17
2004-05	130	20
2005-06	131	21
2006-07	132	20
2007-08	151	23
Total	1,300	Average 18

Animal Experiments

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many animals have been used in medical scientific experiments funded by the NHS in the last five years. [254895]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchive.aspx

The implementation of the Government's health research strategy that began in 2006 means that the Department now funds NHS research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The NIHR's role is to support research involving patients, samples or data taken from patients, people who are not patients, populations, health technology assessment, and health services research.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost per week was of *(a)* private nursing home care, *(b)* private residential care and *(c)* domiciliary social care for those needing care for at least 20 hours per week in the last 12 months. [253236]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: Provisional data on local authority expenditure on state funded social care for 2007-08 were collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The Information Centre expects to publish final data at the end of February 2009. Data on the costs of care to service users who fund in full their own care are not collected by the Information Centre or the Department.

Data collected by the Information Centre do not distinguish between care provided by the private and voluntary sectors. The figures show the cost to local authorities of care purchased from independent—that is, private and voluntary together—providers for people receiving care aged 18 and over.

We are informed by the Information Centre that, in 2007-08, data provided by local authorities show that in England the average cost of nursing home care provided by the independent sector was £499 per person per week, exclusive of the nursing care element paid for by the national health service. The average cost of residential care provided by the independent sector was £564 per person per week.

Although fees for nursing home care are generally higher than those for residential care, the nursing element of residents' care is funded by the NHS, through NHS-funded nursing care, which reduces the net cost to local authorities. NHS-funded nursing care is paid for by primary care trusts. The standard rate is £103.80 per week and the higher rate is £142.80 per week.

Data are not available on the costs of providing at least 20 hours per week of domiciliary care. The average cost to local authorities for a person aged 18 and over receiving domiciliary social care in 2007-08 was £152 per person per week.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 15 October 1990, *Official Report*, column 662W, on haemophiliacs (Aids), (1) how many of the documents that were withheld from the courts by the Department were among those that were not released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; and if he will make a statement; [253285]

(2) how many documents were withheld from the courts by the Department; and if he will make a statement; [253286]

(3) which documents that were withheld from the courts by the Department have been subsequently released to the independent inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products chaired by Lord Archer QC of Sandwell; and if he will make a statement. [253287]

Dawn Primarolo: In July 1990, the then Permanent Under-Secretary of State certified to the High Court that approximately 600 documents enjoyed immunity from disclosure in civil litigation with regard to haemophiliacs who had contracted the AIDS virus in the course of national health service treatment. A definitive list of the documents is no longer available in the Department's files, and it is not therefore possible to state with confidence how many may also have been withheld in line with the Freedom of Information Act from the approximately 4,500 documents released to Lord Archer in 2007.

The documents issued to Lord Archer had been rediscovered in the Department stored in unregistered files, and 26 of these unregistered files were marked as undisclosed in litigation. It is therefore believed that these files contain the documents referred to in the 1990 certificate. From those 26 files, 12 documents were withheld in whole and nine in part from those released in 2007. These were withheld in line with exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and not in relation to different decisions made in 1990 when different rules applied.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has received *(a)* a draft copy and *(b)* an advance copy of the report of the Independent Public Inquiry into Contaminated Blood Products; and if he will make a statement. [255217]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not received a draft copy or an advance copy of the report of the Independent Public Inquiry into Contaminated Blood Products.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of people in each region who are not accessing the drug and alcohol treatment they require; and if he will make a statement. [251177]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) and their partner agencies to estimate the level of need for drug and alcohol treatment services for their local population as part of the commissioning process. Data on those not accessing drug and/or alcohol treatment are not collected centrally.

In 2004 the Department commissioned the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project's (ANARP) to measure the gap between the demand for and provision of specialist alcohol treatment services in England at a national and regional level.

ANARP research was conducted over a period of six months between September 2004 and February 2005, and as part of this work, ANARP estimated that around 5.6 per cent. (approximately 63,000) of the in-need alcohol dependent population were accessing alcohol treatment per year, although the new National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System suggests that actual numbers may be higher than this. Since the Department published ANARP, in November 2005, action has been taken to improve access to treatment for those dependent on alcohol.

From April 2008, a new indicator became part of both National Health Service Vital Signs and the National Indicator Set for Local Area Agreements. This measures change in the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions and is expected to encourage PCTs to invest in earlier identification of people who drink too much, leading to brief advice by general practitioners or other health care staff and, if necessary, referral to treatment. 99 PCTs and 76 local authorities have included this indicator as one of their local priorities, setting out local targets and plans for reducing alcohol related hospital admissions.

From November 2008, a new Alcohol Improvement Programme is providing practical support and guidance to the NHS including:

Regional Alcohol Managers to galvanise and support local action;

a new National Support Team for Alcohol, to provide strategic advice to areas that experience the highest rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions;

an on-line Alcohol Learning Centre with training resources for practitioners and tools and guidance for planners and commissioners; and

20 early implementer PCTs in areas of high health inequalities are receiving funding and support to go further faster to reduce alcohol-related harms.

Eating Disorders: Children

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children between the age of 10 and 18 years were treated for *(a)* bulimia and *(b)* anorexia in each year since 1997; [255779]

(2) how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10, (iii) 11, (iv) 12, (v) 13, (vi) 14, (vii) 15, (viii) 16, (ix) 17 and (x) 18 years old were admitted to hospital for illnesses or conditions relating to eating disorders in each year since 1997. [255780]

Phil Hope: Data on first admission episodes for children and young people admitted to hospital for treatment for bulimia, anorexia and other eating disorders are in the following tables.

Anorexia Nervosa

		Under 10	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
2006-07	Male	0	0	4	4	11	9	16	8	0	3
	Female	5	10	18	40	47	93	141	108	74	61
2005-06	Male	0	3	6	2	3	5	13	5	11	3
	Female	1	10	11	35	56	90	128	69	68	55
2004-05	Male	2	1	2	8	3	12	7	6	2	4
	Female	4	12	7	30	53	92	72	71	53	52
2003-04	Male	1	1	2	4	5	6	6	3	6	2
	Female	1	4	27	21	62	63	73	69	68	58
2002-03	Male	1	3	0	2	5	4	7	6	3	4
	Female	1	17	10	12	63	80	89	68	97	41
2001-02	Male	0	1	3	8	7	5	3	5	2	1
	Female	4	4	7	23	45	63	87	72	68	61
2000-01	Male	0	1	1	3	0	1	6	1	0	0
	Female	3	7	4	21	31	86	87	67	64	40
1999-2000	Male	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	1	0	0
	Female	1	8	6	14	39	70	94	76	47	75
1998-99	Male	0	0	1	2	8	1	6	1	5	0
	Female	2	3	9	44	68	51	69	63	50	55
1997-98	Male	1	5	1	0	4	5	5	2	2	1
	Female	2	5	28	17	36	56	72	64	45	36
1996-97	Male	1	0	0	1	1	11	6	2	2	40
	Female	1	9	11	13	34	58	75	55	51	40

Bulimia Nervosa

		Under 10	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
2006-07	Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Female	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	5	3
2005-06	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	4	8

Bulimia Nervosa

		Under 10	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
2004-05	Male	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	6	2
2003-04	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Female	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	2	3	5
2002-03	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	2	4	14
2001-02	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	6	9	3
2000-01	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	3	4	0
1999-2000	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	8	3	6
1998-99	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	4	3	7
1997-98	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	9	13	9
1996-97	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	7	8	10	2	11

Other types of eating disorders

		Under 10	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
2006-07	Male	44	8	3	8	8	0	0	2	2	0
	Female	30	3	11	8	11	9	16	11	9	5
2005-06	Male	45	14	1	3	6	3	1	2	0	2
	Female	34	3	10	5	10	11	16	16	14	3
2004-05	Male	17	3	0	5	11	10	4	0	1	2
	Female	29	11	2	6	3	28	12	4	7	6
2003-04	Male	101	0	4	2	6	2	1	0	2	0
	Female	34	4	4	4	11	9	10	6	6	10
2002-03	Male	59	72	3	8	4	2	2	2	0	1
	Female	23	4	7	10	5	11	9	8	9	4
2001-02	Male	28	0	1	4	0	3	0	0	2	0
	Female	36	9	11	1	7	7	11	1	8	3
2000-01	Male	16	4	2	2	4	1	3	0	2	0
	Female	23	5	4	6	20	18	13	11	8	4
1999-2000	Male	15	0	2	1	2	6	3	1	0	1
	Female	29	8	6	15	18	10	12	6	7	9
1998-99	Male	32	1	2	2	3	0	2	1	1	0
	Female	25	6	5	3	10	13	11	6	9	6

Other types of eating disorders

		Under 10	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*
1997-98	Male	44	2	3	3	4	4	4	0	0	0
	Female	54	1	4	7	10	10	8	10	5	5
1996-97	Male	60	7	5	2	4	1	0	0	0	0
	Female	52	3	3	4	11	8	17	10	5	6

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis): The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

3. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

4. Data Quality: HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the national health service there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Health Authorities

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the meeting he held with the chairs of strategic health authorities on 13 January 2009; and whether he holds meetings with this group on a regular basis. [255598]

Mr. Bradshaw: The meeting on 13 January 2009 was [illegible] private, informal dinner between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the chairs of the strategic health authorities (SHAs). There was no formal agenda or minutes taken. Issues discussed at the dinner included: the future of the medical work force, professional revalidation, mixed sex accommodation, NHS productivity, capital investment, regulation and diversity and equality.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State normally meets with the SHA chairs on a quarterly basis.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will amend the quality and outcomes framework to calibrate rewards to GPs reflecting preventative treatment given to patient groups at high risk of coronary heart disease as well as groups of patients with coronary heart disease. [254351]

Mr. Bradshaw: The agreement between NHS Employers and the British Medical Association on the GP contract for 2009-10 included new Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicators addressing seven clinical priorities, including two new indicators for cardiovascular disease primary prevention. These new indicators will reward practices for carrying out a cardiovascular risk assessment and providing lifestyle advice for patients with a new diagnosis of hypertension.

The Department has asked the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to oversee a new independent and transparent process for developing and reviewing QOF clinical and health improvement indicators for England from 1 April 2009 as part of their role in providing guidance for the national health service based on evidence of clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness. We launched a public consultation on the proposed new process on 30 October 2008. The consultation ended on 2 February. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, any proposal for further changes to QOF indicators would need to be considered under that new process.

Hepatitis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what proportion of patients with *(a)* chronic hepatitis, *(b)* cirrhosis and *(c)* hepatocellular carcinoma their condition is due to chronic infection with hepatitis B virus; and if he will make a statement. [254998]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to use Hospital Episode Statistics to provide data on chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma due to hepatitis B virus. Although there are disease codes to describe these conditions individually, it is not possible to show that one condition has been caused by the other.

However, it is generally accepted that hepatitis B is a significant cause of chronic hepatitis, and that about 20 to 25 per cent. of individuals with chronic hepatitis B infection world-wide are at increased risk of developing cirrhosis and hepatocellular cancer.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make additional funding available to primary care trusts for the use of pegylated interferon for the anti-viral treatment of chronic hepatitis B; and if he will make a statement; [254999]

(2) how much and what percentage of the 2008-09 budget of each *(a)* health authority and *(b)* primary care trust is allocated for the treatment of hepatitis B; and if he will make a statement. [255112]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding for hepatitis B treatment is included within the revenue allocations for primary care trusts (PCTs). The allocations also fund the costs of meeting recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The 2008-09 PCT allocations represent £74.2 billion investment in the national health service, a total increase in funding of £3.8 billion. PCTs have also been informed of their

2009-10 and 2010-11 allocations, a total of £164 billion investment over the two years, a cash increase of £8.6 billion.

The Department does not break down PCT allocations by policies, at either a national or local level. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS Operating Framework.

Responsibility for providing services for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B lies with PCTs and their local partners, as they are best placed to assess what is needed in their areas. Information about local expenditure on hepatitis B services is not available centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what studies have been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department into the likely incidence of chronic hepatitis B over the next (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [255002]

(2) what studies have been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on monitoring the changes in the epidemiology of hepatitis B infection following the introduction of an anti-viral treatment with interferon and ribvarin since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [255113]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any studies into the incidence of chronic hepatitis B over the next five or 10 years in England or into the effect of antiviral therapy on the epidemiology of chronic hepatitis B since 1997.

Surveillance of hepatitis B suggests that the incidence of both chronic and acute hepatitis B in this country remains low. The Health Protection Agency monitors epidemiological trends in hepatitis B infection and published in 2004 a review of the incidence of hepatitis B in England and Wales from 1995-2000[1].

Ribavirin is used (in combination with pegylated interferon) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C, not chronic hepatitis B, as recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

[1] Hahne S, Ramsay M, Balogun K, Edmunds WJ and Mortimer P. (2004). Incidence and routes of transmission of hepatitis B virus in England and Wales, 1995-2000: implications for immunisation policy. *Journal of Clinical Virology* 29:211-20.

Maternity Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of maternity ward places needed in England in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2025; and what estimate he has made of the cost of any increase; [255724]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the projected rise in population on the *(a)* number of and *(b)* cost of provision of maternity ward places in England in (i) 2010, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2025; and if he will make a statement. [255890]

Ann Keen: The Department made an overall assessment of the pressures on the national health service for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. This was not at the level of individual services such as maternity wards. Funding for maternity services is included within overall primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations.

Local NHS organisations are responsible for developing maternity services in response to the needs of their local population, and for ensuring that they have sufficient wards, and sufficient staff, with the right skills, to offer appropriate choices.

We have provided an extra £330 million over three years in PCT baseline allocations for 2008-09 to 2010-11, to support maternity services. Strategic health authorities are planning to recruit an additional 1,000 midwives by September 2009 and altogether 4,000 more by 2012, contingent on the rising birth rate, to meet the demands of rising births and the aspirations of "Maternity Matters". A copy of "Maternity Matters" has already been placed in the Library.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the report to his Department from PricewaterhouseCoopers on the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. [254152]

Mr. Bradshaw: A copy of the report has been placed in the Library, Some details in the report have been redacted where the following conditions of the Freedom of Information Act apply;

(1) Section 36(2)(b) and (c)—where disclosure of the information would inhibit the free and frank provision of advice, or the free and frank exchange of views, for the purposes of deliberation, or would otherwise prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. Section 36 is statutory recognition of the public interest in allowing government to have a clear space, immune from exposure to public view, in which it can debate matters internally with candour and free from the pressures of public political debate. Ministers and Government officials need to be able to engage in free and frank discussion of policy options to expose their merits and demerits, and their possible implications. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the content of such discussion will be disclosed in the future.

(2) Section 41(1)—where the information in the report was received by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in confidence. Disclosure of this information would make it less likely that this type of information is provided freely to the Department in the future, and consequently undermine the ability of the Department to fulfil its role. The provider(s) of that information are content that some of this information can be disclosed. The limited amount to which this does not apply has been redacted.

(3) Section 43(2)—where the information in the report is commercially sensitive, and its disclosure has the potential to damage the trust's commercial interests. The report includes information from the trust's long term financial model (LTFM) that includes detailed information about future income and expenditure. Release of this information is likely to prejudice the trust's commercial interests by adversely affecting its position in contractual negotiations and commercial transactions.

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards from April 2009 on the revenue of NHS organisations; and if he will make a statement. [255575]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations are currently completing their 2009-10 plans and will be assessing the revenue impact of introducing international financial reporting standards (IFRS) as part of this planning process.

The 2009-10 operating framework requires NHS organisations to submit their final IFRS compliant financial plans for 2009-10 by the end of March 2009 and as such, the detailed financial impact of moving to IFRS is not currently available.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whose responsibility it is to inform a patient in cases where a primary care trust Exceptional Circumstances Panel refuses an application for funding for a procedure. [256027]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts to ensure that arrangements are in place to communicate such decisions to patients.

NHS: Energy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on energy efficiency and energy conservation measures in each of the last five years; and how much it is spending on such measures in 2008-09. [256022]

Phil Hope: The information is not collected centrally for the time scales requested.

The Department's energy and sustainability fund has been allocated to national health service trusts. From this fund, there has been £18.9 million provided to schemes in 2007-08 and £76.3 million has been provided for 2008-09. These figures do not include similar schemes that trusts have funded from their own resources.

NHS: Equality

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to facilitate the NHS's compliance with its gender equality duty under the Equality Act 2006 with respect to service design and delivery. [254484]

Phil Hope: The NHS Constitution for England, published in January 2009 states that the national health service should provide a comprehensive service, available to all irrespective of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. At the same time, the NHS is reminded that it has a wider social duty to promote equality through the services it provides and to pay particular attention to groups or sections of society where improvements in health and life expectancy are not keeping pace with the rest of the population.

In conjunction with a range of stakeholders, the Department supports the NHS to mainstream gender equality in a variety of ways. In 2007 we published practical guidance on how NHS organisations should develop and use gender equality schemes, and integrate gender equality into mainstream business. In the same year, we co-published an equality guide to enhance NHS board members' understanding of their legal duties under gender and other equality legislation. A copy of both publications has been placed in the Library. In March 2008, the chief executive of the NHS wrote to all strategic health authority chief executives, reminding them of their duties in relation to gender equality and other equality and human rights legislation, and encouraging them to be legally compliant and to support trusts in their areas to be compliant as well. We are currently running a 'Learning Sites' programme to support the development of single equality schemes, with a clear focus on gender and other specific equality issues. The Department's Pacesetters programme is trialling a number of innovative approaches to improving the NHS's equality performance. A number focus on gender equality.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the arrangements for patients to pay privately for treatments that the NHS will not pay for do not act as a disincentive for pharmaceutical companies to develop cheaper treatments. [256025]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2009 Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) recognised that it is in all of our interests to encourage research and reward innovation, which is why, for the first time, it promotes the uptake of cost-effective innovative treatments. At the same time, the PPRS will ensure that the national health service gets better value for money. The PPRS will deliver efficiency savings and includes new arrangements on flexible pricing and patient access schemes to ensure that value is better reflected in pricing.

Obesity: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by his Department to combat obesity amongst young people in the North East. [254891]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 650W.

At a local level, it is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) working with local authorities to co-ordinate work to tackle childhood obesity. PCT plans, developed alongside local authority Children and Young People's Plans, will feed into local area agreements agreed with the Government offices. Local areas will develop and implement their own initiatives based on local needs and circumstances.

Obesity: Surgery

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department and its agencies have issued to healthcare professionals on assessing patients for *(a)* the fitting of gastric bands and *(b)* other bariatric surgery. [254840]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has set 'Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children', available at

www.nice.org.uk/CG43.

This guidance is for both health and non-health professionals, and contains guidance on when bariatric surgery may be considered as an option.

It is up to primary care trusts as local commissioners and providers of services to determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, and following medical advice.

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have had a gastric band fitted in 2007-08; and how many of them were readmitted to hospital as an emergency within three months of surgery as a result of complications. [254841]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the form requested.

Data are not yet available for 2007-08. Data are provided for 2006-07 which show that there were 706 finished consultant episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of obesity and an insertion of a gastric band as a main operation carried out in England. Gastric bands are only one type of procedure recommended for the treatment of obesity by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Data on emergency readmissions rates are collected by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development and published at www.nchod.nhs.uk. Analysis from this source for gastric band surgery can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.

The ICD-10 code used to identify obesity is as follows:

E66—Obesity

Main procedure

The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the Hospital HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.

The OPCS code used to identify a gastric band insertion is as follows:

G30.3—Partitioning of stomach using band

Data Quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Organs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organs donated by British people have been sold to non-UK citizens in each of the last 10 years. [254899]

Ann Keen: None. Section 32 of the Human Tissue Act 2004 makes it illegal to deal commercially in human material for transplantation.

Osteoporosis

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the level of compliance among NHS trusts with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Technology Appraisal 87; [254775]

(2) what percentage of women with a fragility fracture did not receive care and treatment in accordance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Technology Appraisal 87 in the last 12 months; [254776]

(3) which NHS trusts *(a)* complied and *(b)* did not comply with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Technology Appraisal 87 in 2007-08. [254777]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no data on, nor made an estimate of, the level of compliance among trusts with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE's) technology appraisal number 87.

Information on the number of women not treated in accordance with technology appraisal 87 is not collected.

Primary care trusts have a legal obligation to provide funding for treatments recommended by NICE within three months of the guidance being issued. NICE guidance is also included in 'Standards for Better Health' (a copy has already been placed in the Library), which sets out the Government's high-level expectations for the health service. Adherence to NICE technology appraisals is one of the core standards against which NHS organisations are assessed in the Healthcare Commission's annual health check.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people used Choose and Book in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [254156]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of people who used choose and book (CAB) in each primary care trust (PCT) and each strategic health authority (SHA) in the latest period data are available for (January 2009) are shown in the document general practitioner referrals to first out-patient appointments made using CAB by PCT and SHA—January 2009, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Sativex

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients prescribed Sativex since it became available on a named patient basis, broken down by the type of illness for which it was prescribed. [253095]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of patients prescribed a medicine and the condition for which that medicine is prescribed is not collected centrally. The number of Sativex prescription items dispensed in the community in England, is in the following table.

	Prescription items (Thousand)
2004	[1]—
2005	0.3
2006	1.5
2007	1.9

[1] Less than 50 items.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis System.

Teenage Pregnancy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projections he has made of future trends in unintended pregnancies amongst teenagers. [251785]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Government have set an ambitious target of halving the under-18 conception rate by 2010 (compared to the 1998 baseline rate). On average, the under-18 conception rate fell 1.6 per cent. each year between 1998 and 2006 (the latest year for which annual data are available), reversing the previous upward trend. This steady decline means that in 2006, the teenage pregnancy rate was at its lowest level since the mid 1980s.

However, this rate of progress needs to be accelerated in order to achieve the 2010 target. A number of local areas are showing that rapid progress is possible, with local reductions of over 30 per cent. since 1998. However, in other areas rates have remained static and in a minority of areas rates have increased. We have issued guidance to local authorities and PCTs based on the lessons learned from the best performing areas and will be challenging those areas where progress has been slow to demonstrate how they have used this guidance to accelerate progress.

In addition, we have provided PCTs with extra funding (£26.8 million in this and the next two financial years) to improve young people's access to effective contraception and have set out our intention to make Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) statutory, to drive up the quality of sex and relationships education. We will also be strengthening our communications to both young people and parents.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) of 27 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 665-66W, on teenage pregnancy, if he will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum of understanding between his Department and strategic health authorities. [254346]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of the draft memorandum of understanding has been placed in the Library.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of programmes intended to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and *(b)* the adequacy of the budget allocated to primary care trusts for such purposes. [254515]

Dawn Primarolo: A total of £26.8 million has been allocated this year to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve women's knowledge of, and access to the full range of contraception, to help reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and abortions.

It is for SHAs and PCTs to determine how to use this funding most effectively to meet the needs of their local populations. However, departmental officials are working with SHAs to provide advice and spread good practice. Priority areas include encouraging innovation and ensuring equitable access to all methods of contraception including long acting reversible methods.

The South West Public Health Observatory are developing a balanced score card for sexual health which will monitor a range of indicators at PCT, SHA and national level. This will be available during 2009 and the first phase will focus on outcomes for young people.

Teenage Pregnancy: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on initiatives to reduce teenage pregnancy levels in Nottingham in the last 12 months. [255582]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. However, a total of £26.8 million additional funding has been allocated this year to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve women's knowledge of, and access to the full range of contraception, and to help reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and abortions. It is for SHAs and PCTs to determine how to use this funding most effectively to meet the needs of their local populations.

Thalidomide

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest projection is of the age-specific mortality rates of thalidomiders. [255889]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no projection of the age-specific mortality rates for those living with the effects of thalidomide.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* original expected completion date and *(b)* current expected completion date is of each unfinished Building Schools for the Future project; and what the reasons are for delay in completion of each delayed project. [253948]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 468W. There has been no change in current expected completion dates.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools are planned to be re-built under the Building Schools for the Future programme in each year from 2009 to 15; and if he will make a statement. [255004]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the projected trajectory for schools which will be transformed through the Building Schools for the Future programme, including new build, remodelled, refurbished and ICT-only schools:

Financial year	*Number of schools expected to open*
2009-10	115
2010-11	165
2011-12 onwards	200+

These are the current plans, which may change as projects develop. Plans for schools in later waves of the programme have not yet been finalised.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Building Schools for the Future school designs have been assessed as *(a)* excellent, *(b)* good, *(c)* not yet good enough and *(d)* mediocre by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment; and if he will make a statement. [255005]

Jim Knight: The Schools Design Panel of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) assesses proposals for schools against 10 key design criteria, using the ratings 'excellent', 'good', 'mediocre' and 'poor'. For a scheme to achieve an overall design quality rating of 'good', it must achieve at least 10 'good's. If the majority scores are 'good', but one or more key criteria are rated 'mediocre', the overall design quality rating will be set as 'not yet good enough'. In other cases the balance of scores between 'excellent' and 'good', and between 'mediocre' and 'poor' will determine which category the overall assessment falls in.

By 4 February 2009, the Panel had assessed 163 design proposals for 47 schools within 18 local authorities in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Many of these reviews take place when two or more bidders are developing proposals for a BSF project and so the Panel will see different proposals for the same schools. Brief reports of these assessments are given to the local authority's BSF project team which, in turn, will share individual reports with the appropriate bidders. Bidding teams therefore receive a steer on how to improve their designs when necessary. Because these reviews take place while bidders are still in competition with each other the reports, and the design quality ratings they contain, are confidential.

The Panel also reviews design proposals for schools when planning applications are referred to it. These applications are in the public domain and CABE publishes the results of its reviews on its website. The assessments of BSF schools are set out in the table.

Local authority	*School name:*	*Funding*	*Overall Score*	*Stage*
Bristol	St. Bernadette Catholic Secondary School	BSF	Mediocre	Planning
	Ashton Park School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	Cotham School	BSF	Excellent	Planning
	Florence Brown Community School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple C of E School	BSF	Good	Planning
	St. Bedes Catholic College	BSF	NYGE	Planning
Derbyshire	Springwell Community School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	Bolsover School	BSF	Good	Planning
	Heritage Community School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
Islington	Highbury Grove School	BSF	Mediocre	Planning
		BSF	NYGE	Amended planning
Lambeth	Stockwell Park School	BSF	Excellent	Planning
	The Elmgreen School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
		BSF	NYGE	Amended planning
Lewisham	Prendergast Vale School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	Northbrook C of E school	BSF	NYGE	Planning
Luton	Barnfield South Academy	BSF	Good	Planning
	Barnfield West Academy	BSF	Good	Planning
Newham	Sarah Bonnell School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	Rokeby School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	Lister Community School	BSF	Mediocre	Planning
South Tyneside	Mortimer Community College	BSF	NYGE	Planning
	Jarrow School	JBSF	Mediocre	Planning
Southwark	St. Michael's RC School	BSF	Good	Planning
	Tuke School	BSF	Good	Planning
Tower Hamlets	St. Paul's Way Community School	BSF	NYGE	Planning

Local authority	*School name:*	*Funding*	*Overall Score*	*Stage*
	Bethnal Green Technology College	BSF	NYGE	Planning
Westminster	Pimlico School	BSF	NYGE	Planning
		BSF	NYGE	Amended Planning
	St. Marylebone C of E School	BSF	Mediocre	Planning
		BSF	Mediocre	Planning
	Westminster City School	BSF	Mediocre	Planning
		BSF	Mediocre	Amended
Wirral	Woodchurch High School	BSF	NYGE	Planning

We do not, and will not, tolerate poorly designed schools. Design quality has improved in 74 per cent. of the 66 schemes in BSF that the Panel has seen on more than one occasion. Bidders are clearly listening and benefiting from the advice they receive. However, there is always room for improvement. This summer we will introduce a Minimum Standard of Design for schools in BSF to further safeguard our investments in schools. This will mean that proposals for a school will have to achieve a minimum standard of design quality before a BSF deal can be completed.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools constructed under the Building Schools for the Future programme were planned to open between December 2008 and December 2010; when he expects each such school to open; and if he will make a statement. [255284]

Jim Knight: The following tables list the schools which we expect to open in 2009 and 2010 as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. These dates reflect current plans and may be subject to change.

Planned to open in 2009

Local authority	*School*
Bristol	Bridge Learning Campus
Bromley	Langley Park
Buckinghamshire	Cressex Community
Cornwall	Penryn College
Darlington	Eastbourne C of E
Durham	Durham Johnston
Essex	Lower Basildon
Gloucestershire	Rednock
Hackney	Mossbourne Community College
Haringey	Highgate Woods School
Islington	Samuel Rhodes SEN
Islington	St. Aloysius College (RC)
Kent	St. George C of E
Kent	Northfleet School for Girls
Kent	King Elthbert
Kent	Dane Court
Kent	Whitstable
Kingston-upon-Thames	Chessington Community College
Knowsley	North Huyton, Christ the King Joint Faith LC4
Knowsley	Halewood LC8
Knowsley	Kirkby Community LC1/LC3
Knowsley	Knowsley Central Community LC6
Knowsley	South Huyton Community LC5
Lambeth	Elm Court SEN
Lambeth	Elm Green
Lancashire	Sir John Thursby
Lancashire	Sir John Thursby SEN
Leeds	Allerton Grange
Leeds	Cardinal Heenan
Leeds	John Smeaton
Leeds	Ralph Thoresby
Leeds	City of Leeds
Leeds	Primrose
Leeds	New Inner West Leeds
Leeds	Temple Moor High
Leicester	Beaumont Leys
Leicester	Fullhurst
Leicester	Judgemeadow
Leicester	Soar Valley
Lewisham	Sedgehill
Lewisham	Catford
Lewisham	Crofton
Lewisham	Forest Hill
Lewisham	Greenvale
Lewisham	New Woodlands
Liverpool	Lower Lee
Manchester	St. Matthews RC
Manchester	North Ridge SEN
Manchester	Our Lady's RC
Manchester	Meade Hill
Manchester	Piper Hill
Manchester	St. Pauls
Manchester	Buglawton Hall
Manchester	Buglawton SEN Residential
Milton Keynes	Sir Frank Markham Academy
Newcastle	Gosforth Central
Newcastle	Gosforth East
Newcastle	Heaton Manor
Newcastle	Sacred Heart
Newcastle	Thomas Bewick
North Somerset	Nailsea Community
North Yorkshire	Richmond
Nottingham	Big Wood
Nottingham	Oakfields Special School Centre of Excellence
Plymouth	Estover Community College
Rutland	Vale of Catmose College
Sheffield	Newfield
Sheffield	Talbot SEN
Sheffield	Silverdale
Sheffield	Ecclesfield
Sheffield	Fir Vale
Sheffield	Tapton

Planned to open in 2009

Local authority	*School*
Solihull	Smith's Wood
South Tyneside and Gateshead	Boldon
South Tyneside and Gateshead	Kings Meadow
South Tyneside and Gateshead	Lord Lawson of Beamish
South Tyneside and Gateshead	Jarrow
South Tyneside and Gateshead	Mortimer
St. Helens	Cowley
Sunderland	Castle View Academy
Sunderland	Hylton Red House Academy
Sunderland	Pennywell
Sunderland	Sandhill View
Sunderland	Washington
Tower Hamlets	Wessex
Waltham Forest	Kelmscott
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow Girls
Westminster	Pimlico
Westminster	St. Marleybone CE
Westminster	Westminster City Boys
Wigan	Abraham Guest High

Planned to open in 2010

Local authority	*School*
Barking and Dagenham	Eastbury
Barnet	East Barnet
Barnsley	Darton High
Barnsley	New (Royston/Edward Sheerien)
Barnsley	The Dearne High
Barnsley	Kirk Balk
Bath and North East Somerset	Writhlington
Bracknell Forest	Garth Hill
Brent	Ark Academy
Bristol	St. Bodes
Bristol	Florence Brown
Bristol	St. Bernadettes
Bristol	Hengrove Academy
Bristol	Colston's Girls' Academy
Cumbria	Richard Rose Central Academy
Derbyshire	Bolsover
Derbyshire	Heritage
Derbyshire	Springwell
Devon	Bideford College
Dorset	Queen Elizabeth's CE VC
Durham	Peterlee (Shotton Hall)
East Sussex	Bexhill High
Hackney	Skinners Academy
Hackney	Stoke Newington
Haringey	Alexandra Park
Haringey	Hornsey School
Haringey	Pupil Support Unit
Haringey	Young Peoples Centre
Haringey	John Loughborough
Haringey	Fortismere School and Blanche Nevile
Haringey	Northumberland Park
Haringey	Gladesmore
Haringey	Heartlands High
Haringey	St. Thomas More
Harrow	Whitmore High
Herefordshire	The Minster College
Isle of Wight	Cowes Learning Centre
Islington	Highbury Grove
Islington	Highbury New Sixth Form
Islington	Holloway School
Kent	Charles Dickens
Kent	Northfleet Technology College
Kent	St. Johns
Kent	Thamesview
Kent	Cornwallis
Kent	New Line Learning Academy
Kent	Ellington High School for Girls
Kent	Herne Bay
Kingston upon Hull	Kelvin Hall
Kingston upon Hull	Sirius Academy
Knowsley	Kirkby RC LC2
Knowsley	Knowsley Central RC LC7
Lambeth	Stockwell Park
Lambeth	Lilian Bayliss
Lancashire	Marsden Heights
Lancashire	Unity
Lancashire	Accrington Academy
Lancashire	Blessed Trinity
Lancashire	Hameldon
Lancashire	Hameldon SEN
Leeds	Crawshaw
Leeds	South Leeds High
Leeds	Priesthorpe
Leeds	Mount St. Marys
Lewisham	Sydenham
Lewisham	New School Ladywell
Lewisham	Northbrook
Lewisham	Hatcham
Lincolnshire	Priory LSST
Liverpool	Alsop
Liverpool	Ernst Cookson
Liverpool	West Derby
Liverpool	Broughton Hall
Liverpool	Cardinal Heenan
Liverpool	Gateacre
Liverpool	Hope
Luton	Barnfield West Academy
Luton	Barnfield South Academy
Manchester	Chorlton
Manchester	Inclusion Centre 1: Manchester
Manchester	Parrs Wood
Manchester	New SEN
Manchester	Health Academy
Manchester	Construction and the Built Environment Academy
Manchester	Creative Media Academy
Manchester	Business Enterprise Academy
Manchester	Financial and Professional Services Academy
Manchester	St. Peters
Manchester	King David High
Middlesbrough	Priory Woods SEN
Middlesbrough	Acklam Grange
Middlesbrough	Beverley SEN
Middlesbrough	Ormesby
Newcastle	Trinity Dene View
Newcastle	Gosforth High
Newcastle	Trinity Oakfield
Newcastle	Gosforth Junior High
Newham	Brampton Manor

Planned to open in 2010

Local authority	*School*
Newham	Rokeby
Newham	Sarah Bonnell
Norfolk	The Open Academy
North East Lincolnshire	Havelock Academy
North Lincolnshire	Brumby
North Lincolnshire	Melior
Northamptonshire	Holy Trinity Academy
Nottingham	Hadden Park
Nottingham	Bulwell Academy
Nottingham	Samworth University Academy
Nottinghamshire	The Samworth Church Academy
Oxfordshire	The Oxford Academy
Redbridge	Loxford School of Science and Technology
Richmond-upon-Thames	Teddington
Rochdale	St. Annes Academy
Salford	Harrott Fold
Salford	Buile Hill
Salford	Albion
Salford	Oakwood
Salford	Chatsworth
Salford	Beis Yakov
Sefton	Litherland High
Sheffield	Firth Park
Sheffield	Heritage Park
Sheffield	Holgate Meadows
Sheffield	King Ecgbert
Sheffield	Pupil Referral Unit East Hill KS4
Sheffield	Pupil Referral Unit Spring Lane KS3
Sheffield	Hinde House
Shropshire	William Brookes
South Gloucestershire	Filton High
South Tyneside and Gateshead	St.Wilfrids RC
South Tyneside and Gateshead	St. Josephs RC
Southend-on-Sea	Belfairs High
Southwark	Walworth Academy
Southwark	Spa
Southwark	Charter
Southwark	St. Michael's and All Angels
Southwark	Tuke
Sunderland	Biddick
Sunderland	St. Robert of Newminster RC
Sutton	Stanley Park High
Tameside	KS3 Pupil Referral Unit
Tameside	New Charter Academy
Tameside	Littlemoss High/Droylsden Academy
Tameside	Alder
Torbay	Torbay Community College
Tower Hamlets	Ian Mikardo
Tower Hamlets	George Greens
Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green
Tower Hamlets	St. Pauls Way
Trafford	St. Ambrose College
Waltham Forest	Whitefields
Warrington	Culcheth High
West Berkshire	St. Bartholomew's
West Sussex	Bognor Regis Community College
Westminster	New Pupil Referral Unit
Westminster	College Park
Wiltshire	George Ward
Windsor and Maidenhead	Holyport Manor SEN
Wirral	Woodchurch High
Wokingham	Waingels College
York	Joseph Rowntree

The schools list includes BSF One School Pathfinders, academies and schools receiving ICT funding only as they have recently been rebuilt.

Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its predecessor and *(c)* its agencies have provided funding to the charity (i) Catz Club and (ii) Schoolfriend in the last five years. [250348]

Beverley Hughes: I am informed that the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills have no record of any direct payments to either "Catz Club" or "Schoolfriend" during the last five years.

The Department does not have any Executive Agencies.

Children: Care Homes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children's homes did not meet the national standards for care homes on the latest date for which figures are available. [247857]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 27 January 2009:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 247857: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what percentage of children's homes did not meet the national standards for care homes on the latest date for which figures are available.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

There are 36 national minimum standards for children's homes, each with a number of underpinning criteria. Most, but not all, of these standards are legal requirements set in regulations. A detailed list of the standards, detailing those which are legal requirements, can be found in the Department of Health's 2002 document Children's Homes: National Minimum Standards, available at

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH4010076.

Where providers do not meet the national minimum standards that are legal requirements, we set 'actions', to which providers must respond. Ofsted uses its enforcement powers to bring about compliance in these cases.

Table A shows the number of children's homes that failed to meet at least one of the national minimum standards linked to a legal requirement set in regulations during the inspection year 2007-08 (the last full year for which we have data). Inspectors judged that the majority of the failures to meet the standards did not have a significant impact on outcomes for children. As a result, overall we judged only 8% of children's homes as inadequate during that same period.

Table A: Actions set against national minimum standards (NMS) from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

	Number	Percentage
Total active children's homes with an action/s against one or more NMS from their most recent full inspection in the 2007-08 cycle.	1239	70
Total active children's homes without an action against any NMS from their most recent full inspection in the 2007-08 cycle.	531	30
Total active children's homes with a completed full inspection in 07-08 cycle.	1770	100

Where providers do not meet national minimum standards that are not legal requirements, Ofsted makes 'recommendations'. We can also set recommendations to bring about improvement over and above the national minimum standards. We do not distinguish in our records between those recommendations we set in relation to improvement and those we set for failing to meet an aspect of the national minimum standards. We can not, therefore, supply data about children's homes which did not meet those national minimum standards that are not linked to legal requirements.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children: Databases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, on children: databases, which usability issues his Department is resolving before the ContactPoint system is user tested. [252077]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint is designed to save time for professionals working with children, therefore ensuring smooth working for users is very important.

The purpose of testing is to uncover issues and deal with them before deployment. We discovered a number of issues that we wanted to rectify before commencing the final stages of testing with users. They were typical for this stage of project delivery and included minor functional changes and enhancements to screens. If not rectified, these issues can cause frustration to those involved in testing activity and can restrict the benefit that the activity can provide.

We have always said that we will take the time to get ContactPoint right. We wanted to ensure that testing provided the maximum benefit possible and therefore took the decision to fix these issues before commencing testing with users on 13 October 2008. The user testing phase completed successfully on 28 November 2008.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 January, *Official Report*, columns 648-9W, on children: databases, if he plans to make the monthly assessments of early adopter local authorities public. [255624]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: The monthly assessments are undertaken by local authorities and are project documents internal to the local authorities themselves. Local authorities provide the information to the Department on the basis that it will be used to enable the Department to assess progress, provide targeted support where necessary and to share good practice. It is not collected for the purpose of publication. The assessments are not intended or designed for publication.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* central government and *(b)* each local authority has spent on child protection in each of the last five years. [250183]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Many local Children's Trust partners commit expenditure to child protection including the police, health services, and local authority children's social services departments. Net expenditure by local authorities in England on children's social care, which includes expenditure on child protection, in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£ million
Outturn	
2004-05	4394
2005-06	4689
2006-07	4999
Budget	
2007-08	5105
2008-09	5684

Source:
Budgets Annual RA return Outturn PSS EXP1

Expenditure in other areas of local authority activity, for example on early years services and school transport, also contribute to the safeguarding and protection of children and young people.

Estimated programme expenditure by DCSF on safeguarding in 2008-09 will be £47.3 million, and expenditure was £32.5 million in 2007-08. These totals include revenue and capital expenditure on the introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme, the Making Safeguarding Everyone's Responsibility programme and the beginning of a grant arrangement with NSPCC. It is not possible to identify the amounts specifically allocated to child protection.

Children's Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who preceded Paul Gray as Director of Children's Services in Doncaster. [253476]

Beverley Hughes: Paul Gray was preceded as Director of Children's Services for Doncaster Metropolitan borough council by Jim Crook.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many staff Capita plans to employ to administer the education maintenance allowance; [254206]

(2) whether all applicants for education maintenance allowance in the present academic year have been awarded grants backdated to the start of that year; [254207]

(3) how many education maintenance allowance payments have not been made. [254208]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Cotswold with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1846W, on education maintenance allowance, how many students have *(a)* received a notice of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance, *(b)* successfully enrolled and *(c)* received at least one payment since September 2008. [254483]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in Blackpool South constituency received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme was established. [253969]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend the Member for Blackpool, South with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in Leeds West constituency received education maintenance allowance in each year since 2005. [255474]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who has operational responsibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and holds the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 845W, on general certificate of secondary education, how many and what percentage of pupils in the maintained mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a modern language at grades A* to C in 1997, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [254485]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Head Teachers: Recruitment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department takes to ensure that the functioning of schools is not affected by the process of recruiting new headteachers. [254889]

Jim Knight: The head teacher vacancy rate remains low and stable, and no school is without a head, as there will always be an acting head in place. However, we do know that some schools in some areas find it more difficult than others to recruit heads. We have invested £30 million in the National College for School Leadership's (NCSL) succession planning work, which is helping local authorities and schools to develop local solutions to find, develop and retain great school leaders. The NCSL is also developing new accelerated leadership provision, designed to allow those with the necessary skills to move rapidly to headship.

Health Education: Drugs

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what type of training teachers providing drugs education in secondary schools are required to undertake; and what the duration of such training is. [254036]

Jim Knight: There is no requirement for teachers to undertake particular training on drug education. Drug education is delivered through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). The Department provides £2 million funding each year to train teachers and professionals who deliver PSHE. Over 8,000 practitioners (primarily teachers) have completed the national PSHE continuing professional development (CPD) programme since it began in 2003, and there are a further 1,600 practitioners undertaking the programme this year. Schools also have access to a variety of CPD provision through their local authorities and commercial provision.

The Department is exploring with the Training and Development Agency for Schools how a route through initial teacher training can be created to become a specialist PSHE teacher.

Literacy and Numeracy: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures his Department has introduced to improve levels of *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy in the north-east since 1997. [254910]

Jim Knight: There have been significant improvements in standards of literacy and numeracy in the north-east region since 1997 due to a range of policies including increased investment; new primary and secondary teaching frameworks; better use of pupil data; the targets schools and local authorities have set for their pupils; challenge and support to local authorities through the national strategies; and targeted intervention to tackle school failure.

Our Children's Plan goal is for 90 per cent. of 11-year-olds to achieve level 4+ in both English and mathematics by 2020. Extra one to one and small group tuition is being rolled out and by 2010 this will have helped 300,000 children nationally in English and in mathematics. Every Child a Reader, Every Child a Writer and Every Child Counts programmes are being introduced and a new primary school improvement strategy will be published later this year.

At secondary level the National Challenge and 'Gaining Ground: Improving progress in coasting secondary schools' are now in place and a number of schools in the north-east will benefit from the additional funding provided to help them improve outcomes for pupils.

The following table shows results for the north-east for pupils at the end of primary and secondary school:

Further statistical information on educational performance in the north-east region, parliamentary constituencies and at district and ward level are available on the In Your Area website at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/inyourarea

Key stage 2 and 4 results for north-east Government office region

		1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
KS2 Level 4+												
English	NE	62	68	74	74	72	73	77	78	78	80	80
	England	65	71	75	75	75	75	78	79	79	80	81
Mathematics	NE	58	68	72	71	73	73	75	75	77	78	79
	England	59	69	72	71	73	73	74	75	76	77	78
KS4		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
5 A* to C inc. English and mathematics	NE	28.4	30.8	32.9	33.6	34.8	34.7	35.7	38.1	40.4	41.8	44.9
	England	37	38.6	40	40.7	42.1	41.9	42.6	44.7	45.6	46.3	47.6

Notes:
1. KS2 results for 2008 are provisional. The coverage of data for the north-east region was 93 per cent. for English and 97 per cent. for mathematics.
2. KS4 results prior to 2005 relate to the performance of 15-year-old pupils. From 2005, figures relate to the performance of pupils at the end of key stage 4.
3. All figures are published in Statistical First releases.

Music Standards Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many local authorities supplemented their Music Standards Fund income with additional spending on music tuition in each of the last three years; and how many he expects will do so in 2009-10; [254435]

(2) how many local education authorities supplemented their music standards fund grants with additional spending in the last 12 months; and what the total monetary value of such supplements was. [256109]

Jim Knight: Planned net expenditure on music services (not standards fund supported) by local authorities in England from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is contained within the following table. The information for 2009-10 is due to be submitted to the Department by 31 March 2009.

Planned net expenditure on music services (not Standards Fund supported)

£

Local authority name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	28,167,000	29,790,000	31,283,000
Barking and Dagenham	466,000	484,000	817,000
Barnet	42,000	0	0
Barnsley	273,000	253,000	235,000
Bath and North East Somerset	125,000	92,000	117,000
Bedfordshire	837,000	835,000	1,041,000
Bexley	176,000	182,000	137,000
Birmingham	243,000	313,000	503,000
Blackburn and Darwen	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	0
Bolton	193,000	80,000	91,000
Bournemouth	74,000	74,000	59,000
Bracknell Forest	55,000	37,000	0
Bradford	0	0	0
Brent	101,000	101,000	96,000
Brighton and Hove	388,000	399,000	381,000
Bromley	434,000	446,000	438,000
Buckinghamshire	222,000	467,000	211,000
Bury	43,000	0	0
Calderdale	119,000	125,000	132,000
Cambridgeshire	77,000	151,000	150,000
Camden	101,000	125,000	233,000
Cheshire	257,000	242,000	128,000
City of Bristol	93,000	86,000	931,000
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	407,000	462,000	513,000
City of London	52,000	50,000	52,000
Cornwall	224,000	254,000	247,000
Coventry	762,000	792,000	860,000
Croydon	209,000	250,000	238,000
Cumbria	72,000	74,000	0
Darlington	106,000	122,000	124,000
Derby	10,000	11,000	11,000
Derbyshire	73,000	89,000	92,000

Planned net expenditure on music services (not Standards Fund supported)

£

Local authority name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Devon	74,000	76,000	69,000
Doncaster	0	118,000	113,000
Dorset	190,000	187,000	161,000
Dudley	883,000	997,000	1,007,000
Durham	426,000	410,000	445,000
Ealing	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	313,000	395,000	414,000
East Sussex	311,000	219,000	216,000
Enfield	332,000	390,000	319,000
Essex	872,000	805,000	1,131,000
Gateshead	70,000	67,000	67,000
Gloucestershire	60,000	60,000	11,000
Greenwich	68,000	67,000	67,000
Hackney	74,000	101,000	123,000
Halton	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0
Hampshire	727,000	779,000	1,060,000
Haringey	166,000	153,000	113,000
Harrow	340,000	340,000	127,000
Hartlepool	0	0	0
Havering	254,000	241,000	270,000
Herefordshire	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	1,665,000	1,486,000	1,474,000
Hillingdon	416,000	429,000	252,000
Hounslow	132,000	60,000	58,000
Isle of Wight	192,000	137,000	106,000
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Islington	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	28,000	29,000	30,000
Kent	431,000	414,000	414,000
Kingston upon Thames	119,000	134,000	81,000
Kirklees	0	0	0
Knowsley	0	249,000	194,000
Lambeth	0	0	0
Lancashire	40,000	35,000	34,000
Leeds	580,000	612,000	606,000
Leicester	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0
Lewisham	50,000	101,000	48,000
Lincolnshire	573,000	638,000	720,000
Liverpool	(82,000)	(129,000)	(125,000)
Luton	186,000	214,000	168,000
Manchester	0	0	0
Medway	0	0	0
Merton	110,000	70,000	71,000
Middlesbrough	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	484,000	510,000	472,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	12,000	12,000	12,000
Newham	54,000	0	120,000
Norfolk	143,000	151,000	299,000
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	194,000
North Lincolnshire	20,000	20,000	21,000
North Somerset	118,000	103,000	78,000
North Tyneside	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	346,000	553,000	826,000
Northamptonshire	339,000	254,000	147,000
Northumberland	0	0	0
Nottingham City	9,000	11,000	12,000
Nottinghamshire	1,077,000	1,247,000	1,270,000
Oldham	90,000	185,000	0
Oxfordshire	942,000	988,000	804,000
Peterborough	0	0	0
Plymouth	0	0	0
Poole	52,000	52,000	53,000
Portsmouth	26,000	27,000	36,000
Reading	0	0	0
Redbridge	858,000	867,000	898,000
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	96,000	98,000	101,000
Rochdale	157,000	175,000	220,000
Rotherham	80,000	0	0
Rutland	0	0	0
Salford	516,000	577,000	585,000
Sandwell	488,000	554,000	695,000
Sefton	254,000	290,000	158,000
Sheffield	258,000	232,000	179,000
Shropshire	296,000	269,000	277,000
Slough	0	0	0
Solihull	387,000	456,000	306,000
Somerset	245,000	49,000	0
South Gloucestershire	5,000	5,000	5,000
South Tyneside	114,000	117,000	117,000
Southampton	550,000	603,000	483,000
Southend	0	0	104,000
Southwark	0	0	0
St. Helens	0	0	0
Staffordshire	283,000	200,000	0
Stockport	38,000	4,000	7,000
Stockton-on-Tees	110,000	113,000	116,000
Stoke on Trent	180,000	183,000	54,000
Suffolk	390,000	360,000	52,000
Sunderland	59,000	59,000	60,000
Surrey	(338,000)	223,000	1,509,000
Sutton	52,000	56,000	71,000
Swindon	52,000	3,000	3,000
Tameside	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	44,000	49,000	46,000
Thurrock	66,000	70,000	121,000
Torbay	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	0	0	0
Trafford	219,000	229,000	234,000
Wakefield	174,000	127,000	51,000
Walsall	261,000	357,000	357,000
Waltham Forest	109,000	246,000	191,000
Wandsworth	0	0	0
Warrington	0	0	0
Warwickshire	1,306,000	1,307,000	1,223,000
West Berkshire	0	0	0
West Sussex	473,000	475,000	0
Westminster	0	0	0
Wigan	0	0	47,000
Wiltshire	5,000	0	283,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	46,000	48,000	48,000
Wirral	172,000	163,000	43,000
Wokingham	57,000	58,000	59,000
Wolverhampton	57,000	92,000	117,000
Worcestershire	321,000	295,000	256,000

Planned net expenditure on music services (not Standards Fund supported)[1]

Local authority name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
			£
York	185,000	189,000	189,000

Notes:
1. Includes expenditure (not Standards Fund supported) on the provision of music tuition or other activities which provide opportunities for pupils to enhance their experience of music. This is drawn from local authorities' budget statements submitted to the DCSF.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.
3. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 3 February 2009.

Music: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils sat GCSE examinations in music in each year since 1997; and what proportion received A* to C grades. [256017]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information relates to those 15-year-old pupils who attempted GCSE examinations in Music and is shown in the following table.

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils who attempted GCSE examinations in Music and the percentage of these pupils who received A to C grades, England—1997 to 2008*

	Percentage of all 15-year-old pupils attempting subject	*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils attempting subject that achieved grades A* to C*
1997	6.8	67.7
1998	6.6	67.9
1999	7.0	68.9
2000	7.1	69.4
2001	6.9	69.7
2002	7.2	70.3
2003	7.6	68.1
2004	7.9	68.8
2005	8.2	70.2
2006	8.4	72.0
2007	8.3	72.5
2008	8.2	73.5

Music: Teachers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for funding were received from the fund established for the professional development of music teachers in each year since 2006; how many have completed programmes funded as a result of such applications; and how many participants completed their portfolios in each year. [256016]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the pilot programme from 2007 to 2008, 733 teachers had completed some modules and 304 of these had completed portfolios by the end of 2008. Under the programme from September 2008, 930 teachers have begun work.

The aim of the Key Stage 2 Music CPD programme is to establish a growing body of music practitioners who have considered at a deep level the issues surrounding teaching and learning in the context of whole class instrumental and vocal activity. Participants complete up to 14 modules through workshops and online learning, as well as benefiting from one-to-one mentoring. As with all professional development this is an ongoing process. The completion of a portfolio indicates a key milestone but does not indicate that a teacher's professional development is complete, or necessarily that the professional development of other teachers is somehow deficient. Teachers who have engaged with the programme have expressed high levels of satisfaction and even at this early stage we have every reason to believe that children's experience of music making is benefiting as a result. The first report on the effectiveness of the programme will be published in March.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of primary schools have a teacher with a formal music qualification. [256018]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on which occasions in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 officials in his Department reported to Ministers on the administration of the key stage tests by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority; what steps Ministers took in response to each report; and if he will make a statement. [253418]

Jim Knight: Officials provide Ministers with briefing and regular updates on progress during test cycles, as appropriate, covering current issues, risks and remedial action taken. In 2008 officials reported their assessment of key risks to National Curriculum test delivery to Ministers in submissions on 7 February 2008, 2 April 2008 and 10 June 2008, as well as providing frequent updates on progress and issues throughout May and June 2008. As set out in Lord Sutherland's report (The Sutherland Inquiry: an independent inquiry into the delivery of National Curriculum tests in 2008), Ministers responded to these assessments by seeking reassurance from QCA and NAA that they had suitable action in hand to secure delivery of their contractors' obligations.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* children's centres nurseries, *(b)* maintained nurseries and *(c)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries reported vacant places in (i) England, (ii) each region, (iii) the 10 per cent. most deprived areas and (iv) the 10 per cent. least deprived areas in each year since 1997; [252064]

(2) how many and what proportion of childminders reported vacant places in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region, *(c)* the 10 per cent. most deprived local authority areas and *(d)* the 10 per cent. least deprived local authority areas in each year since 1997. [252066]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on vacant places for children at child care and early years providers. Table 1 shows the number and proportion of providers in England that reported vacancies, and the total number of providers, by type of provision. Data for previous years are not available.

Table 1: Providers reporting vacant places for children on an average day

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Number of providers with vacancies			
Full day care	7,900	8,200	9,400
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	450	650
Child minders	n/a	30,300	36,600
Nursery schools	n/a	150	150
Percentage of providers with vacancies			
Full day care	67	65	69
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	63	69
Child minders	n/a	53	62
Nursery schools	n/a	38	36
Total number of providers			
Full day care	11,800	12,700	13,600
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	800	950
Child minders	57,700	57,900	59,800
Nursery schools	n/a	450	450

n/a = Cases where data are not available, either because the question was not asked, or the provider type was not surveyed in that year.

Note:

Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 2 shows the total number of vacancies reported and the number of registered places, by type of provision. Data for previous years are not available.

Table 2: Number of vacancies and registered places for children

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Total number of vacancies			
Full day care	88,400	81,000	107,300
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	6,600	8,800
Child minders	80,700	67,000	85,900
Nursery schools	n/a	2,000	1,400
Total number of registered places			
Full day care	511,100	544,200	596,500
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	37,700	51,100
Child minders	275,600	272,600	291,500
Nursery schools	n/a	28,100	28,400

n/a = Cases where data are not available, either because the question was not asked, or the provider type was not surveyed in that year.

Note:

Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 3 shows the number and proportion of providers in each region that reported vacancies, and the total number of providers, by type of provision. Data for previous years are not available. Data for nursery schools are not available due to small sub-sample sizes for this provider type at the regional level.

Table 3: Providers reporting vacant places for children on an average day, by region

	Full day care		*Full day care in children's centres*		*Child minders*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Number of providers with vacancies						
East Midlands	680	800	30	40	2,400	3,380
East of England	810	830	30	40	3,410	4,310
London	1,210	1,390	80	100	4,790	7,050
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	1,060	1,350	110	180	4,720	4,600
North West	1,120	1,300	80	100	3,180	4,340
South East	1,430	1,590	30	70	6,320	6,630
South West	910	1,060	50	1,060	2,570	3,310
West Midlands	1,000	1,110	40	80	2,920	3,010
Percentage of providers with vacancies						
East Midlands	70	75	63	73	51	69
East of England	68	68	50	67	52	59
London	63	72	66	60	51	71
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	64	73	65	75	57	56
North West	64	70	76	63	46	62
South East	65	67	45	76	58	60
South West	61	66	75	68	48	61
West Midlands	66	67	55	69	59	57
Total number of providers						
East Midlands	990	1,080	50	60	4,800	4,990
East of England	1,180	1,240	50	60	6,990	7,280
London	1,900	1,950	120	160	9,480	10,010
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	1,670	1,830	170	230	8,310	8,600
North West	1,720	1,850	100	160	6,710	6,920
South East	2,220	2,390	60	90	11,060	11,320
South West	1,490	1,610	60	90	5,400	5,450
West Midlands	1,530	1,640	80	120	5,110	5,250

Note:

Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 4 shows the total number of vacancies reported and the number of registered places, in each region, by type of provision. Data for previous years are not available. Data for nursery schools are not available due to small sub-sample sizes for this provider type at the regional level.

Table 4: Number of vacancies and registered places for children, by region

	Full day care		*Full day care in children's centres*		*Child minders*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Total number of vacancies						
East Midlands	8,750	10,510	470	510	5,320	9,010
East of England	9,370	8,300	320	350	7,680	10,420
London	11,620	18,050	940	1,350	8,800	15,860
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	11,480	14,460	2,230	2,610	12,100	11,390
North West	11,530	13,910	880	1,330	6,940	9,200
South East	12,840	20,970	450	970	13,980	15,130
South West	7,830	10,250	540	600	5,340	6,860
West Midlands	7,590	10,800	760	1,030	6,810	7,980
Total number of registered places						
East Midlands	47,190	53,240	2,610	3,140	24,550	26,610
East of England	53,120	54,100	2,800	2,930	34,180	35,910
London	74,720	84,830	7,310	8,980	34,680	40,340
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	75,070	79,190	8,160	11,060	42,270	45,640
North West	81,630	89,930	5,100	9,100	32,170	34,690
South East	95,270	105,540	4,730	5,260	51,160	53,870
South West	54,110	60,600	2,660	4,330	27,400	27,280
West Midlands	63,060	69,080	4,370	6,350	26,220	27,160

Note:
Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 5 shows the number and proportion of providers that reported vacancies, and the total number of providers, by type of provision and level of deprivation. Data for previous years and data for the 10 per cent. most deprived and 10 per cent. least deprived areas are not available.

Table 5: Providers reporting vacant places for children on an average day, by level of deprivation

	30 per cent. most deprived areas		*70 per cent. least deprived areas*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Number of providers with vacancies				
Full day care	2,350	2,890	5,840	6,530
Full day care in children's centres	370	500	70	140
Child minders	6,300	6,880	24,010	29,740
Nursery schools	90	110	80	50
Percentage of providers with vacancies				
Full day care	67	72	65	68
Full day care in children's centres	68	69	47	68
Child minders	58	65	52	61
Nursery schools	35	39	41	31

Table 5: Providers reporting vacant places for children on an average day, by level of deprivation

	30 per cent. most deprived areas		*70 per cent. least deprived areas*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Total number of providers				
Full day care	3,520	4,030	9,180	9,550
Full day care in children's centres	540	730	150	210
Child minders	10,840	10,620	47,010	49,200
Nursery schools	250	290	190	150

Note:
Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Table 6 shows the total number of vacancies and the number of registered places, by type of provision and level of deprivation. Data for previous years and data for the 10 per cent. most deprived and 10 per cent. least deprived areas are not available.

Table 6: Number of vacancies and registered places for children, by level of deprivation

	30 per cent. most deprived areas		*70 per cent. least deprived areas*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Total number of vacancies				
Full day care	24,570	35,680	56,440	71,440
Full day care in children's centres	5,330	6,920	1,260	1,640
Child minders	14,580	15,740	52,390	70,120
Nursery schools	750	940	1,280	450
Total number of registered places				
Full day care	159,290	183,100	384,880	413,030
Full day care in children's centres	30,290	38,160	7,460	11,600
Child minders	47,790	49,490	224,820	242,000
Nursery schools	15,300	19,250	12,790	9,180

Note:
Full day care in children's centres are a sub-group of all full day care providers and are also included in the all full day care figures.

Pre-School Education: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in the childcare sector in *(a)* the 10 per cent. most deprived areas, *(b)* 10 per cent. least deprived areas, *(c)* five per cent. most deprived areas and *(d)* five per cent. least deprived areas were qualified to at least level three in each of the last 30 years. [252069]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the level of qualification held by all paid staff by type of child care provider. Table 1 following shows the number and proportion of staff in England with at least a level three qualification in 2006 and 2007, by type of provision and by level of area deprivation. Data for previous years and data for *(a)* the 10 per cent. most deprived areas, *(b)* 10 per cent. least deprived areas, *(c)* 5 per cent. most deprived areas and *(d)* 5 per cent, least deprived areas are not available.

Table 1: Staff with at least a level three qualification—child care providers, by level of deprivation

	30 per cent. most deprived areas		*70 per cent. least deprived areas*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Number of staff with at least a level 3 qualification				
Full day care	31,100	36,000	72,700	74,600
Full day care in children's centres	5,800	8,400	1,600	2,300
Sessional	4,500	6,000	28,800	27,000
Out of school care	11,500	10,300	24,600	25,300
Childminders	3,800	4,000	18,100	20,200
Percentage of staff with at least a level 3 qualification				
Full day care	77	74	71	71
Full day care in children's centres	80	83	79	78
Sessional	58	67	58	60
Out of school care	55	57	51	54
Childminders	35	38	38	41

Pre-school Education: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 274-5W, on pre-school education: standards, how many and what proportion of early years settings deemed inadequate by Ofsted since 1 September 2008 were *(a)* in the 10 per cent. of most deprived areas, *(b)* childminders, *(c)* private, voluntary and independent settings, *(d)* Montessori nurseries and *(e)* Steiner nurseries. [249525]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The numbers and proportions of early years settings deemed inadequate by Ofsted since 1 September 2008 are shown in the tables below. The figures in Table A are taken from provision inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 October 2008, in line with the figures supplied for Parliamentary Question 233559. The figures are supplied in Table B cover provision inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 December 2008.

The 10% most deprived areas in England were identified using the Government's 'Indices of Deprivation 2007' (an index published once every three years), available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivationQ7/.

Ofsted does not, as a matter of course, collect our data in line with the sector types specified in the question (private, voluntary and independent early years settings), as it has no mandatory requirement to do so. The figures given in response to part (c) of your question represent settings that we are able to identify as private or voluntary, within our categories of 'childcare on domestic premises' and 'childcare on non-domestic premises'. Please note, however, that these do not represent the full picture, as data are not held for all providers and should, therefore, be treated with caution.

Similarly, Ofsted does not, as a matter of course, collect data on whether provision is Montessori or Steiner. The figures provided in response to parts (d) and (e) of your question represent settings where 'Montessori' or 'Steiner' appears in a free text field on setting details. This may not represent all settings of these types and so this data must be treated with caution.

Please note that that the selection of provision for inspection each year is not random. We select providers for inspection each year based on a number of factors, including the period since their last inspection and the grade awarded them at that inspection. Therefore, these figures should not be used to make judgements about the standards of national provision.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Settings judged to be inadequate in Early Years Register (EYR) inspections between 1 September and 31 October 2008[1,2]

Provider Type	*Number of inspections*	*Number of providers deemed inadequate*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all inspections of this provider type (%)*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all EYR inspections deemed inadequate (%)*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all EYR inspections (%)*
Those in 10% most deprived areas	123	14	11	11	1
Childminders	1,348	69	5	53	4
Private Settings	441	31	7	24	2
Voluntary Settings	92	7	8	5	0
Montessori Settings	8	0	0	0	0
Steiner Settings	0	0	0	0	0
All Early Years Inspections	1,922	131	—	—	7

[1] Percentages are rounded to nearest whole number

[2] The explanatory descriptions in this response outline where data in this table are not representative of all providers and should be treated with caution.

Table B: Settings judged to be inadequate in Early Years Register (EYR) inspections between 1 September and 31 December 2008[1,2]

Provider Type	*Number of inspections*	*Number of providers deemed inadequate*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all inspections of this provider type (%)*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all EYR inspections deemed inadequate (%)*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all EYR inspections (%)*
Those in 10% most deprived areas	403	21	5	5	0
Childminders	4,043	240	6	61	4
Private Settings	1,328	107	8	27	2

Table B: Settings judged to be inadequate in Early Years Register (EYR) inspections between 1 September and 31 December 2008[1,2]

Provider Type	*Number of inspections*	*Number of providers deemed inadequate*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all inspections of this provider type (%)*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all EYR inspections deemed inadequate (%)*	*Percentage of providers deemed inadequate as a proportion of all EYR inspections (%)*
Voluntary Settings	303	16	5	4	0
Montessori Settings	54	3	6	1	0
Steiner Settings	0	0	0	0	0
All Early Years Inspections	5,876	394	—	—	7

[1] Percentages are rounded to nearest whole number.

[2] The explanatory descriptions in this response outline where data in this table are not representative of all providers and should be treated with caution.

Primary Education: Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mathematics specialists have been officially appointed in primary schools since 1 June 2008. [253394]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally at present. The primary mathematics specialist is a new role recommended by Sir Peter Williams in his 2008 "Independent Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools". We aim to train 13,000 teachers to become maths specialists by 2019 in line with Sir Peter's recommendation. A small pathfinder project is currently running to test issues relating to the training for maths specialists.

Pupils: Leisure

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the effect of time spent by school children playing computer games and watching television on their school performance. [254893]

Jim Knight: The Department has made no such assessment in relation to watching television and school performance by school pupils.

In 2005 the University of Sheffield conducted a study on behalf of DFES of the educational impact of children's use of computers at home (Valentine et al, 2005). It found that, overall, the use of computers at home was linked to higher levels of educational performance than expected given prior attainment and other factors.

However, where children used computers extensively for leisure purposes, focused predominantly on computer games, there was a small but significant negative impact. The researchers concluded that the negative impact was not a direct result of game playing, but of impact on time spent on school work.

In 2006 the Department commissioned the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) to produce a publication that gave an overview of the current use of games in learning, the impact of such approaches on learning and importantly the needs of the teacher in this context. The publication released by ELSPA on 4 October 2006, "Unlimited Learning: Computer and video games in the learning landscape" offers a snapshot of what is happening across education and, importantly, offers an evidence base from which informed decisions can be taken by industry and education alike.

There is a growing body of evidence that some characteristics of games have a role in supporting learning, but the relationship between learning of this sort and performance requires further research. Becta is working closely with Futurelab to build the evidence base. Games vary considerably in nature. Some games are more appropriately designed for supporting academic performance than others. These others may support other skills such as problem-solving, providing authentic or 'real life' learning experiences, making decisions, or communicating with others.

A recent survey by Becta found that 11 to 14-year-olds spend an average of four hours per week playing games, and boys spend twice as much time as girls (Luckin et al, 2008). 80 per cent. of seven to 11-year-olds reported playing games at home (Cranmer et al, 2008).

School Libraries

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* independent sixth form colleges do not have a permanent library. [254608]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold up-to-date information on the numbers and proportions of schools and colleges with libraries. It is thought that most, if not all, schools and colleges have library facilities. Schools sometimes opt to have distributed facilities, rather than centralised libraries.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-9 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the upgrading of library facilities.

Schools: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school buildings in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [254674]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates capital funding on a local authority basis, and then relies on the authority to prioritise spending within its area and between schools.

Accordingly, no records are held centrally on spending in West Chelmsford, or between primary and secondary schools.

Capital allocations by the Department to Essex county council in each of the last five years are set out in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	62.6
2004-05	63.2
2005-06	55.6
2006-07	51.2
2007-08	52.6

In the current period 2008-09 to 2010-11, allocations made so far amount to £244.2 million, i.e. £81.4 million per annum. The corresponding allocation in 1996-97 was £12.2 million.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in the National Challenge funding programme have yet to receive any of the additional funding allocated via the programme; and if he will make a statement; [253178]

(2) which national challenge schools have received no national challenge funding since June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [254867]

Jim Knight: We have worked with local authorities to agree a package of support for each school supported through the National Challenge. We have made payments to local authorities, rather than schools, through the Standards Fund.

We have not yet signed off plans for four local authorities, although all schools in those local authorities are being supported by a National Challenge Adviser.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W, on schools: standards, what methodology is used in calculating the level of financial support provided for each national challenge school. [254865]

Jim Knight: Funding for schools supported through National Challenge has been tailored according to the needs of individual schools, and has not been calculated through a formula. My officials met representatives of local authorities in the autumn to develop bespoke funding plans, which were moderated to ensure consistency and value for money at a national level.

Schools: Weather

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local education authorities' schools were closed *(a)* on each day of the week and *(b)* in total during the week beginning 2 February 2009. [255027]

Jim Knight: There is no duty upon schools or local authorities to report school closures to the Department, so we do not routinely collect this information. Because of the number of schools closed in the week in question, we are collecting this information on a one-off basis. I will write to the hon. Member shortly when the information has been collected, and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Serco

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value was of his Department's contracts held with Serco in each year since his Department was established. [253253]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To gather the information required to estimate the total value for each Serco contract held each year since DCSF was established would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold. However, our financial records show that the following payments were made to Serco in each of the years since the Department was established:

April 2007 to March 2008: £7,538,442;

April 2008 to January 2009: £6,722,922.

Total payments made to Serco during the period was £14,261,364.

Specialist Schools: Music

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many colleges were established with music as a *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* combined specialism in each of the last three years; [254788]

(2) how many colleges listed music as a *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* combined specialism in each of the last three years. [254790]

Jim Knight: There have been 32 schools that have taken music as either their initial specialism, as an additional specialism or as part of a combined specialism, over the last three years. The following table shows the breakdown of those figures.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Music as an initial specialism	5	4	6	15
Music as an additional specialism	5	5	1	11
Music as a combined specialism	3	2	1	6
Total	13	11	8	32

Sure Start Programme: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people used Sure Start centres in Blackpool in the last year for which figures are available. [253967]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect information centrally about the numbers of people accessing individual Sure Start Children's Centres. We expect local authorities and children's centres to collect data on the take up of services as part of their local performance management arrangements. Sure Start

Children's Centres provide universal services for families with children under the age of five years. There are currently 12 Sure Start Children's Centres in Blackpool and over 2,900 Centres nationwide, providing access to early childhood services for almost 2.3 million children. By 2010 there will be at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres—one for every community.

Sure Start Programme: Sheffield

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with Sheffield Council on its decision to reduce the funding to eight Sure Start children's centres and community nurseries; and if he will make a statement. [253103]

Beverley Hughes: Sheffield's allocation for the periods 2008-11 for Sure Start children's centres and Sure Start local programmes is £35,384,827.

Sheffield City council, like all local authorities, is responsible for allocating the Sure Start children's centres revenue funding it receives from my Department, and for ensuring there is sufficient childcare for working parents in its area. It has flexibility to determine levels of resource for the children's centres within its area in order to meet identified needs.

We have made enquiries via the Government Office Yorkshire and Humberside and Sheffield City council have informed us that it is not withdrawing funding from its children's centres or community nurseries.

Teachers: Males

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his letter of correction, Deposited Paper 2008-2997, to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on teachers: males, how many maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools had fewer than (i) 10 per cent. (ii) 20 per cent. and (iii) 30 per cent. qualified male teachers in 2008. [253227]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England that employed fewer than 10 per cent, 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. qualified full-time equivalent male teachers.

Number of maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools with fewer than 10 per cent, 20 per cent., and 30 per cent. full-time equivalent qualified male teachers: Year January 2008 Coverage: England

	Primary	*Secondary*[1]
Less than 10 per cent.	6,800	10
Less than 20 per cent.	12,390	70
Less than 30 per cent.	15,930	360

[1] Excludes Academies

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many graduates who began secondary school teaching careers had degrees from *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge in each of the last 15 years; and if he will make a statement; [254508]

(2) how many graduates who began secondary school teaching careers had degrees from Russell Group universities in each of the last 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [254509]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many graduates who began secondary school teaching careers had degrees in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science and *(d)* foreign languages in each of the last 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [254510]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have been on long-term sick leave in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [252457]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 11 February 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments have been made to Creative and Business International Network ambassadors to date. [255968]

Andy Burnham: No payments have been made to ambassadors for the Creative and Business International Network, and we do not expect to make any payments at any point in the future.

Culture: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the Find Your Talent pilot projects to date; and how much he expects to be spent on them in each year to 2011. [256086]

Andy Burnham: The 10 Find Your Talent Pathfinders have been allocated a total of £4,312,070 in 2008-09, £8,030,923 in 2009-10, and £8,030,923 in 2010-11.

To date, the pathfinders have received 50 per cent. of their budget for 2008-09, a total of £2,156,035, and will shortly receive the remainder.

Culture: Young People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people under the age of 16 who have *(a)* performed music live to an audience, *(b)* taken part in a theatre production, *(c)* visited an art gallery, *(d)* visited a library and *(e)* visited an historic building in each of the last three years. [255897]

Barbara Follett: The Taking Part survey provides data on engagement with a range of cultural activities by children aged 11 to 15. The child element of the survey began in January 2006 and data are therefore available for 2006 and 2007 only.

The following table shows the percentage of children aged 11 to 15 who had participated in the listed activities in the 12 months prior to interview:

Engagement in a selection of cultural activities during the past 12 months, by children aged 11 to 15

		Percentage
	2006	*2007*
Played a musical instrument to an audience or rehearsed	21.3	22.2
Rehearsed or performed in a play or drama	37.6	36.2
Visited an exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture	17.7	17.2
Visited a library	71.6	72.6
Visited a historic environment site	72.0	73.2

Note:

These figures are survey estimates which each sit within a range. The data have been extracted from the report published in October 2008, 'Headline findings from the child survey 2007'. The full report and accompanying data workbooks are available from the DCMS website at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5481.aspx

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254746]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 899W.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256142]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Database maintenance costs in my Department are made up of the cost of the software maintenance from the supplier and the day to day maintenance carried out by our outsourced IT service provider, Atos Origin. The latter is included in the outsourced ICT contract service charges with Atos Origin and it is not possible to disaggregate the cost from the service charges. My Department does not separately identify database management expenditure and aggregate information is not available before 2007-08.

Database maintenance charges paid to software providers by my Department and its agency was £217,448 in 2007/8 and £168,394 so far this financial year.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256213]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not currently employ any EU or non-EU foreign nationals.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255223]

Andy Burnham: Ministers in this Department have received no such representations.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid to the designated moderator at the event which it hosted at the Walker Art Gallery on 20 November 2008. [255966]

Andy Burnham: No payment was made to the moderator at the event hosted by DCMS at the Walker Art Gallery on 20 November 2008.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253260]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

Digital Britain Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the Digital Britain Summit in April 2009; and where he expects the event to take place; [254778]

(2) what Digital Britain events are planned to take place in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* England in the next 12 months; and how much is planned to be spent on staging each such event. [254809]

Andy Burnham: As set out in the Government's Digital Britain interim report, focused events will take place in the UK nations ahead of publication of the Government's final report as well as a summit due to take place in April. These events will provide an opportunity to explain thinking on the key issues as far as possible and allow interested stakeholders to make representations. The details of these events have not been fully developed and the costs are not yet available.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what original research has been commissioned by the Digital Britain Review; which organisations and individuals have been commissioned to conduct such research; what the estimated cost of each project is; and what plans he has to publish the outcomes of such research. [254779]

Andy Burnham: To date the following original research has been commissioned in relation to the Digital Britain Review:

An analysis of the key trends and issues in the UK media and telecoms sector, provided by Enders Analysis;

An audit, commissioned from Ofcom, of their existing research; and

A very small space on an omnibus survey looking at the importance of digital media now and in the future.

The research produced by Enders Analysis and Ofcom was published as Annexes to the Interim Report on 29 January and is available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/5631.aspx

The responses provided for the omnibus survey will be incorporated into the final report due in the summer.

It would not be appropriate to provide the costs of each individual piece of research for reasons of commercially confidentiality. However, the total cost is estimated at around £21,350.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254052]

Andy Burnham: I have regular engagements—on a range of issues relating to the economy—with many organisations connected to the sectors for which I have ministerial responsibility. This includes other Government Departments.

Music: Young People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young people were mentored as part of the Music Mentoring initiative in each of the last three years. [255907]

Barbara Follett: Youth Music is unable to provide the information in the form requested. However, Youth Music has advised that, in the period 2006-08, a total of 1,627 young people received one-to-one, small group, and large group mentoring; and 166 young people were engaged as peer mentors and were also mentored. In the period 2008-09, a total of 764 young people have so far received one-to-one and small group mentoring, with 81 young people working as peer mentors.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [253447]

Andy Burnham: In recognition of the importance of the portable antiquities scheme, I am pleased to confirm that funding remains committed for 2009 to 2011. In November 2008, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), which provides the largest contribution towards funding the scheme, confirmed allocation of £1.3 million this year (2009-10), which will rise to over £1.4 million in 2010-11. The MLA has also stated that it intends to maintain the scheme at present levels of activity.

Sports: Private Sector

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many organisations have subscribed to his Department's Medal Hopes scheme; and how many are in negotiation to subscribe; [254377]

(2) how much funding for elite sport has been raised by the Medal Hopes scheme to date; and how much he expects to be raised in each of the next three years; [254378]

(3) how much funding for elite sport has been raised by the Medal Hopes scheme to date; and how much he expects to be raised by the scheme in each of the next three years. [254780]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Negotiations are ongoing with various potential private sector partners and to release further information regarding these negotiations at this time would prejudice commercial interests. However I will make an announcement in due course.

Swimming Teachers' Association

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration he gave to including the Swimming Teachers Association in the range of stakeholders consulted on the Free Swimming Programme. [256191]

Andy Burnham: The Free Swimming programme was designed in close consultation with Sport England, the Local Government Association, the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association and the Amateur Swimming Association (as the national governing body for swimming).

My officials recently met the Swimming Teachers' Association to discuss future work and policy initiatives concerning the programme. We will continue to involve them in future discussions as appropriate.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each quarter since March 2008; and how many are expected to be employed in each quarter to December 2012. [250534]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 February 2009:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff were employed in (a) the Child Support Agency and (b) the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each quarter since March 2008; and how many are expected to be employed in each quarter to December 2012. [250534]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008, at which point all staff employed by the Agency transferred to the Commission. The table below sets out the number of full-time equivalent employees directly employed by the Agency and the Commission in the last four quarters and the current estimate for the quarter ending March 2009, rounded to the nearest hundred.

	March 2008	*June 2008*	*September 2008*	*December 2008*	*March 2009*[1]
Agency	9500	9500	9400	—	—
Commission	—	—	5	9300	8900

[1] Estimated

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's projected level of staffing for the remaining two years of the current spending review period will continue to be kept under review to ensure that the Commission lives within its allocated funding.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* mean amount and *(b)* range of individual debts for which the Child Support Agency has obtained liability orders in each region of England was in each of the last three years; [250961]

(2) how many liability orders the Child Support Agency has obtained through the courts in each region of England and Wales in each of the last three years; [250964]

(3) how many liability orders were issued by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the Child Support Agency in each region in each of the last three years. [256241]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system including the Child Support Agency. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the *(a)* mean amount and *(b)* range of individual debts for which the Child Support Agency has obtained liability orders in each region of England was in each of the last three years. [250961] and;

How many liability orders the Child Support Agency has obtained through the courts in each region of England and Wales in each of the last three years. [250964] and;

How many liability orders were issued by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each region in each of the last three years in respect of which its framework document states that he is accountable to Parliament. [256241]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the child maintenance system including the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008. Neither the Child Support Agency nor the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has the power to issue liability orders in respect of child maintenance debt; rather an application is made to the Court which grants the liability order.

The Commission routinely publishes Information showing the number of liability orders granted on a national level, in Table 21 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest version is available in the House of Commons Library or online at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/xls/csa_dec08_tables.xlsinformation

The additional information you requested on the overall number of liability orders granted, the mean amount of the debt secured as well as the range of debts secured, is only available for each region from 2007. Therefore the information set out in the attached table covers the year from November 2007 to October 2008, the latest data available.

Liability Orders granted in England and Wales from November 2007 to October 2008

Region	*Liability orders granted*	*Mean*[1] *(£)*	*Minimum*[2] *(£)*	*Maximum*[3] *(£)*
North East	1,500	4,300	0	54,000
North West	3,300	5,000	0	67,000
Yorkshire/ Humberside	2,400	5,000	0	66,000
East Midlands	1,800	5,300	100	66,000
West Midlands	2,600	5,700	0	74,000
Eastern	2,000	6,100	100	80,000
London	2,000	7,100	0	69,000
South East	2,800	6,000	0	72,000
South West	1,900	5,400	0	68,000
Wales	1,300	4,800	100	65,000

[1] Mean figures are rounded to the nearest £100

[2] Minimum figures are rounded to the nearest £100

[3] Maximum figures are rounded to the nearest £1000

Notes:

1. Liability Orders granted have been allocated to Government Office regions based on the residential postcode of the non-resident parent at the time of the court hearing
2. A small number of cases exist where the postcode is not recorded on the management information. As such, these can not be allocated to a region
3. Liability Orders granted are rounded to the nearest 100

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on how many occasions the Child Support Agency has taken action to enforce a liability order in each region of England in each of the last three years; [250963]

(2) what steps have been taken to enforce liability orders issued by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the Child Support Agency in each region in each of the last three years. [256240]

Kitty Usher *[pursuant to the reply, 5 February 2009, Official Report, c. 1419W]:* The reply to PQ 250962 was correct but incomplete. I would like to add that up to 1 November 2008, neither the Department nor its Agencies apart from the Child Support Agency used liability orders to recover debt.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008. The Commission will therefore continue to apply to the Courts for liability orders in respect of Child Maintenance Debt. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the available information on liability orders relating to child maintenance debt as requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the use of liability orders, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what enforcement action his Department and its agencies have taken to recover debts in respect of which they have obtained liability orders in each region of England in each of the last three years. [250962] and:

On how many occasions the Child Support Agency has taken action to enforce a liability order in each region of England in each of the last three years. [250963] and:

What steps have been taken to enforce liability orders issued by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each region in each of the last three years in respect of which its framework document states that the Secretary of State is accountable to Parliament: [256240]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the child maintenance system including the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008. Neither the Child Support Agency nor the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has the power to issue liability orders in respect of child maintenance debt; rather an application is made to the Court which grants the liability order.

The actions open to the Commission to enforce a liability order include referral to bailiffs, applying for a County Court Judgement Order, applying for a Third Party Debt Order or Charging Order, applying for an Order for Sale on the debtors property and referral to the Courts for further consideration of available sanctions at the Court's discretion which include committal or disqualification from driving.

Information at a national level on the number of liability orders granted and additional enforcement action taken as a result is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or on online at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html.

The additional information you have requested on actions taken to enforce liability orders granted by the Courts in each region is only available from 2007. Therefore the information set out in the attached table covers the year from November 2007 to October 2008, the latest data available.

Actions taken to enforce liability orders in England: November 2007 to October 2008

Region	*Number of actions to enforce liability orders*
North East	1,600
North West	3,700
Yorkshire/Humberside	2,700
East Midlands	2,100
West Midlands	3,000
Eastern	2,300
London	1,900

Actions taken to enforce liability orders in England: November 2007 to October 2008

Region	*Number of actions to enforce liability orders*
South East	3,500
South West	2,400

Notes:

1. Actions include cases referred to bailiffs, where a County Court Judgment Order has been imposed, a Third Party Debt Order or Charging Order application made, or a referral for committal or disqualification of driving licence applied for or Orders for Sale applied for.

2. A small number of actions exist where the postcode is not recorded on the management information. As such, these cannot be allocated to a region.

3. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many representations received by the Child Support Agency were not opened as cases owing to the residence of the non-resident parent being outside the UK in each year since 1999; [254141]

(2) how many cases involving child maintenance payments were not pursued by the Child Support Agency owing to the departure from the UK of the non-resident parent in each year since 1999. [254142]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 February 2009:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pension, how many representations received by the Child Support Agency were not opened as cases owing to the residence of the non-resident parent being outside the UK in each year since 1999. [254141] and;

How many cases involving child maintenance payments were not pursued by the Child Support Agency owing to the departure from the UK of the non-resident parent in each year since 1999 [254142]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's jurisdiction is limited to cases where the parent with care, non-resident parent and qualifying child(ren) are all habitually resident in the UK. However, there are exceptions if the non-resident parent is resident overseas but, for example, employed by the Crown, and therefore classed as habitually resident in the UK for child maintenance purposes.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission holds limited information from 2004, relating to the numbers of cases maintained on the CS2 computer system where the non-resident parent is recorded as not being resident in the UK. The Commission therefore does not hold information on the number of applications that fail to progress as the non-resident parent is not resident in the UK. Neither is it able to identify cases where the non-resident parent is abroad but treated as being habitually resident in the UK for child maintenance purposes.

Such information as is available is set out in the table below, which shows the number of cases with a calculation recorded on the CS2 computer systems where the non resident parent is shown as not resident in the UK and in how many of these cases maintenance has not been received in the previous three months.

As at December each year:	*Non-resident parent abroad*	*No maintenance received*
2004	9,800	3,400
2005	7,800	2,500
2006	6,700	2,200
2007	6,200	2,100
2008	6,900	2,300

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to enforce payments under child maintenance agreements by non-resident parents living outside the United Kingdom. [254143]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department has taken to enforce payments under child maintenance agreements by non-resident parents living outside the United Kingdom. (254143)

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's jurisdiction is limited to cases where the parent with care, non-resident parent and qualifying child(ren) are all habitually resident in the UK. Although there are exceptions if the non-resident parent is resident overseas but, for example, employed by the Crown, in most cases where the non-resident parent leaves the UK permanently, the Commission's jurisdiction ceases. This means that the Commission is unable to enforce the payment of child maintenance in these cases, although where the non-resident parent has assets which remain in the United Kingdom, the Commission can take action to enforce any remaining debt in a particular case.

The Official Solicitor and Public Trustee is the authority in England and Wales responsible for the enforcement of maintenance orders overseas. The UK has reciprocal arrangements with more than one hundred countries, which enable maintenance obligations to be established or recognised and enforced if the non-resident parent resides in one of those countries. The parent with care may apply to a magistrate's court for a maintenance order to be enforced overseas and procedures also exist to enable the parent with care to ask the foreign authorities to create an order for maintenance on their behalf. However this route cannot be used to enforce Child Support Agency debt that was incurred prior to the non-resident parent's move abroad.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in *(a)* the City of Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough, *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(d)* the UK in each of the last five years. [254016]

Kitty Ussher: Child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of children in relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. This means information for city of Southampton, the Test Valley borough and the ceremonial county of Hampshire is not available.

Available information is shown in the following table.

Number of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median, 2002-03 to 2006-07, Before Housing Costs, United Kingdom

	Number of children (million)
2002-03	2.9
2003-04	2.9
2004-05	2.7
2005-06	2.8
2006-07	2.9

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of his Department's effectiveness in contributing towards the achievement of the Government's target to abolish child poverty. [252693]

Kitty Ussher: Parental employment is the single biggest determinant of family income and children in out-of-work families are at a high risk of poverty. Work, therefore, continues to be the most sustainable route out of poverty. Our reforms of the welfare system have focused on helping people move into work, and increased employment has played an important role in reducing the number of children in relative poverty by 600,000 since 1998-99.

In particular, we have reduced the number of children in workless households by around 445,000 since 1997. The proportion of children in workless households currently stands at 15.5 per cent., down by 3.3 percentage points since 1997. We have increased the Great Britain lone parent employment rate which now stands at 56.3 per cent. The lone parent employment rate has increased by 11.6 percentage points since 1997 and this translates into an extra 320,000 lone parents in employment.

In addition to these reforms of the welfare system, the reforms we have already made to the child maintenance system, along with our intention to introduce a full child maintenance disregard, will lift over around 100,000 children out of poverty.

However, we recognise that there is more that we need to do, particularly in these turbulent economic times. This is why we are continuing the process of welfare reform and introducing into legislation our commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency were considered to be living in severe poverty in each year since 1997. [254915]

Kitty Ussher: There is no official or agreed definition of severe poverty. The Households Below Average Income series presents a range of low-income thresholds (based on 50, 60 and 70 per cent. of median income).

Child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of children in relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. This means information for the Tees Valley, and the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency is not available.

Data are available for England on a single-year basis. Regional data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates. Figures for England and the North East region looking at the number of children in households below 60 per cent. of median are shown in the following tables. Statistics based on other thresholds are given in the Households Below Average Income publication, a copy of which is available in the Library.

Table 1: Number of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median in 1997-98 to 2006-07, Before Housing Costs, England

	Number of children (million)
1997-98	2.9
1998-99	2.8
1999-2000	2.8
2000-01	2.5
2001-02	2.5
2002-03	2.4
2003-04	2.4
2004-05	2.3
2005-06	2.4
2006-07	2.4

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07

Table 2: Number of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median in 1997-98 to 2006-07, Before Housing Costs, North East England

	Number of children (million)
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.2
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.2
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.2
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.2
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the professional advice received from the Met Office on the basis of which it was decided that Bishopton weather station was the most appropriate station for the determination of cold weather payments for East Kilbride. [254884]

Kitty Ussher: The advice received from the Met Office is as follows:

> "The Cold Weather Payments scheme involves linking groups of postcode areas to weather stations that report to the Met Office on a daily basis. 76 such stations are currently used in the scheme. Each postcode area is linked to a station with the most similar climate in terms of mean winter temperature (mean for 1971-2000). The linkages that have been made also take account of topography, the extent of built-up areas and the distance from available weather stations.
>
> East Kilbride is linked to Glasgow-Bishopton, approximately 15 miles to the north-west. The winter mean temperature at East Kilbride is 3.3 degrees Celsius and at Bishopton it is 3.7 degrees Celsius. An alternative station used in the Cold Weather Payments scheme is Salsburgh, approximately 12 miles north-east of East Kilbride. There the winter mean temperature is 2.6 degrees Celsius. On that basis, the more suitable linkage is Bishopton, which is used for almost all the Glasgow postcodes."

Community Care Grants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the maximum sum payable under the Community Care Grant Scheme for provision of a television set is; [254372]

(2) whether applications may be made under the community care grant for funds to purchase a motor vehicle; and if he will make a statement. [254373]

Kitty Ussher: There is no upper limit to the amount that may be awarded for a Community Care Grant. However, discretionary Community Care Grants are awarded within a budgetary framework, and decision makers use a range of prices that reflect this.

An applicant may apply to the Social Fund Community Care Grant scheme for any type of expense including a motor vehicle or television. However, an award may only be made if it contributes sufficiently to the overall aim of supporting care in the community.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to reform the housing allowance scheme in the last five years; what discussions he has had with local authorities on this issue in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [255102]

Kitty Ussher: Local housing allowance was rolled out nationally in April 2008 for customers in the deregulated private rented sector who make a new claim for housing benefit, and for existing customers who move address. It is a new way of calculating the rent element of housing benefit based on the area in which a customer lives and his/her household size. Local housing allowance is paid to the tenant rather than the landlord in most circumstances. Tenants are able to keep any excess benefit up to a maximum of £15 per week that is over and above the cost of their rent.

Local housing allowance was introduced in nine pathfinder authorities in 2003-04 and was subject to extensive and independent evaluation. A further nine authorities implemented the scheme in 2005 to test operational readiness.

We are closely monitoring how the local housing allowance scheme is working in practice and will undertake a review during the first two years of operation following national rollout.

At Budget 2008 the Government announced a review of the working age housing benefit system. This joint DWP/HMT internal review of housing benefit is looking at the effectiveness of the system, particularly in promoting work incentives, efficiency and fairness and to ensure that it represents value for money for the taxpayer.

The December Welfare Reform White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future" provided a formal update on the review outlining our next steps and the key issues we would like to address.

We also announced our intention to launch a public consultation on housing benefit reform this year, a process which will begin with the publication of a housing benefit reform consultation document.

We meet with local authority representatives regularly, both formally, through statutory liaison with the local authority associations, and through regular liaison with individual local authorities. We often discuss the local housing allowance at these meetings.

Housing Benefit: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [254717]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

The most recent available information is in the table.

Number of recipients of housing benefit in Essex, 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Great Britain	3,813,560	3,943,590	3,981,020	4,024,280	4,040,940
Essex	62,080	65,140	66,780	68,420	69,760

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System. Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in August 2003 to August 2007.

Income Support: Lone Parents

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are claiming income support; and how many of those have a youngest child under *(a)* 12, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* seven years of age. [252984]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is in the table.

Number of lone parents claiming income support

	May 2008
All	738,640
Youngest child aged under 7	459,690
Youngest child aged 7 to less than 10	114,350
Youngest child aged 10 to less than 12	65,260

Note:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Income Support: Mortgages

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the ending of emergency payments of income support for mortgage interest on vulnerable mortgage holders; and what steps he plans to take through the benefits system to reduce the risk of repossessions among such mortgage holders. [252694]

Kitty Ussher: Customers in vulnerable groups, and those with existing housing costs as defined under the previous rules that existed before 5 January 2009, will receive help with 100 per cent. of their eligible housing costs after a waiting period of 13 weeks under the new rules.

This compares favourably with the previous position because although such customers received 50 per cent. of eligible housing costs after eight weeks under the old rules, they had to wait 26 weeks before receiving 100 per cent. Such customers will now be better off overall by four weeks of full eligible interest in the first 26 weeks of their claims than they would have been under the rules that existed before 5 January. We believe that this more generous help, taken together with the increased capital limit from £100,000 to £200,000, will reduce the risk of repossessions.

Industrial Health and Safety: Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the effects of the Working at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007 on the normal workplace activities of firefighters employed by fire and rescue services; and if he will make a statement. [254730]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007 changed the detail of the requirements under the Work at Height Regulations 2005 with respect to certain caving and climbing activities. As such, the 2007 regulations have very limited application to the fire and rescue service and no review is considered to be needed. In 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government published guidance for the fire and rescue service on the practical application of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 to fire and rescue service activities. The Health and Safety Executive expects that the fire and rescue service itself will keep this practical guidance under review to ensure it continues to represent best practice.

Local Employment Partnerships

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of local employment partnerships in assisting jobseekers into employment; and if he will make a statement. [255322]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Local employment partnerships (LEPs) aim to help 250,000 people into work between now and the end of 2010. So far, over 100,000 people have found work with over 18,000 employers through LEPs. It is too early to estimate the net effect of the policy on the movement of jobseekers from benefit into employment. A full evaluation of LEP will be carried out over the next two years.

Pensioners: Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples will become eligible for (i) guarantee credit only, (ii) savings credit only and (iii) guarantee and savings credit as a result of the changes to the minimum income guarantee level announced in the Pre-Budget Report; and if he will make a statement. [246639]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the announcement in the pre-Budget report of the proposed basic state pension and pension credit benefit rates for 2009-10, the number of pensioner households eligible to pension credit is forecast to remain broadly constant between 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Pensions: Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to *(a)* increase the take-up of council tax benefit and *(b)* simplify the procedure for pensioners to claim. [253764]

Kitty Ussher: Council tax benefit makes an important contribution to the financial security of around 2.6 million pensioner households. We therefore want to ensure that, they get the money they are entitled to.

We are making good progress. When pension credit was introduced in October 2003, we invested almost £0.5 billion a year in increasing the amounts on which housing benefit and council tax benefit are based. This meant that around 2 million pensioner households became either entitled to council tax benefit for the first time or qualified for more help.

People on the guarantee credit or guarantee plus savings credit of pension credit (with or without the savings credit) can get maximum council tax benefit. They are treated as having no income or capital. People with savings credit only may still be entitled to some council tax benefit.

All pension credit customers who are identified as having council tax liability are encouraged to claim council tax benefit when they make their initial claim for pension credit.

Since December 2005, people applying for pension credit have been able to access housing benefit and council tax benefit at the same time via one phone call to the Pension, Disability and Carers Service—one phone call, one number, three benefits. Pension, Disability and Carers Service staff completed a short claim form on the customer's behalf, and sent it to them for signing and returning it to the local authority for processing.

From October 2008, we dispensed with the claim form. Pension, Disability and Carers Service now pass the information direct to the local authority. Previously around 40 per cent. of pre-populated council tax benefit claim forms sent to customers for checking and forwarding to the local authority were never sent to the local authority.

Our longer term aim is to make support for council tax liability as accessible as possible and we will continue to examine ways of achieving this.

Social Fund

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of individual applications to the Social Fund for *(a)* community care grants, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* crisis loans were successful in each month from July to December 2008. [253990]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The available information is given in the table.

Discretionary Social Fund in Great Britain from July to December 2008

	Percentage of applications processed which were initially successful		
	Community Care Grants	*Budgeting loans*	*Crisis loans*
July 2008	46	68	66
August 2008	45	76	67
September 2008	43	79	67
October 2008	42	79	67
November 2008	41	74	68
December 2008	41	76	70

Note:
Figures do not include awards made after review.
Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Unemployment Benefits

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last reviewed his Department's procedures for providing assistance to those moving in and out of short-term employment. [255510]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Jobcentre Plus provides support for all jobseeker's allowance claimants from day one of a claim. This can include advice on effective job-search strategies, matching people to the many thousands of new vacancies that come up every day and, where appropriate, help with writing a CV, filling in job applications, or with accessing opportunities to refresh or develop new skills.

We have introduced key changes to the jobseeker's allowance rapid reclaim process. Jobseekers can now apply for benefit under the rapid reclaim process up to 26 weeks after a previous claim to the same benefit, rather than within 12 weeks as before. As much of the relevant information is already held, rapid reclaim cases can be processed more quickly, though this is dependent on the jobseeker's circumstances remaining the same as when they left benefit.

Temporary jobs can provide valuable work experience and can often be a stepping stone to more permanent employment. Rapid reclaim supports the incentive to take up employment, including short-term periods of full-time work, by easing concerns about reapplying for benefits should the work suddenly come to an end.

Winter Fuel Payments: Expenditure

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost in real terms to the public purse of paying winter fuel allowance in respect of all children under five in receipt of the higher care component of disability living allowance in each of the next five years. [246720]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over. The estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments in respect of all children under five in receipt of the highest rate care component of disability living allowance in each of the next five years is in the table.

Estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments in respect of all children under five in receipt of the highest rate care component of disability living allowance

	Total cost in each year: 2008-09 prices (£ million)
2008-09	4.7
2009-10	3.7
2010-11	3.8
2011-12	3.8
2012-13	3.9

The estimated annual cost is presented in real terms at 2008/9 prices. The estimate for 2008-09 is based on a £250 payment, which includes a one-off additional payment of £50 for this year. The estimates are based on a £200 payment for subsequent years.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members of Parliament: Duration

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what the average length of service in the House is for current hon. Members; and if she will make a statement. [255096]

Chris Bryant: The average length of service for current hon. Members is 13.4 years.

Members of Parliament: Retirement

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members who retired at the *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987, *(c)* 1992, *(d)* 1997, *(e)* 2001 and *(f)* 2005 general elections were aged 65 and over at the date of retirement; and how long each had served in the House on retirement. [255100]

Chris Bryant: In total 258 members aged 65 and over left the House at general elections from 1983 to 2005. The following table summarises the position.

General election

	Members over 65 retiring			*Length of service*			
	Total	*Stood down*	*Defeated*	*Under 9 years*	*9 to under 21 years*	*21 to under 33 years*	*Over 33 years*
1983	34	31	3	1	8	12	13
1987	46	42	4	2	12	23	9
1992	45	42	3	1	7	29	8
1997	68	56	12	0	15	50	3
2001	33	30	3	3	11	11	8
2005	32	27	5	4	8	13	7

WALES

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255063]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Digital Broadcasting

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had on digital inclusion in Wales with the First Minister; and if he will make a statement. [255539]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The deputy Minister for digital inclusion, the Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Caerphilly (Wayne David) and I have discussed the issue on a number of occasions with the Welsh Assembly Government Minister with responsibility for digital inclusion, to ensure that the actions set out in the UK Government's Digital Inclusion Action Plan are informed by, and reinforce WAG initiatives.

I know that the Welsh Affairs Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the issue, and I look forward to giving evidence to the Committee.

Olympic Games 2012

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on Wales' contribution to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [255559]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I regularly meet with the First Minister to discuss a range of issues that affect Wales, including the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Wales has already developed an international reputation as a nation capable of hosting, and winning, successful major sporting events, which has been reflected with the Australian Paralympic Committee's commitment to be one of the first to confirm their intention of coming to Wales. Wales has already secured Olympic Football for the Millennium Stadium.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games) expect to directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts. The Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have actively encouraged small and medium enterprises to register and compete for these contracts through the CompeteFor programme. So far, 1,000 Welsh businesses have registered on the website. I raised the issue of the business opportunities presented by the Games at the National Economic Summit in North Wales on 6 February.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Anglo Leasing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Serious Fraud Office has spent to date on its investigation into Anglo Leasing. [256273]

The Solicitor-General: The Anglo Leasing investigation cost £48,975.16 between September 2007, when the investigation began, and January 2009 when the investigation was terminated.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Agriculture

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what policies his Department has in place to achieve carbon dioxide emissions reductions in the agricultural sector. [255169]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are currently developing a policy framework to reduce all greenhouse gases (GHG) including carbon dioxide from the agriculture, forestry and land management sectors.

This work will feed into the Government's response to recommendations made in the Committee on Climate Change's inaugural report.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban households which are in fuel poverty. [241472]

Joan Ruddock: A breakdown based on the rurality of the household, as defined by the National Statistics Definition, is available in the "Fuel Poverty Statistics: Detailed Tables 2006" available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48038.pdf

Table 35 holds the following information for England only:

	Percentage households in group		*Number households in group (thousand)*			
Rurality	*Not fuel poor*	*Fuel poor*	*Not fuel poor*	*Fuel poor*	*Total number of households (thousand)*	*Percentage total fuel poor in group*
Urban	89.6	10.4	15,253	1,768	17,022	72.7
Town and fringe	89.1	10.9	1,857	227	2,084	9.3
Village, hamlet and isolated dwellings	79.4	20.6	1,679	437	2,115	18.0
Total	88.5	11.5	18,789	2,432	21,221	100.0

Fuel Poverty: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the number of individuals in fuel poverty in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [244138]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Fuel poverty is defined at a household level and as such a figure relating to individuals is not available. The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003, and shows that in Peterborough, there were around 4,100 fuel poor households.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assistance his Department provides to people who are living in hard-to-heat houses to enable them to insulate their homes; [249386]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to encourage people living in hard-to-heat houses to improve their energy efficiency; [249387]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to provide energy efficiency tools suitable for hard-to-heat homes. [249388]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is the Government's principal policy on insulating homes in Great Britain. Under CERT the major energy suppliers have an obligation to promote household carbon saving measures such as insulation. The most important measures for hard-to-treat homes are solid wall insulation and central heating. Suppliers installed around 80,000 heating measures and around 40,000 solid wall measures under the previous obligation period to March 2008, mostly in partnership with social landlords. We recognise that the high up-front cost of solid wall insulation makes it difficult for suppliers to justify this investment. Under CERT we have therefore introduced specific incentives to help improve the financial viability of these measures, with a particular focus on solid-walled homes which are not on the gas grid.

We also continue to assess innovative products, including solid wall insulation, for inclusion in the Warm Front scheme—the Government's main fuel poverty programme in England (fuel poverty is a devolved matter). There will be a focus on improving the energy efficiency of hard-to-treat properties in the forthcoming Community Energy Saving Programme, the proposals for which will be consulted on shortly.

In addition to insulation, through CERT we also promote other energy efficiency measures, such as low energy lamps and high efficiency appliances. We also recognise the value of providing information and advice on energy use and the best steps to make a home more energy efficient. We already provide an on-line carbon calculator, and will shortly be consulting on new provisions to encourage the deployment of real-time energy displays and home energy efficiency advice under CERT.

Kingsnorth Climate Camp

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates staff transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to his Department have since their transfer communicated with *(a)* E.ON and *(b)* Kent Police regarding the Kingsnorth Climate Camp. [240389]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Staff who dealt with the energy sector for the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) following its creation in October 2008. Since their transfer, there has been no communication between DECC staff and E.ON UK or the Kent police regarding the Kingsnorth Climate Camp.

Natural Gas: Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department plans to provide to the Falkland Islands government to extract oil and gas. [247428]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron), on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1526W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of shots fired by the armed forces in Helmand province in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and how many shots were fired in the latest period for which figures are available. [249208]

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition have been discharged by British forces in Afghanistan in each rotation since 2006. [251707]

Mr. Hutton: Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Members when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 308W, on apprentices, how many apprentices his Department employs. [252085]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For the last 2007-08 reporting period, the Department delivered 8,758 apprentice completions.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 308W, on apprentices, what progress his Department has made towards the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government Departments and agencies in 2008-09. [256254]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Government Skills is planning to prepare a central response based on the numbers participating in the National Apprenticeship Pathfinder in 2008-09. This will be in the form of a table showing participating Departments and numbers of apprentices on the programme.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256212]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data on the number of EU foreign nationals employed in the Department are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are 46 non-EU foreign nationals currently employed under an alien's certificate in compliance with the provision of the Aliens Employment Act 1955.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1557-8W, on redundancy, what estimate he has made of the annual payroll savings resulting from his Department's staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254475]

Mr. Kevan Jones: To provide this information in respect of all exit schemes run across the Department and its agencies would require a Department-wide trawl as information is not held centrally. This could be done only at disproportionate cost. Information on releases made through centrally-funded exit schemes is held centrally, however, and is shown in the following table. Information is shown at individuals' basic rate of pay at the time of departure.

£ million

	Early release cost per annum	*Estimated salary cost avoided*[1]
2005-06	9.1	10.81
2006-07	16.9	33.14
2007-08	29.5	56.91
2008-09	[2]38.6	75.5
2009-10	[3]49.0	90.42

[1] Based on notional cost of salaries avoided for those who have been released. [2] Projected costs, covering two major schemes. [3] Projected costs, covering two major schemes.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 483W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251323]

Mr. Hutton: Since 1 January 2008 a number of Ministers within the Department have undertaken pre-deployment training in preparation for visits to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Harmony Guidelines

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of personnel in each pinch point trade are exceeding the harmony guidelines for *(a)* tour intervals and *(b)* individual separated service in each service and trade type. [253717]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I stated in my answer on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1521W, information on tour intervals for pinch point trades is not routinely recorded. Data on separated service can not yet be provided for Army personnel until such time as a complete cycle has been recorded and subsequently validated (January 2010).

I am, however, able to provide information on the degree to which Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel, who are in pinch point trades, breach the Single Service Harmony Guidelines and this is shown in the following table. Current individual harmony guidelines are:

The Royal Navy guidelines determine that personnel spend, on average, 60 per cent. of their time deployed and 40 per cent. alongside in their home port during a three-year period. The maximum individual threshold (separated service) is 660 days away from their normal place of work in the same three year period.

The Army guidelines determine that soldiers can be deployed for one six-month tour in every 30 months (six on, 24 off) and during that 30 month period a soldier should not expect to be away from his or her normal place of work for more than a total of 415 days.

The Royal Air Force guidelines determine that personnel should not spend more than 280 days in every 24 months away from their normal place of duty.

Trade	*Percentage breaching harmony*
Royal Navy operational pinch points	
Lieutenant Commander XSM Command Qualified (SMCQ)	1.0

Trade	Percentage breaching harmony
Lt XSM IWC Qualified and SQEP	1.7
Principle Warfare Officers	0.3
Joint Force Harrier—Harrier GR7 Instructors	None
Lieutenant GR7 Harrier Pilots	None
MCD/MWO Lts	None
Strategic Weapon System Junior Rates	1.8
Merlin Aircrew (Pilots)	None
Merlin Aircrew (Observers)	None
Merlin Aircrew (Aircrewmen)	none
Leading Seaman General Service Warfare	1.9
Able Rate 1 Divers	None
Lieutenant XSM Advanced Warfare Qualified	1.7
Able Rate 1 (Seaman)	3.9
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	0.9
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	0.6
Leading Aircraft Controllers	None
Royal Marine Pte-Cpl	0.6
Able Rate Warfare Specialist Sensor SM	0.2
Sea King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors (LAET)	None
Cat A2 Nuclear Watch Keepers	1.9
Cat B Nuclear Watch Keepers	2.5
LLogs (CS)(Chef)	3.5
Logs(CS)(Chef)	1.9
LLogs (Pers)	None
Logs(Pers)	None
Leading Seaman Mine Warfare	None
Able Rate Warfare Specialist Tactical SM	1.8
Royal Air Force operational pinch points	
Pilot (Junior Officer)	6.2
Flying Branch (Career Stream) (Senior Officer)	Not available
Operations Support (Intelligence)	7.3
Operations Support (Regiment)	15.9
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	8.3
Medical	18.6
Med Nursing Officer (formerly Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service)	10.3
Weapons System Operator (Crewman)	3.2
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	15.7
Mechanical Transport Technician	7.8
Firefighter	9.3
Gunner	18.4
Air Traffic Controller (ATC)	2.9
Flight Operations Manager (FOM)/Flight Operations Assistant (FOA)	4.1
Logistics (Mover) (formerly Movements Operator/Controller)	7.4
Royal Air Force manning pinch points	
Weapon Systems Operator (Junior Officer)	5.3
Operations Support (Aerospace Battle Manager) (Formerly Fighter Controller)	5.7
Operations Support (Air Traffic Control)	7.4
Personnel (Support) (Formerly Admin Sec)	9.9
Personnel (Training) (Formerly Admin Training)	14.3
Chaplains	10.8
Dental	0.0
Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)	2.8
Aircraft Technician (Avionics)	3.5
General Technician (Electrical)	2.9
General Technician (Mechanical)	4.9
Intelligence (Analyst)	2.8
Survival Equipment Fitter	5.7
Biomedical Scientist (Formerly Lab Tech)	0.0
Dental Nurse	6.3
Musician	2.6

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the briefing maps for Iraq on his Department's website to be next updated. [251984]

Mr. Hutton: Of the two Iraq briefing maps on the Department's website, that showing Iraq's provinces and the last available population data remains current. The second map, showing Coalition forces' areas of responsibility has now been updated and placed on the website:

http://www.operations.mod.uk/mapping/20090127-MNDBdys-U.jpg

Merlin Helicopters

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Merlin helicopters have been fit for service in each year since 2003. [253219]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Willie Rennie:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 February (*Official Report*, column 1116W), about percentages of Merlin helicopters 'Fit for Service'.

The term 'Fit for Service' has been taken to mean the Effective Fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. The information requested is set out in the table below:

	Merlin Mk1	Merlin Mk3		
	Departmental fleet number	Percentage of Departmental fleet 'fit for service"	Departmental fleet number	Percentage of Departmental fleet 'fit for service'
2003-04	42	100	21	100
2004-05	41	100	21	100
2005-06	41	100	21	100
2006-07	41	100	21	100
2007-08	41	100	21	100

These figures do not include the six Merlin helicopters acquired from the Danish government as these aircraft were not introduced into service until financial year 2008-09, having been converted to UK standard as Mk3a.

Warships: Wrecks

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Odyssey Marine Exploration, *(b)* English Heritage and *(c)* Ministerial colleagues on the discovery of the wreck suspected to be that of HMS Victory; and if he will make a statement; [255703]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to establish the identity of the wreck reported by Odyssey Marine Exploration suspected to be that of HMS Victory. [255704]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the notification by Odyssey Marine Exploration of the possible discovery of the wreck of HMS Victory, exploratory discussions have been held by MOD officials with the company. Discussions have also been held at official level with a number of other Government Departments with a potential interest.

The wreck is potentially of significant historic interest and it is important to ensure that we are absolutely confident of the claims being made. English Heritage, who are the Government's advisers on heritage issues for England, have been invited to provide advice on the historical significance of the wreck and its likely identity, together with an assessment of the risks to its *in situ* preservation which would be the Government's preferred approach in such cases.

These considerations are likely to take some time.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationality: Torture

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 680-81W, on British nationality: torture, what estimate he has made of the costs involved in the central collation of statistics relating to the allegations of ill treatment or torture made by British nationals. [253909]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has only collected statistics, relating to the allegations of ill treatment or torture made by British nationals, since 1 April 2005.

The FCO has no estimate of the costs involved in collating this information pre-April 2005, as it would require searching through thousands of files on individual cases. To provide this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Cuba

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has met his Cuban counterpart; and whether he plans to visit Cuba to discuss UK-Cuban relations. [254696]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not met the current Cuban Foreign Minister. There are no current plans for him to visit Cuba.

Cyprus: Community Relations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 365W, on Cyprus: community relations, when he last made representations to Turkey over meeting the award of the European Court of Human Rights in the Arestes case; and if he will make a statement. [252877]

Caroline Flint: The issue was last discussed at senior official level at the start of January 2009 and at ministerial level during my visit to Turkey in December 2008.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 378-80W, on UN Cyprus Committee on Missing Persons, when he expects to make a final decision as to whether to make further donations to the UN Cyprus Committee on Missing Persons; and if he will make a statement. [252878]

Caroline Flint: The UK has donated £109,000 to the Committee of Missing Persons (CMP) over the past four years. In addition the UK leases the land on which the CMP laboratory is situated for a nominal £1 rent per year. The Government have no plans for further donations at present.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 363W, on Cyprus: community relations; if he will make an estimate of the number of *(a)* Turkish nationals (excluding the armed forces) and *(b)* Turkish militia living in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [252879]

Caroline Flint: We have no means of independently estimating the number in either case.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on Cyprus: community relations, if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* ages of the enclaved Greek Cypriots living in Karpai; and if he will make a statement. [252880]

Caroline Flint: There are no Government estimates of the number and average age of anyone living in the Karpas peninsula. We have no means of independently estimating the number in either case.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 361-2W, on Cyprus: community relations, if he will make representations to the Turkish Army in North Cyprus to permit Maronites to visit Agia Marina; and if he will make a statement. [252881]

Caroline Flint: The Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the Maronite community in Cyprus in accessing their villages of origin, including the villages of Agia Marina. Ultimately, these issues occur as a result of the political situation on the island, and will only be fully resolved by a comprehensive settlement to reunite the island. We will continue to engage with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities and all other parties as necessary, including Turkey, to support progress towards a settlement.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on Cyprus: community relations, when he last discussed the issue of the enclaved Greek Cypriots in the Karpas in the Committee of Ministers in the Council of Europe; what representations he made; and if he will make a statement. [252884]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend has not discussed the problems faced by Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas in the Committee of Ministers. However Ministers' deputies regularly discuss issues arising out of the 2001 Cyprus *v.* Turkey judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), in their quarterly meetings supervising execution of ECHR judgments. These include property rights of the enclaved. The last such discussion was 2-4 December 2008.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 369W, on Cyprus: press, how much the High Commission has spent on advertising in newspapers owned by Asil Nadir in northern Cyprus in each of the last three years. [252915]

Caroline Flint: For the period April 2007 to March 2008 the high commission spent GBP £1,315 advertising in Kibris and Cyprus Today which are both owned by Asil Nadir. The sum spent since April 2008 is GBP £1,075.20. The high commission advertises in these newspapers as they are the biggest selling papers in their market. A recent estimate showed Kibris accounting for 49 per cent. of newspaper sales in the north.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in securing additional *(a)* personnel, *(b)* resources and *(c)* airlift capability for the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1843 on 20 November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [253952]

David Miliband: The UN has accepted an official proposal from Bangladesh to provide one infantry battalion, one engineer company and one formed police unit, as well as a proposal from Belgium to provide a C-130 aircraft to the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). In addition, five UN member states have agreed to send the required intelligence experts to MONUC.

Further to this, a number of states have expressed interest in providing the second authorised infantry battalion, two special forces companies, and a second formed police unit. The UN is assessing these expressions of interest.

We will continue to lobby current and potential troop contributing countries until additional personnel are found.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each of the last three years. [251439]

Gillian Merron: Guidance for Government Departments handling correspondence from hon. Members is laid down by the Cabinet Office, which has set a target of 20 working days to reply to routine correspondence.

Records do not indicate the average time taken to answer hon. Members' letters. I can confirm that of the 11,970 letters received from hon. Members in 2006, records indicate that 89 per cent. were answered within the 20 working days target; of the 9,790 letters received from hon. Members in 2007, records indicate that 92 per cent. were answered within the 20 working days target; and of the 10,334 letters received from hon. Members in 2008, records indicate that 87 per cent. were answered within the 20 working days target.

Cabinet Office does not issue guidance for Government Departments answering letters from members of the public. Records of letters received from members of the public until late 2007 are not available and we are therefore unable to provide figures for either 2006 or 2007. However, of the 73,048 letters received from members of the public (including e-mails and campaign postcards), our records indicate that 62,671 were answered within 20 working days.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254087]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

In 2006, one member of staff was disciplined for bullying. None were disciplined for harassment.

In 2007, one member of staff was disciplined for bullying, one was disciplined for harassment.

In 2008, three members of staff were disciplined for combined bullying and harassment.

These records cover reported disciplinaries of UK-based staff. There are no central records held for locally-engaged staff. This information would be held locally at post and could only be retrieved with disproportionate cost.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused (i) in 2006, (ii) in 2007 and (iii) between January and July 2008; [255499]

(2) what the average time was for his Department to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in the last 12 months. [255500]

Gillian Merron: The available statistical information regarding FOI requests received by Departments can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255073]

Gillian Merron: During 2008 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office undertook nine main equality impact assessments. An estimate of the cost of undertaking these assessments could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1656W, on departmental personnel, how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are (i) without posts and (ii) within the corporate pool; how many staff without posts were classified as such upon returning from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts were classified as such for at least (A) six and (B) 12 months. [250044]

Gillian Merron: On 22 December 2008 there were 226 members of staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) corporate pool. Of these, 166 were deployed in temporary jobs and 60 were either on training courses or were shortly to go on maternity leave, retire or take up a job. Four members of staff who had recently returned from maternity leave were either deployed in temporary jobs or on training courses. There were no members of staff able to work who were not deployed.

There were 53 members of staff who had been in the corporate pool for more than six months and 25 who had been in the pool for twelve months.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246956]

Gillian Merron: The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) sponsors a number of advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which provide independent expert advice on a number of issues. Statistics concerning NDPBs that are sponsored by the FCO are on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/building-strong-relationships-ol/stakeholder-groups/non-dept-public-bodies

Appointments to NDPBs are governed by the principles set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. Summary information is published in 'Public Bodies' which can be accessed online at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies

or copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

In addition, the Government publish on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band.

Detainees: Guantanamo Bay

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether one of the detainees rendered through Diego Garcia is still being held in the Guantanamo Bay detention centre. [253243]

Bill Rammell: Both of the individuals rendered through Diego Garcia in 2002 have been returned to their countries of nationality.

Diplomatic Service

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many serving Ambassadors and High Commissioners were born in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* England. [253616]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not collect or hold in its central records details of the place of birth or region of origin of its staff. Their details would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 96-7W, on Ethiopia: Eritrea, on how many occasions in the last 12 months *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have raised the issue of the binding verdict of the International Ethiopian Eritrean Boundary Commission with the Ethiopian authorities. [253333]

Gillian Merron: UK Ministers have consistently said to the Ethiopian authorities that both parties should: avoid any return to war; demarcate the border; and normalise their relations. Ethiopia and Eritrea should agree a way forward to allow demarcation to proceed and for a normalisation process to begin, as set out in the Algiers Agreements of June and December 2000, to which both Ethiopia and Eritrea are signatories.

In the last 12 months, we have raised this issue on four occasions at ministerial level.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also continually reiterate these messages with their Ethiopian counterparts in Addis Ababa, London and New York.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Ethiopia to dismantle its settlements in Dembe Menga, western Eritrea in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1430 of August 2002. [253334]

Gillian Merron: We would expect representations regarding settlements believed to be on land awarded to the other party under the Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Commission decision to form part of any demarcation process and normalisation of relations.

We will continue to communicate the UK's policy to both parties including through the United Nations.

Iraq: Elections

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the electoral process for the forthcoming provincial elections in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [253197]

Bill Rammell: The provincial elections on 31 January 2009 mark another milestone in Iraq's development as a democracy. Groups who boycotted the last provincial elections and who have turned against violence will participate this time around, and for the first time the Iraqi authorities have been completely responsible for planning and running a democratic election.

The electorate are able to vote for individual candidates, rather than just political groupings, and as an acknowledgment of the important role both minorities and women play in Iraq, the election law provides quotas for both.

The Independent High Electoral Commission, with the assistance of the UN, has been putting in place since the beginning of 2008 the mechanisms to ensure the elections are free and fair. These include voter information and education campaigns, the training of over 49,000 polling station staff, the accreditation of nearly 260,000 election observers and a robust complaints procedure which will allow the investigation of complaints before the final results are certified. In addition, through local non-governmental organisations and civil society, more than 2,000 electoral education activities each month have taken place in recent months.

Further information on the electoral process can be found at:

www.uniraq.org

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251157]

Gillian Merron: The monies spent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on press monitoring services in each of the last five years are as follows:

Financial year	£
2004-05	337,943.88
2005-06	323,011.34
2006-07	380,198.72
2007-08	438,178.44
2008-09	[1]362,042.00

[1] Estimate

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his Department, *(d)* the British Ambassador to Egypt and *(e)* officials in the British Embassy in Egypt have had with the government of Egypt since December 2008 on the smuggling of (i) weapons and (ii) people into Gaza from Egypt via under-border tunnels; what reports he has received on the number of tunnels between Gaza and Egypt that have been (A) discovered and (B) closed; and if he will make a statement. [252969]

Bill Rammell: We are extremely concerned with the smuggling of arms and people into Gaza. With the number of tunnels discovered changing on a regular basis we are unable to provide a definitive figure.

We have been in close touch with the Egyptian authorities including my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister meeting President Mubarak at the Sharm summit and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary speaking to his Egyptian counterpart. We will continue to work with the government of Egypt and our international partners on ways to help prevent smuggling.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the use of tunnels under the border of Egypt and Gaza by Bedouin smugglers to transfer arms to Hamas; what recent representations he has made to the government of Egypt about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [252970]

Bill Rammell: We are extremely concerned with the smuggling of arms and people into Gaza including through tunnels under the border. We are currently working with the Government of Egypt and our international partners on ways to help prevent smuggling.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has evidence that the government of Israel has used white phosphorus weapons in a way inconsistent with international law; and if he will make a statement. [253010]

Bill Rammell: We are gravely concerned at the allegations into the misuse of white phosphorous. We expect, and urge, Israel, to investigate allegations of abuses by their forces. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his statement to Parliament on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 501,

"allegations must be closely and speedily investigated".

Occupied Territories

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the alleged suspicious deaths of four Palestinian journalists in Gaza. [249868]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 January 2009]:* We have not received any reports specifically relating to the suspicious deaths of Palestinian journalists.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250146]

Gillian Merron: Information about the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices (FCO) overseas fleet of vehicles is not held centrally. To provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Details of FCO Services owned vehicles are set out in the table below. FCO Services does not lease or hire vehicles for the fleet, all vehicles detailed are 'owned'.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Vehicle make	*Vehicle model*	*Vehicle Function*	*Engine cc*	*Euro Standard*	*CO_2 Emissions (g/km)*	*Fuel*
Ford	Galaxy	MPV	1.8 TDCI (1796cc)	IV	166	Diesel
Renault	Rigid lorry	HGV	10.8 (10837cc)	V	CEE EURO5	Diesel
Renault	Artic lorry	HGV	4.5 (4500cc)	V	CEE EURO5	Diesel
Renault	Artic lorry	HGV	4.5 (4495cc)	V	CEE EURO5	Diesel
Renault	Artic lorry	HGV	11.1 (11116cc)	IV	180	Diesel
Ford	Transit minibus	PCV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Transit minibus	PCV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Transit T350	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	IV	215	Diesel
Ford	Minibus	PCV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Transit jumbo	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Transit	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	IV	0.396	Diesel
Ford	Transit	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	IV	0.396	Diesel
Renault	Magnum	HGV	11.9 (11929cc)	V	169	Diesel
Ford	Galaxy Ghia TDI	MPV	1.9 TDI (1998cc)	III	178	Diesel
Ford	Galaxy Ghia TDI	MPV	1.9 TDI (1998cc)	III	178	Diesel
Ford	Transit 350 LWB	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Galaxy	MPV	1.9 TDI (1998cc)	III	178	Diesel
Vauxhall	Corsa van	LGV	1.7 (1686cc)	III	130	LPG/Dual
Toyota	Prius hybrid	Hatchback	1.5 (1497cc)	V	0.18	Hybrid
Ford	Transit	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Transit	LGV	2.4 TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel
Ford	Transit	LGV	2.7TDI (2,000cc)	III	210	Diesel
Vauxhall	Omega saloon	Saloon	2.0 (1998cc)	IV	240	Petrol
Ford	Galaxy	MPV	2.0 (1998cc)	IV		Diesel
Ford	Galaxy	MPV	2.0 (1998cc)	IV		Diesel
Vauxhall	Omega saloon	Saloon	2.2 (2098cc)	IV	220	LPG/Dual
Vauxhall	Signum	Hatchback	1.9 (1938cc)	IV	189	Diesel
Rover 75	75 Vanden Plas	Saloon	2.5 (2490cc)	III	225	LPG/Dual
Ford	Galaxy	MPV	1.9 TDI (1998cc)	III	178	Diesel
Ford	Galaxy	MPV	1.9 TDI (1998cc)	III	178	Diesel
Vauxhall	Astra van	LGV	1.3 (1248cc)	IV	131	Diesel
Vauxhall	Astra van	LGV	1.3 (1248cc)	IV	132	Diesel
Vauxhall	Corsa combi	LGV	1.7 (1686cc)	III	130	Diesel
Vauxhall	Astra estate	Estate	1.6 (1598cc)	IV	151	LPG/Dual
Vauxhall	Astra estate	Estate	1.6 (1598cc)	IV	151	LPG/Dual
Vauxhall	Corsa van	LGV	1.3 (1299cc)	V	132	Diesel
Ford	Connect	LGV	1.8 TDCI (1796cc)	IV	171	Diesel
Ford	Transit	LGV	2.4TDI (2300cc)	III	210	Diesel

Palestinians: Human Rights

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Government's responsibilities under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1674 regarding the protection of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories from war crimes. [250659]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* We are gravely concerned at the allegations made, during the Gaza conflict, by such credible organisations as the

International Committee of the Red Cross and the UN. We have been clear that such allegations must be investigated. We expect, and urge, Israel, to investigate allegations of abuses by their forces.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department is providing to the AU missions in Somalia; and what assessment he has made of the likelihood of peace in that country. [249348]

Gillian Merron: Since the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was mandated in February 2007, we have committed around £17.3 million in support of the mission. This has included support for Ugandan and Burundian troop sustainment (fuel, food, rotation costs, airlift), assistance with Burundian troop allowances and supplies to the Ugandan battalions (trucks, vehicle spares etc).

The UK also contributes to the EU's African Peace Facility, which has provided funds of €19.7 million to AMISOM between March 2007 and December 2008. A further €20 million will be provided in 2009.

The security situation in Somalia will only improve if there is a political resolution to the conflict there. We continue to work with Somali and international partners to build political stability, including working closely with the United Nations Special Representative to the Secretary General for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, and the UN Political Office for Somalia. We welcome the decision of the Transitional Federal Government and the opposition Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia in November 2008 to form a unity government and to continue work on justice and reconciliation issues. We fully support the Djibouti peace process and hope it will deliver a long-term solution for peace and stability in Somalia.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to prevent piracy *(a)* in Somalian territorial waters and *(b)* on the high seas off Somalia; and what assessment he has made of levels of piracy activity in those areas in each of the last three years. [254250]

Caroline Flint: The UK has taken a comprehensive approach to the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The Royal Navy is combating acts of piracy on the high seas off Somalia, and acts of armed robbery in Somali Territorial Waters. We are providing the Operation Headquarters and Operation Commander for the EU's operation (Atalanta) to protect World Food programme shipping and to deter piracy. We are providing a frigate for the first phase of the operation and we contributed to a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation counter piracy mission in 2008. We have a leading role in the planning and execution of military counter-piracy operations through the Combined Maritime Forces in the region. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary negotiated a new UN Security Council Resolution (1851) further consolidating the international commitment to deal effectively with piracy. The UK is a member of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia which met for the first time in New York on 14 January 2009, and we will host the Working Group tasked to encourage greater international co-ordination and co-operation. In addition we continue to work closely with the shipping industry, advising on best practice for counter piracy self defence.

Ultimately piracy is a symptom of wider issues. We continue our efforts to address these, and are encouraging the European Commission and other partners to increase targeted support for governance/economic development in Somalia, in particular in coastal areas. In 2007-08, the UK provided over £25 million of humanitarian and development assistance to Somalia. For 2008-09, this was increased to £30 million.

Although there has been a significant increase in the number of successful pirate attacks in the last three years (10 in 2006, 35 in 2007, 43 in 2008 and three so far in 2009), piracy off the Somali coast continues to affect a very small proportion of the shipping that transits the area. Since Operation Atalanta established the Maritime Security Centre for the Horn of Africa in December 2008 no vessel registered with it has been successfully pirated.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on the progress made by the Southern Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission on implementing its mandate to *(a)* oversee the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation, *(b)* facilitate South-to-South dialogue and *(c)* facilitate people-to-people contact. [254556]

Gillian Merron: The Southern Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC) has not yet made significant progress in implementing its mandate. It lacks the capacity to execute its recently completed strategic plan and requires assistance in building the analytical, influencing and coordinating skills required to deliver against its mandate.

We are seeking ways to engage with and support the SSPC, as this will be essential to ensure the legitimacy and sustainability of peace-building efforts in the south. The UK is engaged with other partners, both Sudanese and international, in a range of peace building initiatives in Southern Sudan.

Turkey

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Turkish counterpart on recent events in Gaza. [254693]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had regular discussions with Turkish Foreign Minister Babacan on a range of global issues including Gaza.

Since Turkey became a non permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in January 2009, we expect to work even more closely together this year on issues of regional stability, given their important regional role.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what policy his Department has adopted on the latest draft resolution for the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; if he will withdraw the UK from the conference; and if he will make a statement. [254672]

Gillian Merron: The Government remain deeply concerned about the draft outcome document. We have made this clear in our statements at various meetings in the Durban review process.

The United Kingdom delegation was active in the recent negotiations on the draft outcome document for the Durban Review Conference. The negotiations were not concluded at the recent inter-sessional working group, held in Geneva from 19-23 January 2009.

We are assessing progress, taking into account the recently issued draft document issued on 28 January 2009, and will continue to review it against the objectives we have set for the Conference.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, on western Sahara, if he will make representations to the new Moroccan ambassador to the UK urging an end to Morocco's continued occupation of western Sahara. [252860]

Bill Rammell: The new Moroccan ambassador to the UK has not yet arrived in London. Nevertheless the Government continue to encourage all parties to the ongoing dispute to enter into the UN-led negotiation process in a spirit of realism and compromise and work towards a mutually acceptable political solution that will provide for the self-determination of the people of western Sahara, as called for by the UN Security Council.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 247757 about the seminar on stem cell research, tabled on 12 January 2009; what the reason is for the time taken to reply; and if he will make a statement. [254971]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The question was answered on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1205W. The delay in answering was due to administrative error.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 242696 about terrorism in Israel, tabled on 8 December 2008; what the reason is for the time taken to reply; and if he will make a statement. [254972]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* This question will be answered shortly. The delay has been caused by an administrative error.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the most recent power-sharing agreement between Zanu-PF and the Movement for Democratic Change on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [254516]

Gillian Merron: On 30 January, the Movement for Democratic Change announced the acceptance of the power sharing accord brokered at the Southern African Development Community summit on 26 January. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement in response on 30 January, which can be viewed at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=13022532

We are cautious about the workability of the agreement. But we have also been clear that it is up to Zimbabweans to decide their own future. Our hope is that the parties can make it work and we will judge the new government on its actions. In common with other members of the international community, we will be looking for the government to demonstrate, through its actions, a commitment to reform. We would expect in the coming weeks to see the release of political prisoners, an immediate end to political violence and intimidation, the repeal of repressive legislation, the appointment of a credible finance team and a clear roadmap to the next national elections. Our formal engagement, including the provision of donor support, will depend on how the new government meets these expectations.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have imposed sanctions against *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals in Zimbabwe for breaching their international responsibilities. [255739]

Gillian Merron: We (and all EU member states) are signed up to a set of targeted measures against members of Robert Mugabe's regime—asset freezes, travel bans and an arms embargo. The measures are carefully targeted against individuals involved in violence and human rights abuses, and state-owned and other companies that are associated with the regime. EU Foreign Ministers last met on 26 January 2009 and agreed to a rollover of existing targeted measures and added a further 65 names and entities to the list. The current range of EU targeted measures now comprises 203 individuals and 40 entities.

TRANSPORT

A1: Death

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road fatalities there have been on the A1 in *(a)* Tyne and Wear and *(b)* Northumberland in each of the last 10 years; [255754]

(2) how many road accidents there have been on the A1 in *(a)* Tyne and Wear and *(b)* Northumberland in each of the last 10 years. [255755]

Paul Clark: The following table contains details of the number of road accidents and fatalities on the A1 in Tyne and Wear and Northumberland for each of the last 10 years.

Accident figures are from Department for Transport Stats 19 data, which records accidents resulting in personal injury that become known to the police within 30 days.

The latest year for which validated data are available is 2007.

	Northumberland		*Tyne and Wear*	
	Accidents on A1	*Fatalities on A1*	*Accidents on A1*	*Fatalities on A1*
1998	80	7	95	2
1999	64	7	109	2
2000	69	4	114	2
2001	53	1	104	0
2002	77	4	111	2
2003	67	3	106	1
2004	54	5	91	1
2005	64	2	111	0
2006	62	4	118	2
2007	47	5	89	1

A419

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of including funding for the resurfacing of the A419 between Cirencester and Swindon in the funding programme to succeed the Ten Year Plan for Transport. [254700]

Paul Clark: The A419 is managed on behalf of the Highways Agency by Road Management Services (Gloucester) Limited under a private finance concession. Resurfacing is carried out where there is a maintenance or safety need according to agency standards. Currently, the surface of this section of the A419 is in good condition and is not likely to require resurfacing for the foreseeable future.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256052]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each qualifying property occupied by the Department and its agencies.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254743]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254095]

Mr. Hoon: 10 members of staff in the Department for Transport and its agencies have been disciplined for bullying and/or harassment in the last three years.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* original expected delivery date, *(c)* actual cost incurred and *(d)* actual delivery date was of each ICT project undertaken and completed by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; who the contractors for each project were; what the (i) initial estimated and (ii) outturn payment to each contractor was; and if he will make a statement. [251142]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not hold centrally records on ICT projects, which are managed locally, but a table has been placed in the Libraries of the House, showing the available information on major projects completed since the Department was formed in 2002.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255233]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport received one parliamentary question from Lord Snape in October 2008, but no representations.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department received a bonus in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [252679]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The percentage of the senior civil service (SCS) structure in the Department for Transport who received non-consolidated performance pay in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 is set out in the following table:

	Percentage of SCS receiving non-consolidated performance pay	*Non-consolidated performance pay as percentage of SCS pay bill*
2006	81.1	7.29
2007	78.8	8.42
2008	75.0	8.44

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department and its agencies *(a)* earned more than (i) £65,000, (ii) £120,000 and (iii) £190,000 in the last 12 months and *(b)* received a bonus payment in each of the last five years. [255974]

Mr. Hoon: The number of staff the Department for Transport and its agencies who earned more than (i) £65,000, (ii) £120,000 and (iii) £190,000 in the last 12 months is set out in the following table:

	Number of staff
Earning more than £65,000	315
Earning more than £120,000	23
Earning more than £190,000	0

The number of staff in each category is based on annual salary as at the 2008 pay award. Earnings data in the last 12 months can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of staff who received a bonus payment in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

	Number of staff
2003-04	4,814
2004-05	6,537
2005-06	13,682
2006-07	14,895
2007-08	13,442

The numbers do not include bonuses for:

Senior Civil Servants (SCS) in 2003-04 which is not available;

SCS on fixed term contracts in 2004-05 which is not available;

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for 2003-04 and 2004-05 which could be provided only at disproportionate cost;

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency for 2007-08 which is not yet available.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254243]

Mr. Hoon: Information on appointments made by the Department for Transport is published in the Department's annual report. More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's annual report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk.

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1571W, on redundancy, what estimate has he made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254473]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested for *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

No staff exit schemes are currently planned for 2009-10.

Departmental Standards

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to standardise annual performance appraisals in his Department and its agencies. [251104]

Mr. Hoon: It is important that the central Department for Transport and its agencies continue to have flexibility to develop and implement performance management arrangements that meet their particular business needs.

Dredging: Thames Estuary

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of dredging proposals in the Thames Estuary by Peel Ports Medway (Port of Sheerness Ltd) on commercial fishing operations. [255781]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: An assessment will be undertaken if and when the Port submit an application for approval by way of a harbour revision order.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Personal Records

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data are *(a)* transferred to ANPR International and *(b)* sold by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency; and whether individuals may prevent the (i) transfer and (ii) sale of data relating to them. [255648]

Jim Fitzpatrick: ANPR International is part of the Excel Group. The following data are transferred to Excel Parking Services via an electronic link in response to individual inquiries for individual records where the criteria for disclosure is met.

Name and address of vehicle keeper
Make
Model
Colour
Engine capacity
Taxable weight
Seating capacity
Tax class
Date of expiry of last licence issued.

It should be noted that an electronic link is a means of requesting and receiving information: it is not direct access into the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) vehicle register. Contracts with private companies set out the exact conditions under which a company may apply for vehicle keeper data.

DVLA does not 'sell' personal information. Regulations allow DVLA to charge a fee for information released under 'reasonable cause' provisions, but do not allow a profit to be made. The fee, currently £2.50, is levied to cover the cost of dealing with requests. This means the applicant and not the taxpayer covers the associated administrative costs.

The law does allow DVLA to sell vehicle data that do not include any information that can identify a specific individual. The following non-personal information is sold to commercial companies under contract:

Anonymised data: These consist of vehicle identifying information e.g. make, mode, colour: They do not however contain the vehicle registration mark or the name and address of the vehicle keeper. These data are used for marketing and statistical purposes.

Bulk data: These are supplied to companies who provide a service to the public and dealerships when the purchase of a vehicle is being considered. Information contains the vehicle registration number and other specifics of the vehicle, but no personal details that would reveal the identity of the vehicle keeper. These data are used to provide vehicle checking services to members of the public/dealers looking to confirm the identity of a vehicle offered for sale.

Information is disclosed where the recipient has demonstrated reasonable cause for receiving those data, and where DVLA considers it both fair and reasonable to make that disclosure.

Individuals have a responsibility to follow road traffic and other rules or regulations when using their vehicle. If individuals were able to opt out of having their data disclosed, they would be able to avoid any sanction or responsibility for any damage or loss caused as a result of that use.

First Capital Connect: Standards

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many peak-time First Capital Connect train services ran to timetable on the Brighton to Bedford line in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [255700]

Paul Clark: The following number of peak-time First Capital Connect services on the Bedford to Brighton route which arrived on time at their destination in each year between 2005 and 2008 is as follows:

	Number
2005	17,895
2006	17,758
2007	17,931
2008	18,998

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many peak-time First Capital Connect train services on the Brighton to Bedford line were cancelled in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [255701]

Paul Clark: The following number of peak-time First Capital Connect services on the Bedford to Brighton route which were cancelled in each year between 2005 and 2008 is as follows:

	Number
2005	544
2006	457
2007	412
2008	344

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many peak-time First Capital Connect train services on the Bedford to Brighton line ran more than three minutes behind timetable in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [255702]

Paul Clark: First Capital Connect services are not measured within three minutes of their timetable arrival time for Public Performance Measure (PPM) purposes. For a First Capital Connect service to meet the Public Performance Measure, it must either arrive at its destination early, right time or within four minutes 59 seconds of its timetabled arrival time.

First Capital Connect peak-time services on the Bedford-Brighton line that arrived more than four minutes 59 seconds behind timetable were:

	Number
2005	4,166
2006	4,072
2007	3,908
2008	2,731

Highways Agency: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior managers in his Department (i) gave permission to the Highways Agency to offer and (ii) were informed by the Highways Agency of its intention to offer more favourable terms to its staff at grades 6 and 7 if they opted out of collective bargaining arrangements. [256232]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was aware that the Highways Agency reward strategy involved changes for Grades 6 and 7. I understand the option for individuals to sign up to new contractual terms was fully discussed with the trade unions. This does not preclude future collective bargaining. It is important that the Highways Agency continues to have flexibility to develop its rewards strategy to meet its particular business needs.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: South West

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the letter of 30 January 2009 from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Totnes, when he plans to complete his evaluation of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's review in relation to the southern part of the south west peninsula. [254981]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As I said in my letter of 30 January, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency hope to conclude their discussions with the UK SAR Strategic Committee and its Operators Group by the end of February and will then report back to me. The consultation exercise will commence soon after that.

Motorways: North Yorkshire

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to undertake motorway widening in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [255013]

Paul Clark: There are no motorways in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, and there are no plans for them in this area.

In the Tees Valley area, there have been three major new local authority roads built or under construction in the last four years:

South Stockton Link (completed 2005);

Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor (completed 2008);

North Middlesbrough Accessibility Improvements (under construction).

In addition we are currently considering a major scheme business case for a series of bus corridor improvements throughout the Tees Valley to improve reliability and journey times on public transport.

Access to the wider region has been improved following the completion of dual carriageways improvements to the A66 west of Scotch Corner, and will be improved further, upon completion of the upgrade to motorway standard, of the A1 between Dishforth and Leeming, which has just begun.

Railways: Electrification

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on electrifying the main line between Paddington and Plymouth. [254679]

Paul Clark: A cross-industry working group led by Network Rail, and in which the Department for Transport participates, is assessing the case for electrifying a wide range of lines. The group is expected to publish its conclusions at the end of March.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any rail franchises have been *(a)* red lighted and *(b)* put on a watch list by his Department; and what criteria his Department applies in deciding whether to red light a franchise. [256107]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The Department for Transport reviews and analyses the operational and financial performance of train operating companies on a regular basis. This is part of its routine monitoring of the contractual arrangements between the Department and its franchise holders. That internal analysis is commercially sensitive and cannot be released.

Railways: South Wales and Cornwall

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make commission an assessment of the potential for high-speed rail links between *(a)* London and South Wales and *(b)* London and Cornwall. [253692]

Paul Clark: The 2007 Rail White Paper noted that a long-term strategy for the railway should look at the options for further increases in capacity where necessary.

There are a limited number of future capacity interventions that will accommodate predicted growth. The new company, "High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd.", will, as a first stage, bring forward proposals for Britain's second new high speed line, between London and the West Midlands, and consider the potential for new lines to serve the North of England and Scotland.

Rescue Services

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what forms the Maritime and Coastguard Agency require to be completed by lifeboat rescue teams before lifeboats can be launched; and if he will make a statement. [254979]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) does not operate lifeboats or require the completion of forms by those organisations that do.

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of operating the Hope Cove lifeboat service was in the latest year for which figures are available. [254980]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of operating the general purpose boat at Hope Cove was £648 in 2007 and £1390 in 2008.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the adequacy of supplies of salt and grit for use on the non-trunk road network; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that supplies are adequate. [255554]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Government are working with local authorities and the Highways Agency to minimise the risk to public safety during this period of exceptional weather. We are collating information on current stocks in order to ensure effective distribution of available salt supplies and prioritise deliveries to those authorities most in need.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* studies and *(b)* modelling his Department has undertaken into the impact of extreme weather on the transport infrastructure. [255903]

Mr. Hoon: Specific modelling of the impacts of extreme weather scenarios across the transport network is carried out by the transport owners and operators such as

Network Rail and Local Highways Authorities. DfT contributes guidance and support wherever possible through, for example, publications such as 'Maintaining Pavements: A Changing Climate' and 'Sustainable Roads' and the Highways Agency's strategy for the strategic road network.

The Highway's Agency has devised a strategy for adapting the strategic road network to a changing climate. The Highways Agency also has a 'severe weather group' which delivers an annual programme of areas for improvement and research including the implementation of the National Severe Weather Warning System

A DfT study on 'the changing climate: its impact on the Department for Transport' identified potential impacts on the transport system from extreme weather events. Further details are available from the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/key/thechangingclimateitsimpacto1909

Wrexham-Bidston Railway Line

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Network Rail has submitted to his Department an estimate for the *(a)* electrification and *(b)* upgrade of the Bidston to Wrexham line. [256270]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is aware of the two independent cost estimates to electrify the Bidston to Wrexham line undertaken for Merseytravel and other stakeholders in 2005, and the more detailed estimate including provision of three new stations produced by Network Rail in 2008. However, this is primarily a matter for Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly Government as co-funders of the recent Network Rail investigation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the final cost of the Saville Inquiry. [248841]

Mr. Woodward: The inquiry's most recent estimate of the final cost is £190 million. This incorporates a reduction of approximately 20 per cent. of the inquiry's remaining budget, due to a number of additional measures which have been agreed with the inquiry to minimise the remaining costs.

Consultative Group on the Past

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to his Department was of the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past. [255285]

Mr. Woodward: The total cost of the work of the Consultative Group on the Past is expected to be £1,251,055.

The group was established on 22 June 2007 and the group's report was launched on 28 January 2009. The total costs of the group's work can be broken down as follows:

Cost type	*Amount (£)*
Remuneration (on a per diem basis) for the eight Group Members	548,440
Remuneration (on a per diem basis) for the two International Advisers and one Legal Adviser	60,157
Salary costs of the Secretariat—five members of staff	256,882
All other non-staff costs including—office facilities, equipment, printing and launch of the report, cost of public meetings	385,576

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253261]

Paul Goggins: New entrants to the Civil Service are provided with a new entrant pension starter pack; this explains that new entrants have the option of requesting information on increasing their pension benefits.

The pensions websites provides both new and current members with specific downloadable leaflets on added pension (added pension replaced added years provisions on 1 March 2008) and the Civil Service additional voluntary contributions scheme.

In the event of changes to, or the introduction of new provisions to increase pension benefits, notification is issued via office notices which are provided to Personnel Departments to distribute to all staff.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254061]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office regularly engages with outside organisations, including relevant Departments in Whitehall and Northern Ireland, on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Explosives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of explosive-related crimes in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [254937]

Paul Goggins: In 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), six persons were convicted of explosive-related crimes in Northern Ireland.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Firearms: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of gun-related crimes in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [254940]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Court conviction data do not contain background information in relation to offences committed so it is not possible to separately identify the number of convictions for offences such as murder in which a gun was involved. It is only possible to provide conviction statistics for those offences which, in their definition, refer to gun-related offences as specified by firearms legislation.

In 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), there were 56 such convictions.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Graffiti

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of crimes relating to graffiti in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [254936]

Paul Goggins: At present, there are no crimes that relate specifically to graffiti in Northern Ireland. Offences involving graffiti are normally charged under criminal damage, but court databases do not allow us to disaggregate the number of criminal damage offences that involved graffiti.

Theft

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of burglary from *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial premises were recorded in each district command unit area in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months. [255448]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policies his Department has to achieve carbon dioxide emissions reductions in the agricultural sector. [255168]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are currently developing a policy framework to reduce all greenhouse gases (GHG) including carbon dioxide from the agriculture, forestry and land management sectors.

This work will feed into the Government's response to recommendations made in the Committee on Climate Change's inaugural report.

Agriculture: EU Law

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with his EU counterparts on the consistent application of EU legislation on agriculture across all member states. [254677]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State and other DEFRA Ministers hold regular discussions with our EU counterparts and the Commission on a wide range of subjects, including the application of agricultural legislation across the Community.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to ensure that producers of agricultural goods receive a fair price for their goods. [253824]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Government believe that the setting of the price of agricultural goods is a commercial matter to be resolved by private negotiation, which should take place within the parameters set by competition law. The market must determine prices.

The Government are monitoring the effects of the current economic climate on food supply chain businesses in the UK to assess whether price reductions are passed down to consumers, with farmers also receiving fair prices, and will continue to bring public pressure to bear where appropriate. The Government have also urged large companies in the food supply chain to pay their suppliers promptly.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 316W, on agriculture: subsidies, how much was given to each of the 10 claimants. [254570]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The following table lists the 10 individuals and/or organisations that received the highest subsidies available under all schemes under the common agricultural policy for the European financial year 2008, which runs from 16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008.

Individual/organisations

	£
K G Growers	3,170,052.01
G's Growers	2,908,857.66
Farmcare Limited	2,641,415.83
The Berryworld Producer Organisation	1,943,996,51
Strutt and Parker Limited	1,493,340.64
The National Trust	1,348,898.74
Sir Richard Suttons Settles Estate	1,264,889.52
Lilburn Estates Farming Partnership	1,215,740.15
Blankley Estates Ltd	1,189,030.63
Fruition Producer Organisation Limited	1,186,619.38

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many claims were made for investment aid for young farmers under the Rural Development Fund in each of the last three years; [254827]

(2) what funding was allocated for young farmers under the Rural Development Fund in each of the last three years. [254828]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The measure which provides for support for setting up of young farmers is not being implemented in the Rural Development Programme for England.

Rural development funding is a devolved issue. Questions about the Scotland Rural Development Programme should be directed to the Scottish Government.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 316W, on agriculture: subsidies, under which common agricultural policy schemes payments were made to each listed recipient. [254829]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The information requested is shown in the following table:

Claimant	*Scheme*
KG Growers Ltd.	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme
G's Growers Ltd.	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme
Farmcare Ltd.	Single Payment Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmental Stewardship Scheme
The Berryworld Producer Organisation	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme
Strutt and Parker (Farms) Ltd.	Single Payment Scheme, Environmental Stewardship Scheme
The National Trust	Single Payment Scheme, Environmental Stewardship Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Habitat, Environmentally Sensitive Areas
Sir Richard Suttons Settles Estates	Single Payment Scheme, Environmental Stewardship Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme
Lilburn Estates Farming Partnership	Single Payment Scheme, Hill Farming Allowance, Environmental Stewardship Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme
Blankney Estates Ltd	Single Payment Scheme, Environmental Stewardship Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme
Fruition Producer Organisation Ltd.	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure is funded under EU budget line 05 02 08 11, Aid to Producer Groups for Preliminary Recognition; and which UK bodies have been granted an award under this budget line from the 2008 budget. [256101]

Jane Kennedy: Funding, which is co-financed by the member state, is available to Producer Groups in order to encourage greater co-operation in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector and to help such groups to attain, during a transitional period, the full recognition criteria for the Producer Organisation scheme which attracts a higher level of funding. Aid is given to Producer Groups to help facilitate their administrative operations and for capital investments such as shared harvesting equipment or storage/packing facilities.

No UK bodies have been granted aid under this budget line in 2008 as the scheme is only applicable to Producer Groups in the member states which acceded the European Union on or after 1 May 2004.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which UK *(a)* projects and *(b)* programmes have been funded under EU budget line 05 02 04 01, Programmes for Deprived Persons in 2008; what percentage of each programme's funding was funded from the EU budget; and if he will make a statement. [256102]

Jane Kennedy: The UK has not participated in the EU Programme for Deprived Persons (Food for the Needy Scheme) since 1998. The UK Government decided collectively to cease their participation in the scheme because of the generally low levels of intervention stocks and because there was a lack of interest in the scheme, primarily due to the bureaucratic procedures that apply in order to reduce the risk of fraud. In short, the Government concluded that the Scheme did not represent good value for money.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effects of bovine tuberculosis on *(a)* income and *(b)* employment in the farming sector; and if he will make a statement. [251236]

Jane Kennedy: No specific estimates of the effects of bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) on income and employment in the farming sector have been made. However, the impact of bTB on the farming sector is of concern to the Government and DEFRA has funded a project to investigate the longer-term effects of a bTB breakdown on farm businesses. This work includes looking at income and employment. The final report will be published on the DEFRA website once peer review is complete.

Source:

Bennett, RM and Cooke, RJ (2006). Costs to farmers of a tuberculosis breakdown. Veterinary record 158:429-432.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of cases of bovine tuberculosis in the South West. [253930]

Jane Kennedy: We have in place a range of cattle measures to reduce the spread and incidence of disease, not just in the south-west but across the whole country.

DEFRA's testing and slaughter policy has been in place for a number of years and significant steps have been taken to supplement this including: introduction of a zero tolerance regime for overdue tests; changes to the compensation system; pre-movement tests for cattle moving from high risk herds; and the extension of the use of the gamma interferon test; as well as encouraging good husbandry practice.

We are also actively pursuing the future use of vaccination of cattle and wildlife as a means of tackling bovine TB, alongside our current control measures.

We recognise that bovine tuberculosis is a serious disease and we are committed to tackling this.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256210]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Although information on the nationality of candidates is collected as part of the recruitment process, the nationality of members of staff is not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people his Department employs. [255685]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each quarter the Office for National Statistics provides information on the number of people employed by Government Departments. The latest published Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey statistics are for 30 September 2008, and are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

The statistics for DEFRA predate the creation of DECC on 3 October 2008, when approximately 340 people transferred out of the Department.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254237]

Huw Irranca-Davies: At this point my officials have been advised that the following DEFRA delivery network bodies will require new appointments to be made in the coming year:

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment will be seeking to recruit four new members

Inland Waterways will be seeking to appoint three to four new members

The Royal Botanical Gardens Kew will be seeking to appoint a new chair and two new members

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution will be seeking to appoint two new members

The Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) will also be seeking a new chair and five new members. Recruitment for 19 VPC members is currently under way. The details of this campaign and four others which are also in train are available on DEFRA's website at:

http://defra/corporate/appointments/index.htm

The remit, salary, political restrictions, eligibility requirements and timetable for these posts will be agreed prior to recruitment campaigns starting. These posts will be subject to the requirements of the OCPA regulatory regime.

In addition Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservancy Council and the Sustainable Development Commission will all be seeking to recruit new members in the forthcoming year but numbers and roles have not yet been confirmed.

Further information on appointments made by DEFRA is published in the Department's annual report:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/2008/index.htm

More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's annual report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Domestic Waste

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has set targets for the reduction of household waste through home composting. [252327]

Jane Kennedy: Local authorities in England no longer have centrally imposed statutory targets on recycling and composting. This is consistent with Government policy to give local areas more freedom and flexibility on how they deliver national objectives.

However 85 per cent. of local authorities have chosen at least one of the three waste reduction indicators as a local priority for the new local government performance framework.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether waste collection authorities are indemnified for making household waste collections on private roads. [252325]

Jane Kennedy: Section 46(5)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) requires waste collection authorities to ensure that arrangements have been made as to liability for any damage arising out of receptacles being placed on a highway.

It is for the local authority concerned to ensure it is properly covered in all circumstances.

Fisheries: Western Sahara

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 5[illegible]8W, on Western Sahara: fisheries, what plans there are for UK-registered fishing vessels to fish in waters of the Western Sahara in the next 12 months. [255452]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has two vessels operating in Moroccan waters under the EU/Morocco Fisheries Agreement. They have fished in the waters of Western Sahara in previous years and it is likely that they will do so again during the course of 2009.

Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of the food consumed in the UK in each of the last three years was *(a)* produced domestically and *(b)* imported; [254074]

(2) what proportion of the *(a)* fruit and *(b)* vegetables sold by domestic retailers was produced in the UK in each of the last three years. [254075]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 47W.

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what national targets his Department has for the reduction of levels of food waste; and if he will make a statement. [253621]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have not only achieved their aim to reduce household food waste by 100,000 tonnes by March 2008, but exceeded it by 10,000 tonnes. Since then the campaign 'Love Food Hate Waste' has helped consumers save a further 27,000 tonnes. WRAP, and their partners across the entire grocery sector, have also recently agreed to a new target to reduce UK household food waste by a further 155,000 tonnes by 2010.

DEFRA is also working closely with the food industry to improve its environmental impact through the Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS). The FISS targets a reduction in the food industry's own waste of 15-20 per cent. by 2010.

Incinerators: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the EU Waste Incineration Directive to be fully implemented in the UK. [254410]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) was implemented through regulations and directions made in 2002.

Joint Waste Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether joint waste authorities will be limited companies in their own right. [252385]

Jane Kennedy: Joint waste authorities will be statutory bodies, established by Order of the Secretary of State.

Land Use

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on *(a)* proposals to increase the amount of land currently farmed for crops being set aside and *(b)* proposals for the location of such land within (i) farm holdings and (ii) individual fields. [253808]

Jane Kennedy: Our policy is to encourage farmers to produce for the market whilst at the same time reducing negative impact on the environment.

We expect to be in a position to consult on possible measures mitigating against the impact of the loss of set-aside, including options for farmers, later in the year.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the set-aside mitigation measures in cross-compliance on the farming industry. [253945]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State asked Sir Don Curry to bring together stakeholders to consider the impact of the loss of set-aside including investigating mitigation. Sir Don reported in July and subsequently we have been considering the details of how mitigation might be put into practice. We expect to be in a position to consult on possible mitigation measures later in the year along with a consultation stage impact assessment which I will arrange to be laid in the Library of the House.

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme on local authority provision of trade waste collections. [252620]

Jane Kennedy: No formal assessment has been made of the effect of LATS on local authorities' provision of trade waste collections.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme on levels of *(a)* collection and *(b)* disposal of trade waste; for what reasons the scheme does not apply to private contractors operating on landfill sites; and if he will make a statement. [254987]

Jane Kennedy: No formal assessment has been made of the effect of LATS on local authorities' provision of trade waste collection and disposal.

The Landfill Directive sets targets for the diversion from landfill of biodegradable municipal waste. The main purpose of the LATS is to fulfil these requirements. The focus of the scheme is on local authorities rather then private contractors, primarily waste disposal authorities, as they are responsible for the disposal of municipal waste.

Litter

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 848W, on littering: young offenders, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Environment Agency's enforcement and prosecution policy and functional guidance. [252204]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the Environment Agency's enforcement and prosecution policy and functional guidance will be placed in the Library of the House.

Pigmeat

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with food retailers on the labelling of pork products with information on the countries of origin and rearing of the pigs concerned. [255360]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I met with representatives of supermarkets and the British Retail Consortium last month to discuss how origin labelling for meat and meat products could be improved so that consumers could make an informed choice when buying these products.

Pollution: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he or Ministers from his Department last met the Mayor of London to discuss air quality and the western extension of the congestion charging zone. [255491]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Minister for Sustainable Development and Energy Innovation, Lord Hunt, met the Mayor of London on 22 January 2009. At this meeting they discussed air quality in London and arrangements to work together to improve air quality.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which stretches of London's roads are expected to breach EU air quality legislation on particulate matter in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [255492]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The consultation documents published on 29 January on the UK's draft notification to the European Commission on the additional time available to meet the limit value for particulate matter in certain areas, explain that existing measures, and those in development, are expected to ensure compliance with the limit values for particulate matter across all of Greater London by 2011. Copies of the consultation documents can be found on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/air_quality/index.htm.

The Government and the Mayor of London are committed to working together to ensure the UK will meet the limit values for particulate matter by 2011.

Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of recycling credits as a means of assisting local authorities to reach their targets on recycling; and if he will extend the scheme to include trade and other industrial waste. [254986]

Jane Kennedy: No such assessment has been made. There are no plans to extend the scheme to include trade and other industrial waste.

Renewable Energy: Public Consultation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public consultation he has undertaken on energy from waste options. [254404]

Jane Kennedy: The Government undertook a public consultation on the review of England's waste strategy, which examined energy from waste options, on 14 February 2006. The consultation closed on 9 May 2006 and its findings informed the Government's revised waste strategy document, 'Waste Strategy for England 2007'.

Sea Level

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the rise in sea level around the UK between 2009 and 2020. [256154]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The most recent projections of sea level rise around the UK for 2020 come from a 2006 update to the UK Climate Impacts Programme UKCIP02 climate change scenarios published in 2002. These figures give sea level rise projections for the 2020s of 0-19 cm (relative to the 1961-90 average) depending on region and emissions scenario. The information can be viewed at:

www.ukcip.org.uk/
index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=87&Itemid=300.

Updated sea level rise figures will be available from the upcoming UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) due for release in spring 2009.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Flood Management Programme has also published guidance (in 2006) on climate change impacts for decision making and adaptation purposes in flood and coastal erosion risk management. This guidance can be accessed at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/pubs/pagn/
climatechangeupdate.pdf.

Sheep: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the cost to farmers of compliance with the new measures for electronic identification of sheep; [253946]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the new measures for electronic identification of sheep on the sustainability of the farming industry; and if he will make a statement. [253947]

Jane Kennedy: A regulatory impact assessment has been produced for England, a copy of which is available on the DEFRA website. An updated version to take account of changes to Council Regulation 21/2004 that were negotiated over the summer and more detailed implementation options will accompany the consultation that is planned for the spring.

Electronic identification of sheep is an EU requirement, but the administration and implementation of it is an issue for devolved administrations.

Slaughterhouses: Regulation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to discuss the regulation of the slaughter of farm animals with his EU counterparts. [255536]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to discuss the proposed regulation on the welfare of animals at the time of killing with EU Ministerial counterparts. Detailed discussions involving the UK and all other member states are currently taking place in a series of Council working group meetings. These provide an opportunity for the UK to comment and to discuss issues with other member states. The proposal will also be discussed at the Council of Ministers once an agreed text has been finalised.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the derogation on the ritual slaughter of farm animals for human consumption will continue in any revision of EU Directive 93/119. [255537]

Jane Kennedy: The Government would prefer to see all animals stunned before they are killed. However we do recognise the rights of religious communities to eat meat killed in accordance with their religious beliefs.

The European Commission has published a proposal for a regulation on the welfare of animals at the time of killing. If agreed, this will be directly applicable in every member state and will replace EU Directive 93/119 and all national legislation implementing it. The current Commission proposal includes a derogation allowing animals to be killed in accordance with religious rites without prior stunning. However the proposal gives individual member states the right to decide not to apply that derogation if they so wish.

We believe it is important to ensure member states retain the ability to determine this issue. We will therefore be seeking to ensure member state discretion on this point is retained in the final regulation. We will pursue this point in ongoing negotiations and when the proposal is discussed in Council.

Supermarkets

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times officials from his Department have met representatives from *(a)* Tesco, *(b)* Sainsbury's, *(c)* Morrisons and *(d)* Asda to discuss the introduction of a supermarket Ombudsman in the last 24 months. [254568]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The Competition Commission is seeking undertakings from the grocery retailers covered by the new groceries supply code of practice to establish an ombudsman to monitor and enforce compliance.

The creation of an ombudsman currently remains with the CC. No formal recommendation has been made to the Government.

Until the proposal has been returned to the Government it is not appropriate for officials to comment on it, and accordingly, DEFRA officials have not discussed it.

On the understanding that DEFRA could not comment, a representative of Sainsbury's has given a presentation to DEFRA officials on its view of the proposals. On the same basis other interested parties from outside the four large supermarkets have also provided DEFRA with their views on the proposal.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department provided for the Waste and Resources Action Programme in each of the last nine years. [253622]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA'S funding to WRAP in each of the last nine years was as follows:

	Amount of funding (£ million)
2000-02	[1]6.326
2002-03	10.473
2003-04	24.050
2004-05	45.708
2005-06	68.200
2006-07	57.928
2007-08	58.830
2008-09	[2]43.384
Total funding	314.899

[1] No accounts were drawn up for the year 2000-01. First Accounts were drawn up for the period from WRAP'S incorporation on 1 December 2000 to 31 March 2002.

[2] This is the latest budget for the current financial year.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibilities for *(a)* street cleaning, *(b)* abandoned cars, *(c)* fly-posting removal and enforcement and *(d)* public conveniences the joint waste authorities will have; and what powers they will have in respect of those responsibilities. [252383]

Jane Kennedy: Section 205(8) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the waste functions which may be transferred from the relevant authorities to a joint waste authority. These are functions conferred on a local authority by or under:

(a) Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c.43) (waste on land)—includes waste disposal and/or waste collection functions;

(b) Part 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (c.43) (litter etc)—includes street cleansing;

(c) Section 32 of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (c.33) (joint municipal waste management strategies)—duty to produce a joint municipal waste management strategy.

Some or all of these individual waste functions may be transferred to a joint waste authority. However, once determined by the partners involved, the whole of each waste function must be transferred to the joint waste authority, so that the new joint waste authority will be an operational body. The relevant enforcement functions will also transfer.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effect of producer responsibility packaging regulations on methods of collection of glass from commercial premises and *(b)* adequacy of the compliance schemes established under the regulations; and how many such schemes (i) are operational and (ii) have been discontinued. [254988]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

(a) DEFRA has made no assessment of the impact of the packaging regulations on methods of glass collection from commercial premises.

(b) The compliance scheme system established under the packaging regulations has allowed the UK, and UK businesses, to achieve compliance with EU recovery and recycling targets.

(i) There were 36 packaging compliance schemes registered in the UK in 2008.

(ii) Since 1998 the Environment Agencies have de-registered two compliance schemes for non-compliance with the regulations. However non-compliance was the result of administrative failures and not owing to the schemes failing to satisfy their members' legal obligations.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department's National Fly-tipping Prevention Group has made of the effects on the incidence of fly-tipping of charges for the collection of household waste. [252321]

Jane Kennedy: Members of the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group attend meetings on a quarterly basis. Issues relating to charging for collection of household waste have not been formally raised as an agenda item and therefore have not been discussed.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have expressed an interest in levying charges for the collection of household waste; and how many such expressions were made by *(a)* elected councillors and *(b)* council staff. [253641]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on Household Waste Incentives on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Property Development: Rural Areas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to address the over-development of rural communities. [253827]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to addressing the housing, employment and social needs of rural communities in ways that are sustainable and compatible with the protection of the countryside. Our advice to local planning authorities about development in rural areas is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts" (PPG2), Planning Policy Statement 3, "Housing" (PPS3) and Planning Policy Statement 7, "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" (PPS7). For example, a key principle of PPS7 is that new building development in the open countryside away from existing settlements, or outside areas allocated for development in the local plan, should be strictly controlled.

We set up the Affordable Rural Housing Commission in summer 2005 to look into the availability of affordable housing in rural areas. Following publication of the Commission's report in May 2006, we have responded positively to the majority of their (over 100) recommendations where they were directed at Communities and Local Government. Many of the recommendations are embodied in Planning Policy Statement 3, "Housing" (PPS3).

Published in November 2006, PPS3 highlights the need to provide market and affordable housing in all areas, including rural areas. The delivery of housing in rural areas should respect the key principles underpinning PPS3 of providing high quality housing that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages. New housing, particularly in the examples of very small villages and hamlets, would need to be carefully considered and managed so as not to have adverse impacts on those areas which would actually undermine sustainable development objectives.

We also invited the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) to carry out an independent review of economics and affordable housing provision in the countryside. His report, Living Working Countryside, came out in July 2008, and its recommendations are being given thorough consideration; we will publish our response shortly.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Sport England: Sports Council Trust

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the monetary value of Sport England's share in the Sports Council Trust Company. [254787]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The accounts of the Sports Council Trust Company are consolidated within those for Sport England and I am content with the auditor's assessment for 2007-08.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Disabled Staff

Lembit Öpik: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many people the House of Commons employs who are registered disabled; what proportion of all staff in the House of Commons Service they represent; and if he will make a statement. [256230]

Nick Harvey: The introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 meant that most organisations ceased to automatically request staff to register any disabilities they might have and the House Service adopted this as best practice.

However, following information-gathering exercises carried out since December 2007, 78 employees have declared that they have a disability. This amounts to 3.9 per cent. of all employees.

The Equality Scheme for the House will be presented to the Commission in March and, if approved, will then be put onto the parliamentary website for public consultation. Specific training on disability awareness and etiquette is now available for all staff and a booklet on managing staff with a disability is being issued to all line managers.

Parking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1343-4W, on parking, whether the rate of air change in the underground car park was changed to its original level by 21 April 2008; whether the rate of air change is currently at its planned level; and whether a major refurbishment of the ventilation system is planned for 2010-11. [255018]

Nick Harvey: The rate of air change in the underground car park was changed to its original level by 21 April 2008. The rate of air change is currently at its planned level. Major refurbishment of the ventilation system is included in the works programme for 2010-12.

Work Experience

Dr. Kumar: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what arrangements there are for people to undertake internships in the House service. [254902]

Nick Harvey: The House service currently provides a number of opportunities for people to undertake internships.

The Scrutiny Unit, in the Department of Chamber and Committee Services, has three Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) interns a year, each spending three months with the unit. It has also for the first time this year taken on two interns from the London School of Economics who will be with the unit for six months. For the last two years the Joint Committee on Human Rights has had a scholar (effectively an intern) who has come on recommendation from the Hansard Society. Each placement lasts approximately three months.

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology runs formal fellowship schemes with scientific societies and research councils, whereby students registered for a PhD in UK universities can spend three months working at POST through an extension of their maintenance grants. The number of students taken varies year on year between 12 and 16. POST has started placing some of these students with select committees.

The Department of Information Services takes on PhD students, funded by the ESRC, to work as interns in the International Affairs and Defence Section (IADS) and the Parliament and Constitution Centre. Two students per year have been taken, each for three-month placements.

In addition to internships, the House service also provides opportunities for sandwich students, apprenticeships, work experience placements and placements for people with learning difficulties.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by his Department. [256055]

Ann McKechin: I have placed in the Library a copy of the display energy certificate and associated advisory report in respect of the only property occupied by my Department in England and Wales.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256201]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; who remain their employers. It is the responsibility of these Departments to provide details of EU foreign nationals and non EU foreign nationals employed.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255066]

Ann McKechin: No equality impact assessments have been undertaken in the last 12 months.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255239]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not received any representations as described in the question.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253257]

Ann McKechin: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the Civil Service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the Civil Service Pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and remain on the payroll of their parent Department. Information on pension options available to staff, including added pension and additional voluntary contributions, are available on the parent Department's Intranet sites, to which all staff have access.

Iceland

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the purpose of his visit to Iceland in November 2008 was; how much the visit cost in each category of expenditure; what meetings he attended; what matters were discussed; and how many officials from *(a)* the Scotland Office and *(b)* other Government departments accompanied him. [251291]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The purpose of the visit was to discuss the impact of the failure of Icelandic banks on individuals, local authorities and other bodies in Scotland. The cost of travel and accommodation was £3,997.16. I met with the Prime Minister and with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iceland, and with the Norwegian Foreign Minister. I also visited a geothermal power station. I was accompanied by three departmental staff. All ministerial travel was undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W, on apprentices, what progress her Department has made towards meeting its share of the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government Departments and agencies in 2008-09. [256281]

Mr. Woolas: Government Skills are preparing a response which will include data for a number of Departments, including the Home Office.

Asylum

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in clearing the backlog of undetermined immigration legacy cases; by what date she expects all such cases to have been determined; and if she will make a statement. [254676]

Mr. Woolas: As of 9 January the UK Border Agency concluded 155,500 legacy cases. The Agency is aiming to conclude these cases by summer 2011.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the UK Border Agency has issued to the police on reporting requirements for unsuccessful asylum seekers and their dependent children. [255610]

Mr. Woolas: Instructions to the police on reporting requirements for unsuccessful asylum claimants are the same as for asylum seekers whose claims are still being considered and for all of those who are liable to detention and who are subject to temporary admission.

For all individuals who are required to report to police stations, UKBA issues a form instructing the police that the individual will start reporting, and to inform the UKBA office commissioning the reporting events if the individual fails to report. UKBA also prescribes the frequency with which each individual should report.

Children under the age of 17 are not normally required to report on a regular basis, but may be required to attend on some occasions, as part of the strategy for keeping in touch.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to changing the criteria applied to Zimbabwean nations seeking asylum in the UK. [255560]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* All asylum and human rights claims are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the refugee convention and the European convention on human rights. Decisions take account of the individual facts of the case, up-to-date objective country information and any relevant case law.

The "Operational Guidance Note" providing policy advice for case owners considering asylum claims from Zimbabweans was last updated on 1 December 2008 and is kept under continual review.

British Nationality: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for British naturalisation there were from people resident in Northern Ireland in 2007; and how many were successful. [253275]

Mr. Woolas: There were 485 naturalisation applications from people who submitted their applications to the Northern Ireland Local Authority in 2007. Of this number received, 450 have been approved.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a national statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

China

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the security operation for the visit to the UK of the Chinese Prime Minister was; and if she will make a statement. [254574]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* This information is not held centrally. The cost of the security operations for the visit to the UK of the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao, is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority and for the chief constable and police authority for each of the other forces involved in the visit.

Crime Prevention

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department hold on the performance of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. [254480]

Jacqui Smith: We do not have a rolling programme for collecting data on the performance of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Following a review of the partnerships provisions of the Crime and Disorder 1998 Act, the duties on CDRPs to produce three yearly audits and to report annually to the Secretary of State on a partnership's work and progress were repealed in 2007. They were replaced by new statutory requirements in 2007 to introduce minimum standards for partnership working based on six Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships. These include a duty on CDRPs to produce a strategic assessment identifying local community safety priorities and a partnership plan which sets out the approach for addressing these priorities.

Crime: Statistics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1483-86W, on crime: statistics, whether the National Policing Improvement Agency categorises data it collects on incidents of anti-social behaviour by type. [254338]

Jacqui Smith: The National Incident Category List (NICL) sets out an agreed framework for the recording of incidents that do not amount to notifiable crime. NICL sits within the National Standard for Incident Recording. NICL provides national definitions for a range of incident types, including those amounting to antisocial behaviour.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1483W, on crime: statistics, for what reason the data on anti-social behaviour are only available for 2007-08. [254339]

Jacqui Smith: Returns of antisocial behaviour incident data were first included in the Police Annual Data Requirement with effect from 1 April 2007 which was the date on which the National Standard for Incident Recording (incorporating the National Incident Category List) came into full effect nationally.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Gershon savings were achieved by her Department in the last three years; and which of those were cash savings. [254866]

Jacqui Smith: My Department reported performance against the 2004 Value for Money Spending Review target in the 2008 Home Office Autumn Performance Report (column 7512). By the end of 2007-08, the Department had achieved gains worth £2,855 million per annum, of which £1,552 million per annum was cashable, compared with its target in the 2004 spending review to achieve improvements worth £1,970 million per annum of which £1,060 million per annum would be cashable.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* flowers in each of the last three years. [254879]

Mr. Woolas: Figures on the cost of pot plants and flowers are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the public appointments for which her Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records her Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254230]

Mr. Woolas: Information on appointments made by the Department is published in the Department's Annual Report and is available on the Department's website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-public-appointments-2007.

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments".

For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the running costs of her Department's Senior Appointments Panel. [254824]

Jacqui Smith: The cost of the new Senior Appointments Panel is estimated at £500,000 per annum. This includes the salary costs of four staff, fees and expenses for the independent chair and panel members, and research to support the workings of the panel. The cost of the panel will be absorbed by the Home Office.

Departmental Security

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental security, how many lost or stolen security passes have since been recovered. [254553]

Mr. Woolas: The Departmental Security Unit do not keep records of Home Office HQ passes found or recovered as lost or stolen passes are deactivated as soon as they are reported missing/stolen and are deleted from the system, thereby preventing access to Home Office buildings.

In the calendar year 2008, UK Border Agency reported that 26 UKBA passes had been found (warrant cards are included in this figures, as for some business areas they are the same document).

Departmental Translation Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have spent on translation services in each of the last 60 months. [254596]

Jacqui Smith: The Department's expenditure on translation and interpretation services is set out in the following table, 2007-08 being the most recent period for which there are audited figures.

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Home Office, including UKBA	13,499	14,903	10,419	9,683	9,636
Identity and Passport Service	3	3	3	6	260
Criminal Records Bureau	0	0	0	13	0

The figures cannot be analysed by month without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Home Office figures in the table, for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08, do not include those for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office of Criminal Justice and Reform (OCJR), which transferred to Ministry of Justice on 1 April 2007: figures for NOMS and OCJR for 2003-04 could not be deducted from the Home Office total without incurring disproportionate cost.

For the Identity and Passport Service, the offer of interpreter services was introduced when interviews for first time adults became compulsory in 2007-08. Face-to-face interviews for first time applicants are designed to help tackle fraud and ensure the British passport remains among the most secure in the world. Interviews are tailored to the individual in order to securely establish identity and it is possible that some interviews could require the assistance of an interpreter to help IPS staff satisfy themselves that the person attending is the legitimate passport applicant.

Deportation

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether bonuses are paid to those employed to supervise the transportation of deportees to airports, on the removal of such deportees. [255637]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The contract for the escorting of individuals being removed or deported from the UK is operated by Group 4 Securicor (G4S).

The contractors employ detainee custody officers (DCOs) to carry out the duties of escorting those people being removed from the UK.

Under the contract, the UK Border Agency does not make any bonus payment to G4S for effecting removals or deportations. G4S have said that they do not pay bonuses to their staff that carry out these duties.

Deportation: Sri Lanka

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent changes have been made to her Department's policy on the removal of Sri Lankan Tamils from the UK; and if she will make a statement. [254536]

Mr. Woolas: It remains our policy that enforced returns to Sri Lanka, or any other country, will only be undertaken where the UK Border Agency is satisfied that to do so is in accordance with our international protection obligations.

The UK Border Agency carefully considers all asylum claims and human rights claims, including those from Tamils, on their individual merits against the background of the latest available country information drawn from a wide range of publicly recognised sources and relevant case law. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the Asylum Immigration Tribunal or an opportunity to seek judicial review through the higher courts. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those asylum seekers who need it.

The 2008 European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case of NA endorsed existing Asylum and Immigration Tribunal country guidance case law on risk to Tamils in Sri Lanka. The ECtHR considered that there was no general risk of mistreatment to Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Detention Centres: Translation Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on interpretation and translation services within the immigration detention estate in 2008; how much was spent at each detention centre; and if she will make a statement. [254447]

Mr. Woolas: In 2008 the UK Border Agency detention service spent £30,590 on interpretation and translation services at the Immigration Removal Centres.

The following table shows the spend for each of the 10 Immigration Removal Centres for 2008.

	Spend
Campsfield House	1,545
Colnbrook	3,645
Dover Removal centre	320
Dungavel	2,349
Harmondsworth	62
Haslar	4,704
Lindholme	831
Oakington	3,955
Tinsley House	7,333
Yarls Wood	5,846

Emergency Calls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time from the receipt of a 999 call to a police officer's arrival at an accident or a crime scene was in each police force area are each of the last 10 years. [254594]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Entry Clearances

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time for responses to visa applications has been in each of the last five years. [252320]

Mr. Woolas: Public service agreement (PSA) target times for processing visa applications during FY 2004-05 to FY 2007-08 were as follows:

> PSA 1: 90 per cent. of straightforward non-settlement applications processed in 24 hours;
>
> PSA 2: 90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further inquires to be processed within 15 working days;
>
> PSA 3: 90 per cent. of applicants for settlement visas to be assessed or interviewed within in 50 working days.

The UK Border Agency retained the same targets for visa processing from April 2008. Our performance against these targets is shown in the following table.

Data for years prior to FY 2006-07 are not available.

			Percentage
	FY 2008-09(Apr-Dec)	*FY 2007-08*	*FY 2006-07*
PSA 1	84	89	89
PSA 2	86	93	94
PSA 3	82	93	91

Note:
The data for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System, 29 January 2009

New customer service standards for visa processing times were introduced in January 2009 and are published on the Border Agency's Visa Services website, together with actual monthly processing times for each visa-issuing post.

These are end-to-end processing times which include processing at Visa Application Centres (run by our commercial partners) as well as processing at Visa Sections.

Frontex

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* contracts and *(b)* other obligations her Department has with Frontex; whether her Department has plans to enter into any further such obligations; and if she will make a statement. [254443]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not have any contract with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex). The UK is excluded from the Frontex Regulation on Schengen building grounds. Our exclusion means that in practice we do not have the same level of influence as the other member states. We play an active role at the Frontex Management Board but we do not have a vote. Our officers participate in Frontex joint operations and other activities with the agreement of the management board on a case-by-case basis in an observational/advisory role.

We have demonstrated our commitment to Frontex by making an annual financial contribution to Frontex, seconding staff to Frontex's headquarters, participating in a variety of Frontex activities and operations as well as offering Frontex access to a range of technical equipment. We see the improved coordination of border management of Schengen States as having a direct impact to the United Kingdom, and play as full a part as possible in operations, and should commit resources to them for this purpose.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many undocumented immigrants have been *(a)* repatriated, *(b)* held in detention and *(c)* released after being arrested in raids by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each year since 2001. [246241]

Jacqui Smith: There are no circumstances where an undocumented individual can be removed. Where an individual has no valid travel document, the UK Border Agency will obtain an Emergency Travel Document (ETD) through the relevant embassy, high commission or consulate of the country in question or where possible arrange removal using a European Union Letter (EUL).

Information on how many undocumented migrants have been held in detention and released after being arrested following operational visits by the UK Border Agency could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including removals, are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what businesses the UK Border Agency and its predecessors has raided on suspicion that they were employing illegal immigrants in each of the last six years; and what businesses *(a)* were fined and *(b)* had a civil penalty imposed on them for employing such immigrants in each of those years; [246240]

(2) how many raids upon businesses the UK Border Agency and its predecessors undertook in each year since 2004; and how many undocumented immigrants were arrested in those raids. [246242]

Jacqui Smith: The number of UK Border Agency enforcement visits to UK businesses suspected of employing illegal workers and the numbers arrested during these visits in each year since April 2005 is attached at Annex A. Details prior to 2005 are not available. Information on how many of the individuals arrested were undocumented and could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

All data are sourced from the National Operations Database (NOD) which was launched in April 2005. NOD is a management information tool and data from it are not quality assured under national statistics protocols. Figures provided from NOD do not constitute part of national statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Details of businesses prosecuted and fined for employing illegal migrant workers under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 are published in the Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 2007 which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Details of Civil Penalties issued to employers under the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/listemployerspenalties/

Annex A

The number of UK Border Agency enforcement visits to UK businesses and numbers arrested

	April 2005 to March 06	April 06 to March 07	April 07 to March 08	April 08 to November 08
Illegal working (IW) visits	2,915	4,614	7,178	4,751
IW visits with arrests	1,575	2,044	2,855	2,058
Persons arrested	3,819	4,001	5,589	4,106

Source:

All data are sourced from the National Operations Database (NOD). NOD is a management information tool and data from it is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided from the NOD do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Immigration

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce the time taken to determine applications for indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [250960]

Mr. Woolas: In order to drive improvements throughout 2009-10 new processes are being introduced with initial focus on clearing older cases and improving overall throughput. A new performance monitoring mechanism to enable the agency to keep a tight grip on performance is due to be introduced in April.

Members: Correspondence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 243298, on identity cards and foreign nationals, tabled on 9 December 2008. [250488]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 810W.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 243515, on identity card verification across Government, tabled on 9 December 2008. [250489]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1228W.

Offenders: Deportation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders who had previously been deported have been convicted since 2001; and how many were *(a)* EU citizens and *(b)* non-EU citizens. [253445]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. Those who are subject to deportation orders are prevented from re-entering the United Kingdom. Where it is found that an individual has attempted to enter in breach of a deportation order, the UK Border Agency will remove them at the earliest opportunity.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee and provided all of the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

Police: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* cash grants and *(b)* overall budget her Department has provided for each police force in each of the last 10 years. [254823]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Total grants and budget requirements for police authorities in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2008-09

£ million

Police authority	*1998-99*		*1999-2000*		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
	Total grants[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]
Avon and Somerset	142.1	164.8	144.3	173.3	150.8	181.2	167.3	189.7
Bedfordshire	53.1	61.3	52.7	63.4	55.6	66.8	60.9	70.7
Cambridgeshire	61.4	70.8	63.6	75.2	66.8	79.5	75.2	84.1
Cheshire	89.5	105.0	93.8	111.1	98.7	115.1	104.5	121.8
Cleveland	73.6	79.3	74.6	83.3	77.9	86.5	82.9	90.7
Cumbria	52.5	61.9	53.4	64.5	56.1	67.4	60.9	70.6
Derbyshire	88.0	98.8	91.0	106.5	92.4	111.1	103.5	117.0
Devon and Cornwall	145.1	164.7	149.2	175.9	156.0	182.4	172.2	191.1
Dorset	58.6	72.6	61.0	77.4	60.4	81.0	65.4	84.6
Durham	71.5	77.0	74.9	81.3	78.6	84.0	83.3	87.7
Essex	133.6	163.6	137.8	169.5	148.1	183.1	159.8	194.8
Gloucestershire	52.6	62.4	52.8	66.0	54.6	68.6	60.4	72.2
Hampshire	161.6	187.1	165.3	196.5	172.7	204.7	186.4	216.2
Hertfordshire	79.2	96.0	85.0	101.6	97.2	121.2	106.4	129.3
Humberside	101.3	110.0	101.1	114.3	106.3	118.9	114.1	128.2
Kent	154.9	176.1	157.0	184.2	165.9	193.1	183.1	206.7
Lancashire	156.0	174.4	158.1	181.3	168.8	189.6	186.4	198.0
Leicestershire	86.4	101.1	89.7	106.3	93.1	110.2	103.7	116.4
Lincolnshire	52.0	65.8	54.6	69.7	58.7	72.6	61.0	76.1
Norfolk	71.4	81.0	71.0	86.9	75.4	91.5	82.2	98.4
Northamptonshire	54.6	66.1	55.9	70.4	59.4	73.4	63.6	76.8
North Yorkshire	66.3	74.4	66.2	78.0	67.5	81.0	75.8	85.9
Nottinghamshire	112.2	122.9	117.7	129.6	120.2	133.8	124.5	140.3
Staffordshire	99.8	117.2	100.2	122.2	102.4	127.0	108.3	134.3
Suffolk	55.9	65.8	58.7	69.9	61.7	72.9	69.4	77.6
Surrey	69.2	88.8	77.2	93.4	94.7	119.9	94.4	122.4
Sussex	137.6	161.4	141.4	168.0	145.3	174.5	156.7	183.9
Thames Valley	185.8	217.4	188.7	229.1	195.3	238.3	218.9	252.1
Warwickshire	43.2	52.8	44.0	55.9	48.9	58.9	58.9	62.4
West Mercia	92.6	110.4	97.5	116.5	103.9	125.7	114.8	133.2
Wiltshire	54.0	65.6	54.6	68.9	57.7	72.0	62.9	75.6
Greater Manchester	332.3	365.7	341.7	382.5	355.0	393.6	394.0	411.1
Merseyside	216.7	239.6	218.4	247.0	226.6	253.7	239.3	265.1
Northumbria	193.6	202.6	197.4	212.6	200.9	218.4	220.5	227.6
South Yorkshire	150.8	165.1	156.6	173.3	162.8	179.7	171.0	187.2
West Midlands	341.0	367.2	348.8	380.9	363.3	394.6	384.6	410.7
West Yorkshire	252.9	278.1	258.8	289.1	273.7	301.4	289.3	314.1
Metropolitan	1,606.8	1,777.5	1,629.3	1,836.2	1,635.4	1,830.0	1,789.4	1,980.1
City of London	71.0	57.1	72.0	57.1	74.6	57.9	87.0	59.7
Dyfed-Powys	43.5	51.8	43.6	55.7	46.5	59.0	53.2	62.9
Gwent	59.0	66.9	62.2	71.4	64.5	76.1	70.2	80.7
North Wales	63.2	73.9	64.5	79.6	67.6	84.0	74.0	89.5
South Wales	144.6	161.1	148.2	170.0	152.4	179.1	165.0	188.9

[1] Total grants comprises: General Grant and specific resource grants and capital provision.

[2] Source: Communities and Local Government - English Police Authorities/ Welsh Assembly Government—Welsh police authorities

Note:

Adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant to specific grants

Total grants and budget requirements for police authorities in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2008-09

£ million

Police authority	*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
	Total grants[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]
Avon and Somerset	166.6	196.1	174.1	215.9	180.0	228.7
Bedfordshire	65.4	72.6	67.0	78.2	69.1	83.1
Cambridgeshire	73.5	90.8	79.4	99.1	83.1	106.1
Cheshire	107.2	125.0	118.4	135.2	118.7	142.3
Cleveland	88.0	95.7	91.2	103.7	94.8	109.4
Cumbria	61.5	72.7	63.8	79.7	64.2	85.5
Derbyshire	102.8	123.6	108.6	132.9	111.9	139.8
Devon and Cornwall	173.6	198.4	179.0	220.2	185.6	233.2
Dorset	65.4	87.9	68.3	95.6	70.1	101.7
Durham	84.3	89.2	88.7	95.7	91.4	100.7

Total grants and budget requirements for police authorities in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2008-09

£ million

Police authority	*2002-03* *Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*2003-04* *Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*2004-05* *Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]
Essex	168.5	198.5	173.3	212.8	177.3	222.1
Gloucestershire	60.6	75.0	63.5	86.9	65.6	92.0
Hampshire	192.8	227.5	209.7	247.6	210.1	261.5
Hertfordshire	107.3	132.7	111.1	143.2	115.1	152.7
Humberside	113.4	131.6	121.1	142.0	124.8	150.4
Kent	186.8	214.6	203.3	233.0	203.9	245.8
Lancashire	183.8	202.0	194.0	216.8	200.9	228.9
Leicestershire	102.4	122.6	108.7	130.1	112.7	138.1
Lincolnshire	65.9	77.1	66.9	81.1	69.2	85.1
Norfolk	85.5	104.4	92.4	113.5	92.6	121.3
Northamptonshire	64.5	81.6	71.7	90.3	71.7	96.7
North Yorkshire	78.0	93.1	81.3	114.3	80.7	122.0
Nottinghamshire	131.4	145.2	136.0	158.2	141.2	165.7
Staffordshire	110.7	137.0	119.9	149.1	120.7	157.1
Suffolk	68.0	81.2	71.8	89.7	73.6	94.6
Surrey	93.7	128.6	101.1	149.2	100.9	157.9
Sussex	164.5	189.8	170.8	211.2	175.4	221.6
Thames Valley	223.3	259.3	231.9	292.4	239.9	311.5
Warwickshire	51.5	65.8	56.1	70.3	55.9	73.9
West Mercia	112.2	144.4	117.9	154.5	121.1	165.3
Wiltshire	63.1	77.6	65.6	83.8	67.5	88.3
Greater Manchester	393.0	415.3	422.9	450.9	436.9	468.9
Merseyside	254.9	268.6	265.9	282.9	273.7	294.9
Northumbria	213.0	228.6	227.7	241.2	240.8	249.8
South Yorkshire	178.7	191.4	193.0	207.2	194.9	216.6
West Midlands	397.4	415.5	437.7	441.2	442.8	460.6
West Yorkshire	302.9	323.9	318.1	345.6	328.8	363.7
Metropolitan	1,930.2	2,037.7	2,052.3	2,207.8	2,133.1	2,343.3
City of London	92.0	60.4	99.4	71.3	111.0	72.8
Dyfed-Powys	53.9	65.3	56.4	71.2	58.4	76.5
Gwent	72.2	84.4	76.6	92.0	78.9	97.5
North Wales	78.8	93.5	82.1	104.6	86.0	113.2
South Wales	169.2	195.0	175.6	201.0	181.7	216.6

£ million

Police authority	*2005-06* *Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*2006-07*[3] *Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]
Avon and Somerset	189.2	240.6	194.1	236.7
Bedfordshire	72.6	87.3	75.3	87.3
Cambridgeshire	86.9	112.5	88.6	110.5
Cheshire	122.7	148.4	129.7	150.3
Cleveland	98.8	114.8	103.9	115.0
Cumbria	69.3	89.1	72.6	90.3
Derbyshire	117.1	145.9	117.9	145.3
Devon and Cornwall	193.9	243.7	199.7	246.3
Dorset	73.2	107.0	76.4	103.1
Durham	95.7	105.4	98.6	102.6
Essex	185.9	232.2	194.2	232.0
Gloucestershire	68.7	95.9	70.5	91.5
Hampshire	216.7	272.9	225.7	269.7
Hertfordshire	120.4	159.5	121.9	164.2
Humberside	130.5	156.9	136.2	158.1
Kent	211.2	256.5	219.7	247.3
Lancashire	210.2	240.4	223.6	239.5
Leicestershire	119.0	146.3	124.6	148.3
Lincolnshire	71.8	89.9	76.2	86.5
Norfolk	96.1	127.5	101.1	124.7
Northamptonshire	75.4	101.8	79.7	105.4
North Yorkshire	84.1	126.2	86.2	122.9
Nottinghamshire	146.0	173.4	146.0	170.5
Staffordshire	125.5	163.9	130.4	164.0

£ million

Police authority	*2005-06* *Total grants*[1]	*2005-06* *Budget requirement*[2]	*2006-07*[3] *Total grants*[1]	*2006-07*[3] *Budget requirement*[2]
Suffolk	76.5	98.9	78.6	97.4
Surrey	103.3	165.4	110.4	172.4
Sussex	182.9	231.3	189.5	227.2
Thames Valley	249.7	325.2	259.7	329.1
Warwickshire	57.9	77.2	60.6	76.6
West Mercia	125.7	172.8	132.3	176.8
Wiltshire	70.2	92.7	73.6	91.6
Greater Manchester	455.8	493.9	482.9	503.5
Merseyside	282.8	306.6	299.4	296.4
Northumbria	252.9	262.0	265.6	260.5
South Yorkshire	201.3	226.4	209.2	230.6
West Midlands	468.0	491.0	491.8	501.6
West Yorkshire	343.0	383.0	356.8	380.2
Metropolitan	2,254.5	2,488.3	2,382.4	2,425.7
City of London	117.6	60.0	118.9	61.2
Dyfed-Powys	60.6	80.3	64.2	79.9
Gwent	81.9	102.3	86.1	106.1
North Wales	88.3	120.7	90.2	118.7
South Wales	190.0	227.4	196.6	222.6

[1] Total grants comprises: General Grant and specific resource grants and capital provision.

[2] Source: Communities and Local Government - English Police Authorities/ Welsh Assembly Government—Welsh police authorities

[3] Adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant to specific grants

Total grants and budget requirements for police authorities in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2008-09

£ million

Police authority	*2007-08* *Total grants*[1]	*2007-08* *Budget requirement*[2]	*2008-09* *Total grants*[1]	*2008-09* *Budget requirement*[2]
Avon and Somerset	206.3	248.9	210.9	259.5
Bedfordshire	79.0	91.2	82.7	96.1
Cambridgeshire	88.9	116.0	98.3	120.7
Cheshire	136.4	157.4	142.3	168.1
Cleveland	108.0	119.7	111.1	124.6
Cumbria	78.1	94.0	82.1	97.4
Derbyshire	123.6	151.6	131.4	157.2
Devon and Cornwall	211.9	256.8	2222	268.1
Dorset	81.2	107.8	81.7	111.8
Durham	107.2	112.3	106.7	116.1
Essex	202.1	242.2	211.5	251.1
Gloucestershire	73.3	95.7	77.4	99.1
Hampshire	233.2	281.9	251.9	294.2
Hertfordshire	130.6	171.4	133.7	178.2
Humberside	145.4	164.9	148.8	169.7
Kent	235.4	257.9	237.5	266.9
Lancashire	233.5	252.6	239.7	262.1
Leicestershire	129.0	154.7	138.5	164.7
Lincolnshire	80.4	90.4	82.4	100.6
Norfolk	107.1	131.3	110.6	138.3
Northamptonshire	82.3	110.3	88.3	114.8
North Yorkshire	89.2	127.6	95.9	132.2
Nottinghamshire	154.9	177.6	164.6	184.7
Staffordshire	136.6	170.9	144.6	176.1
Suffolk	83.2	101.9	84.9	106.9
Surrey	114.3	180.6	125.6	191.5
Sussex	198.9	237.1	210.3	245.1
Thames Valley	270.7	344.4	280.9	356.1
Warwickshire	63.6	80.1	65.2	85.4
West Mercia	138.0	184.3	149.3	190.7
Wiltshire	76.2	96.0	80.3	99.3
Greater Manchester	505.9	524.1	534.8	544.9
Merseyside	313.2	307.3	324.3	317.1
Northumbria	277.3	270.1	292.9	277.8
South Yorkshire	222.8	239.6	232.0	246.6
West Midlands	519.5	521.8	539.9	543.4
West Yorkshire	373.3	396.0	396.1	411.0

Total grants and budget requirements for police authorities in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2008-09

£ million

	2007-08		*2008-09*	
Police authority	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]	*Total grants*[1]	*Budget requirement*[2]
Metropolitan	2,474.2	2,532.7	2,559.1	2,595.0
City of London	119.2	62.9	126.2	64.1
Dyfed-Powys	65.2	83.6	70.9	87.0
Gwent	88.4	110.7	94.5	114.3
North Wales	96.9	124.8	100.5	129.4
South Wales	206.7	232.1	212.3	240.3

[1] Total grants comprises: General Grant and specific resource grants and capital provision.

[2] Source: Communities and Local Government - English Police Authorities/ Welsh Assembly Government—Welsh police authorities

Police: Helicopters

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police helicopters in England were shared with local ambulance services in 2007-08. [254690]

Mr. Coaker: In 2007-08 there were two shared Police/Air Ambulance operations in England, based at Devizes in Wiltshire and at Shoreham in Sussex, operated by Wiltshire Constabulary and Sussex Police respectively.

Police: Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 on the shift patterns of police forces in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales. [253222]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The shift patterns of police officers is an operational matter, and as such is for the chief constable to determine. However, the Government published a review of the Licensing Act 2003 in March 2008 which revealed a mixed picture in terms of its impact. The change in opening hours has not led to the widespread problems some people feared. Overall, crime and alcohol consumption are down, but there has been a small increase in alcohol-related violence in the early hours of the morning and some communities have seen a rise in disorder. Our main conclusion is that people are using the freedoms, but people are not sufficiently using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle problems, and that there is a need to rebalance action towards enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour.

Additionally, we have introduced legislation for a new, mandatory code of practice. This will contain some compulsory national conditions, banning the most irresponsible practices and promotions which encourage people to drink excessively, or promote a binge-drinking culture. This will not affect the majority of businesses, small or large, who behave responsibly—but will target those that do not.

Further, the Government are funding a £4.5 million enforcement campaign, in addition to existing resources from the police, local authorities and others, focused on 40-50 priority areas and led by ACPO Commander Simon O'Brien. There is additional funding for the 20 priority PCT areas, and a £10 million investment in national awareness campaigns.

Police: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the funding of policing in North Yorkshire; and if she will make a statement. [255831]

Mr. Coaker: The Police Funding Settlement 2009-10 was debated and approved on 4 February and was broadly unchanged from that announced in December 2007.

In 2009-10, North Yorkshire police authority will receive £76.7 million in general grants, an increase of 2.5 per cent. (+£1.9 million) over 2008-09. North Yorkshire benefits from the decision to provide a funding floor of 2.5 per cent.; it would have received £5.8 million less if the funding formula had been strictly applied. In addition to general grant, North Yorkshire will also receive an estimated £11.2 million from a range of other Government funding.

A review of the funding formula for the next CSR period (2011-12 to 2013-14) is currently taking place with the Police Allocation Formula Working Group (PAFWG) continuing to meet throughout 2009 and early 2010. Following consultation, the formula will be revised as appropriate.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when police forces will receive notification from the Olympic Delivery Authority of their funding entitlement for policing the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [256129]

Mr. Coaker: Work is continuing to finalise the strategy and plans for the security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Home Office has provided funding to police forces in 2007-08 and 2008-09 to enable them to plan and prepare for the Games. It will continue to make available funding as necessary. Any decisions will need to take account of the operational needs of the police and other security agencies, affordability within the total funding envelope and the need to secure value for money.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 98W, on police: standards, what targets have been removed; and on what date each ceased to have effect. [254341]

Jacqui Smith: The Government have been clarifying the performance management framework for the police for some time, to help the police focus more effectively on the issues that concern the public. The top down numerical target which concerned frontline officers the most—to increase the total number of offences brought to justice from the 2004 Public Service Agreements (PSAs)—ceased to have effect at the end of 2007-08. The Policing Green Paper made further significant changes as part of its broader proposals for reforming the relationship between the police service, the public and the Home Office. In particular, the Government committed to a single top down target for police forces—on improving public confidence.

Centrally set efficiency and productivity targets for individual forces and authorities ceased to have effect from the publication of the Policing Green Paper (17 July 2008). Volume and value targets on cash forfeiture orders also ceased to have effect on that date. Centrally set 10-year race employment targets relating to the recruitment, retention and progression of black and minority ethnic police officers and staff come to an end on 31 March 2009, when a final report against a centrally set progression target will also be made.

Centrally set multi-agency targets for local criminal justice boards (LCJBs, on which police forces are members alongside other agencies) on enforcement (including fail to appear (FTA) warrant enforcement, community penalty breach enforcement and licence recall) and asset recovery (specifically on obtaining and enforcing confiscation orders) cease from April 2009. The Persistent Young Offenders (PYO) Pledge ended on 31 December 2008.

All of this demonstrates how we are complying with our commitment in the Green Paper to "neither set nor maintain" top down numerical targets for individual police forces with the exception of one—to raise public confidence that their local crime and antisocial behaviour priorities are being addressed.

Powers of Entry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to public authorities with powers of entry on the manner in which those powers should be exercised in respect of forced entry. [256717]

Mr. Coaker: Section 67(9) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 requires that persons other than police officers charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders shall have regard to the relevant provisions of the PACE code of practice. PACE code B on searching premises and seizing property requires that reasonable and proportionate force may be used if necessary to enter premises if the person in charge of the search is satisfied the premises are those specified in any warrant or in the exercise of statutory powers and if the occupier or any other person entitled to grant access has refused entry; it is impossible to communicate with the occupier or any other person entitled to grant access; the person entitled to grant access is absent; or there are reasonable grounds to believe that alerting the occupier or any other person entitled to grant access would frustrate the object of the search or endanger those exercising the search or others.

Tackling Knives Action Programme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of additional *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions which have taken place as a consequence of the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) in each of the 10 TKAP areas. [252116]

Jacqui Smith: Management information being used to monitor TKAP suggests that in the period June to November 2008 there were 815 more convictions for possession of a knife or offensive weapon in the 10 TKAP areas than in the same period of 2007. This figure is provisional.

Figures for prosecutions are published annually. The latest available figures are for 2007 (prior to the establishment of the Tackling Knives Action Programme). Figures for 2008 will be released in autumn 2009.

Terrorism: Deportation

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the Government in its policy of seeking to persuade the European Court of Human Rights to reconsider its jurisprudence on the deportation of terrorist suspects in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [255248]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: The Government's submissions on this point were considered by the Grand Chamber of the Court in the context of the case of Saadi *v.* Italy. In its judgment (given on 28 February 2008), the Court rejected the Government's arguments and reaffirmed the existing article 3 case law as set out in Chahal *v.* the UK.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's letter of 16 December 2008 to the UK Border Agency on behalf of Said Bouzinab (Home Office reference B493071, acknowledgement reference B41558/8). [255765]

Mr. Woolas: The regional director for the North West, Gill Mortlock, wrote to my right hon. Friend on 5 February 2009.

Work Permits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued to non-EU nationals in each of the last 10 years. [254416]

Jacqui Smith: The following table shows the number of work permit applications for non-EU workers approved in each of the last 10 years.

Individual approved work permit applications for the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2008

	Number
1999	56,190
2000	82,730
2001	113,460
2002	127,360
2003	133,170
2004	154,295
2005	136,900
2006	144,855
2007	128,210
2008	121,015

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intra company transfer in respect of non-UK nations were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) four quarters. [254490]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of work permit applications made and approved for Intra-Company Transfers in each of the last five years and each of the last four quarters.

Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Applications Approved	32,770	33,745	43,050	48,735	48,010	206,305
Applications Made	33,645	34,680	43,950	50,230	49,710	212,215

Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved for each quarter during the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

	January to March	*April to June*	*July to September*	*October to December*	*Total*
Applications Approved	11,870	12,930	14,135	9,080	48,010
Applications Made	12,300	13,385	14,565	9,385	49,710

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. *Caveats:*
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies obtained a grant for an intra company transfer in each of the last five years, broken down by industry sector. [254491]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of companies who obtained an approval for an intra-company transfer in each of the last five years, broken down by industry sector.

Number of companies who obtained an approval for an intra-company transfer application for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

Industry Name	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Admin, Bus and Man Services	1,470	1,325	1,395	1,490	1,485	4,105
Agriculture Activities	15	15	15	15	20	60
Computer Services	820	760	820	860	820	2,195
Construction and Land Serv	155	145	170	165	185	465
Education and Cultural Act.	80	85	85	85	80	260
Ent and Leisure Services	90	90	105	100	95	320
Extraction Industries	125	125	120	140	160	330
Financial Services	670	635	720	810	800	1,865
Fish Processing SBS	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Government	10	10	10	5	10	30
Health and Medical Services	160	160	165	165	175	545
Hospitality—SBS	[1]—	5	[1]—	0	0	5
Hospitality and Catering	100	85	90	80	60	265
Law Related Services	80	85	100	110	100	210
Manufacturing	645	620	600	585	645	1,730
Meat Processing SBS	0	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—
Other Food Processing SBS	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	5	5
Real Est and Prop Services	15	20	25	40	25	85
Retail and Related Services	240	225	230	225	235	720
Secur and Protect Services	20	20	20	25	15	70
Sporting Activities	5	5	5	5	5	15
Telecommunications	135	135	120	160	150	395
Transport	190	170	175	180	190	510
Utilities—Gas Electricity Water	90	90	110	120	140	320
Total	4,980	4,595	4,815	5,080	5,105	13,515

[1] Indicates 1 or 2.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of the Government Equalities Office's contracts with public relations consultancies was since it was established. [251539]

Maria Eagle: Since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 some £214,000 has been spent on such contracts.

Departmental Special Advisers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many full-time equivalent staff in the Government Equalities Office provide assistance to special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each year since the Office was established. [251676]

Maria Eagle: One officer has worked full-time alongside the Minister for Women's special adviser. The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 and in financial year 2007-08 the costs of this arrangement were some £12,000. Estimated costs for financial year 2008-09 are £30,000.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality from which companies the Government Equalities Office has sourced temporary staff since it was established; and what the value of contracts with each such company has been. [251673]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has employed temporary staff from the following companies:

Company	*Total value of contract (£)*
Financial Year 2007-08	
Adecco	36,438
Brook Street	41,499
COI	20,110
Reed	18,485
Michael Page	15,012
Total	131,544
Financial Year 2008-09	
Adecco	51,794
Brook Street	86,468
COI	84,083
Morgan Hunt	70,012
Reed	113,627
Total	405,984

Equality: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what funding *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission has given to regional equality and diversity partnerships to date. [253779]

Maria Eagle: *(a)* The Government Equalities Office has made no such payments.

(b) The Equality and Human Rights Commission has to date funded the Greater Manchester centre for voluntary organisation (GMCVO) and the Regional Action Involvement South East (RAISE). Both organisations work to develop equality and diversity partnerships at regional level. The GMCVO collaborates with and assists organisations that work across all the mandate areas (sometimes known as equality strands). The RAISE is actively consulting upon the viability of a south-east regional equalities network.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Devolution

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary on raising awareness of devolution among civil servants. [249936]

Mr. Watson: I have placed in the Library a copy of 'Working with the devolved administrations: Guidance for UK Government Departments', issued to Departments by the Cabinet Secretary last July. The guidance is publicly available on the Cabinet Office devolution website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/devolution

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how the UK ranks against other EU member states in terms of *(a)* the change in the rate of unemployment and *(b)* the change in the rate of unemployment for 16 to 24 year olds in the last year for which figures are available. [254489]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, Dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how the UK ranks against other EU member states in terms of (a) the change in the rate of unemployment and (b) the change in the rate of unemployment for 16 to 24 year olds in the last year for which figures are available. (254489)

Comparable unemployment rates for EU Member States are estimated and published by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, using data derived from the Labour Force Survey in each country. The latest quarterly estimates and annual changes are provided in the attached two tables. Countries are ranked in order of the size of the annual change in each case.

The Eurostat definition of unemployed persons includes those aged 15. Estimates excluding 15 year olds are not readily available for most countries. Therefore the figures provided include those aged 15 for all countries except the UK and Spain.

Unemployment rates, by EU member state and age, seasonally adjusted

Table 1: People aged 15 to 74[1]*, ranked in order of change on year*

Country	*Latest period*		*Unemployment rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Change on year (percentage points)*
Spain	Q4	2008	13.7	5.1
Estonia	Q4	2008	8.5	4.4
Latvia	Q4	2008	9.3	3.8
Ireland	Q4	2008	7.8	3.1
Lithuania	Q4	2008	7.2	3.0
Denmark	Q4	2008	4.2	0.9
Sweden	Q4	2008	6.8	0.9
Luxembourg	Q4	2008	4.7	0.6

Unemployment rates, by EU member state and age, seasonally adjusted

Table 1: People aged 15 to 74[1], ranked in order of change on year

Country	*Latest period*		*Unemployment rate[2] (percentage)*	*Change on year (percentage points)*
United Kingdom	*Q3*	*2008*	*5.8*	*0.6*
Italy	Q3	2008	6.7	0.5
Hungary	Q4	2008	8.2	0.5
Cyprus	Q4	2008	4.0	0.2
France	Q4	2008	8.0	0.2
Portugal	Q4	2008	7.9	0.1
Belgium	Q4	2008	7.1	0.0
Finland	Q4	2008	6.5	-0.1
Netherlands	Q4	2008	2.8	-0.1
Austria	Q4	2008	3.8	-0.3
Czech Republic	Q4	2008	4.5	-0.3
Malta	Q4	2008	5.8	-0.3
Slovenia	Q4	2008	4.3	-0.3
Romania	Q3	2008	5.8	-0.6
Greece	Q3	2008	7.5	-0.7
Germany	Q4	2008	7.2	-0.8
Bulgaria	Q4	2008	5.3	-0.9
Slovakia	Q4	2008	9.2	-1.4
Poland	Q4	2008	6.5	-2.0

[1] People aged 16 to 74 for the UK and Spain.
[2] The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the total number of people employed and unemployed.
Source:
Eurostat

Table 2: People aged 15 to 24[1], ranked in order of change on year

Country	*Latest period*		*Unemployment rate[2] (percentage)*	*Change on year (percentage points)*
Estonia	Q4	2008	21.9	14.4
Lithuania	Q4	2008	18.1	10.7
Spain	Q4	2008	28.7	9.9
Ireland	Q4	2008	17.7	8.3
Latvia	Q4	2008	16.7	8.1
Denmark	Q4	2008	10.5	4.2
Sweden	Q4	2008	22.1	3.3
France	Q4	2008	20.8	2.7
Hungary	Q4	2008	21.6	2.2
Czech Republic	Q4	2008	10.9	1.8
Luxembourg	Q4	2008	17.1	1.7
Slovakia	Q4	2008	20.9	1.4
United Kingdom	*Q3*	*2008*	*15.3*	*1.0*
Finland	Q4	2008	17.0	0.8
Cyprus	Q4	2008	10.3	0.5
Italy	Q3	2008	20.6	0.4
Netherlands	Q4	2008	5.4	0.0
Portugal	Q4	2008	16.2	0.0
Slovenia	Q4	2008	11.5	0.0
Belgium	Q4	2008	18.0	-0.2
Malta	Q4	2008	11.9	-0.7
Greece	Q3	2008	21.9	-0.8
Austria	Q4	2008	7.0	-0.9
Germany	Q4	2008	9.8	-1.0
Romania	Q3	2008	18.9	-1.5
Poland	Q4	2008	17.1	-1.7
Bulgaria	Q4	2008	11.7	-3.0

[1] People aged 16 to 24 for the UK and Spain.
[2] The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the total number of people employed and unemployed.
Source:
Eurostat

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are upon local authorities to provide allotments for the use of local residents. [252560]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, there is a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where there is demand for them in their area. If a local authority is of the opinion that there is such a demand, they are required to provide a sufficient number of allotments for letting to persons residing in the area who want them.

Where representations have been received by any six registered parliamentary electors or persons liable to pay council tax, it is the duty of local authorities to take those representations into consideration when assessing demand.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 614W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on increasing the number of apprentices in her Department; and how many apprentices her Department employs. [251965]

Mr. Khan: Within CLG, eight members of staff are currently undertaking apprenticeships as part of the Government Skill's Apprenticeship Pathfinder scheme.

Although none of our agencies or Government Offices are currently putting staff forward for apprenticeships, the GOs are developing policy on introducing apprenticeships across the whole GO Network.

Council Housing: Standards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likelihood of all council housing meeting the Decent Homes Standard by 2010. [253410]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 22 January 2008 we published the Local Authority Housing Statistics, England 2007-08. This reported that local authorities reported that 150,000 dwellings will remain non-decent by 1 April 2011.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 533W, on council tax, what methodology her Department used to calculate the average parish council tax precept of £45 on Band D, as referred to in the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1169W, on council tax; and if she will use the same methodology to calculate a figure for 2008-09. [255009]

John Healey: The methodology used to estimate the average Band D parish council tax precept is based on assumptions set out in local government financial statistics England, as referred to in the answer of 2 June 2008.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 972W, in respect of 2008-09.

Departmental Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any datasets held by her Department and its agencies have been processed by contractors operating outside the European economic area in the last three years. [254859]

Mr. Khan: The Department's agencies (the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, the Fire Service College and the Planning Inspectorate) do not have datasets that have been processed by contractors operating outside the European economic area. The Department does hold information on personal data falling into that category for 2008 and has one dataset backed-up in the USA. Information on non-personal datasets or for the years 2006 and 2007 is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254091]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government have had no staff who have been disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in the last three years.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by her Department. [256214]

Mr. Khan: This information is not retained centrally by Communities and Local Government in a form that can be disaggregated without a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253265]

Mr. Khan: Members of the principal civil service pension scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information; including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pension administrator.

The departmental staff handbook also lists pension publications available on the civil service pensions website and provides contact details for the Department's pension provider where further pension advice can be obtained.

The Department's pension provider has a dedicated helpline option for staff wishing to seek advice on topping up pensions and an additional leaflet they issue on request.

From time to time the Department places news items relating to different aspects of the civil service pension scheme on the intranet. In June 2007 and November 2007 news items were made announcing the launch of the new added pension scheme from 1 March 2008.

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on departmental procurement, what the purpose of the expenditure on LLM Communications was; and what goods or services were purchased. [251953]

Mr. Khan: LLM Communications were engaged to support regional housing debates.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on departmental procurement, what the purpose was of the expenditure incurred by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in respect of *(a)* Oddbins, *(b)* BMI Health Screening, *(c)* RAF Northolt, *(d)* Ecovert FM Ltd. and *(e)* Apollo Photographers Ltd. [253938]

Mr. Khan: Oddbins sold beverages, BMI Health Screening arranged vaccinations for officials to travel abroad on business, RAF Northolt is the base of 32 Squadron which recharges for flights used on official travel, Ecovert FM was responsible for building services where DPMO was located, and Apollo were photographers employed to help with the production of DPMO's annual report. All DPMO expenditure was made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departmental procurement, how much expenditure was incurred on each organisation listed in the chart in 2007-08, based on purchase order data held in the departmental financial system. [254011]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the public appointments for which her Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records her Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254233]

Mr. Khan: Information on public appointments made by the Department is published in the Department's Public Bodies Annual Report which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/publicbodies2008

More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's annual report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments'. For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the 'Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies'. Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Empty Property: Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether blank advertising hoardings qualify for the empty property business rate relief for rateable values under £15,000. [254764]

John Healey: Empty property rates apply where a property is unoccupied and those properties that are not liable for empty property rates are set out in section 4 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department declined to accept an extension on spending deadlines for England for European structural funding in England; what estimate she has made of the amount of money under such structural funding provisions for England unspent as at 31 December 2008; and if she will make a statement. [254952]

John Healey: Government took into account views from the regions, including on the extent to which any additional resources resulting from programme extension could be used given the lack of flexibility in the EC's offer of extension, and decided that there was insufficient benefit to justify changing existing spending plans.

The 2000-06 ERDF programmes have so far recorded spend of over €5 billion. There are over 2,900 ERDF grant claims being processed in our systems and more are expected as projects make their final claims for grant. Until these claims are processed and paid we will not have a final spend position but expect it to show successful take up of the available funds—at least equal to previous rounds of ERDF.

Fire Services: Consultants

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department expects to spend on consultancy services for FireControl in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [256271]

Mr. Khan: National project costs are set out in the 'FireControl Business Case Part 2—The National Case', copies of which are available in the House Library. The Department is expecting to spend the following on consultancy services:

	£ million
2009-10	5.3
2010-11	3.4
2011-12	2.3
Total	11.0

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* grant allocations and *(b)* other funding her Department (i) has paid and (ii) plans to pay to each fire authority in each region during each year of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period. [255090]

Mr. Khan: A table giving details of grant allocations for each fire and rescue authority for the period in question, where figures are available has been deposited in the Library.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the outcomes from the next English House Condition Survey to be published. [256661]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2007 English House Condition Survey Headline Report was published on 29 January 2009. The 2007 annual report is due to be published in summer 2009.

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* revenue support, *(b)* capital grant and *(c)* supported borrowing funding central Government has paid to (i) Kent County Council, (ii) Thanet District Council and (iii) Dover District Council in 2008-09; and how much is planned in each case for 2009-10. [255091]

Mr. Khan: The following tables set out the amounts of *(a)* revenue payments *(b)* capital grants which this Department plans to make (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2008- 09 and 2009-10.

Financial year 2008-09

£ million

	Kent CC	*Thanet DC*	*Dover DC*	*Total*
Revenue				
Formula grants	259.366	13.021	10.113	282.500
Other grants and payments	96.530	4.491	0.550	101.571
Capital	4.793	5.130	0.387	10.310

Financial year 2009-10

£ million

	Kent CC	*Thanet DC*	*Dover DC*	*Total*
Revenue	267.224	13.163	10.164	290.55
Formula grants	91.822	3.688	0.493	96.003
Other grants and payments				
Capital	10.274	0.408	1.851	12.533

No supported borrowing would be offered by this Department in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Local Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to assist local authorities during the economic downturn. [255293]

John Healey: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton (Linda Gilroy) on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1270W.

Local Government Finance: Energy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of the effects of energy prices on local authority costs. [255220]

John Healey: The Department has not made an assessment of the effects of energy prices on local authority costs. However, a recent report by the Audit Commission "Crunch Time? The Impact of the Economic Downturn on Local Government Finances." identified expenditure on gas, electricity, fuel and food as areas which have seen the highest level of inflation in council expenditure. However, it also found that this made up less than 2 per cent. of total local authority spending and that inflation was now reducing, easing some of the in-year pressures. It reported that fuel prices are now lower than they were in April 2008. The Government expect the significant fall in the price of crude oil to feed into the cost of other goods and to impact on energy bills in due course.

Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber: Lloyds TSB

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of *(a)* 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1293W, on Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber: Lloyds TSB and *(b)* 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 779W, on Lloyds TSB, for what reasons a copy of the minutes of the 14 January meeting was deposited in the Library contrary to normal practice; and if she will make a statement. [256108]

Mr. Khan: Exceptionally, it was thought helpful to deposit a brief summary (but not the minutes as much of the discussion on 14 January was commercially confidential).

Natural Gas: Planning Permission

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proposals for gas storage facilities have *(a)* been granted planning permission and *(b)* have had planning permission rejected in each of the last five years; [255985]

(2) what proposals for gas storage facilities have been made in respect of which planning permission is still being considered. [255987]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold this information centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what qualifying conditions apply for ports to be eligible to pay retrospective business rates back over time. [255252]

John Healey: I laid the regulations that set out the qualifying conditions before Parliament on 10 February 2009.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the previous rating system for port businesses ended; and how much was paid under this system by Associated British Ports in *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Grimsby, *(c)* Immingham and *(d)* Goole for (i) 2000 to 2005 and (ii) 2005 to 2008. [256274]

John Healey: Prescription rating in ports ended in March 2005, but prescription applied only to the port operator. Separate properties within ports have always been separately liable for business rates and prior to the ports review around 1,600 were so listed and liable.

We do not hold information for the amount of rates paid by individual businesses, as the calculation of business rates, taking into account any reliefs due, is a matter for the local authority.

However, the 2005 lists rateable values for the named ports are:

£

Port	*2005 Rating list (before review)*	*2005 Rating list (post review)*	*Effective date*
Hull	9,000,000	3,100,000	1 April 2005
Grimsby	1,350,000	500,000	1 April 2005
Immingham	17,930,000	11,000,000	1 April 2005
Goole	940,000	205,000	1 April 2005

The rateable values under the 2000 rating lists in some cases varied from year to year, details can be found on the Valuation Office website at:

www.voa.gov.uk.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) *(a)* assessed port businesses for non-business rates and *(b)* notified the businesses concerned; and what consultations the VOA had with port businesses in 2005. [256275]

John Healey: The date from which the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) assessed port businesses for non-domestic business rates and the date from which the businesses concerned were notified of their assessments varies according to the facts and circumstances of each property. Such information could be assembled only at disproportionate cost.

Prior to publication of the 2005 lists discussions were held with port operators on assessment levels, on the basis of information supplied to the VOA by them.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date individual rating valuations of port businesses began to apply. [256276]

John Healey: Separately occupied properties within ports have always been liable to be rated separately in the same way as separately occupied property situated outside a port. The effective date applicable to an individual rating valuation is governed by statutory regulations.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment was made by her Department and its predecessor of the individual rating valuations of port businesses in 2005; and how these valuations were issued. [256277]

John Healey: Rateable values are assessed independently by the Valuation Office Agency, and this Department is not involved in the process.

Planning Permission: Parking

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to maximum parking standards for *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential development since 1997. [254860]

Mr. Iain Wright: In exercising their planning functions local planning authorities are required to have regard to the Government's overarching planning policy on parking which is set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 13: 'Transport' (2001), one of the key objectives of which is to reduce the need to travel, especially by car. PPG13 is clear that local authority policies in preparing their development plans should set maximum levels of parking for broad classes of development, including residential and non-residential development, and that there should be no minimum standards for development, other than parking for disabled people.

In relation to residential development, Planning Policy Guidance note 3: 'Housing' (2000) advised that car parking standards that resulted in development with more than 1.5 off-street car parking spaces across a local authority area on average were unlikely to reflect the Government's emphasis on securing sustainable residential environments. This advice has subsequently being replaced by Planning Policy Statement 3: 'Housing' (2006), which gives local planning authorities the flexibility, consistent with the objectives of PPG13, to set their own residential parking policies taking account of the expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

In terms of non-residential development, PPG13 sets out national maximum car parking standards. Again, within the context of reducing the need to travel by car required by PPG13, draft PPS4: 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Development' (2007) proposes to devolve responsibility for setting non-residential car parking standards to local authorities so that they can reflect local circumstances. We are currently working to finalise the policy.

Pollution

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 696W, on pollution, whether the costs to local authorities under the landfill tax escalator and Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme are *(a)* passed on to the polluter and *(b)* compensated by central government under the new burden principles. [252500]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 696W.

Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to encourage private sector organisations to participate in the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative. [251758]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Since its launch in 2003, the Government's Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) has highlighted practical ways in which private sector organisations can help to deliver its objectives. Among the steps taken are the holding of national and regional conferences for suppliers, publication of guidance, funding of regional projects to develop local supply chains and direct engagement with key stakeholders such as the foodservice companies and the British Hospitality Association. Further information can be found on the PSFPI website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on Veolia's planning application for an energy from waste plant at the site of the former Rufford Colliery, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire; and if she will make a statement. [254885]

Mr. Khan: In addition to my hon. Friend, my hon. Friend the Member for Mansfield (Mr. Meale), has requested that the planning application be called in for the Secretary of State's own determination. The Secretary of State has also received representations from three county councillors, one district councillor, Newark and Sherwood district council, a campaign group called PAIN (People Against Incineration) plus 12 members of the public, asking that the application be called in.

The case is currently under consideration by the Secretary of State. Therefore I cannot make any statement on the case. A decision will be issued as soon as possible.

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons she decided to apply the recovery procedure to the three wind farm applications in the borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed on 26 August 2008. [256513]

Mr. Iain Wright: The reason for recovery was due to the proposals being of major significance for the delivery of the Government's climate change programme and energy policies.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of social rented homes which did not meet the Decent Homes standard at the latest date for which figures are available; and when she expects the remainder of the additional £200 million of funding for the Decent Homes programme to have been spent. [250957]

Mr. Iain Wright: Landlord statistical returns show that at 1 April 2008 there were 714,000 social homes that did not meet the decent homes standard which represents 18 per cent. of the social housing stock,

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table119.xls.

In the pre-Budget report we announced that we would bring forward from 2010-11 £250 million to sustain and accelerate the Decent Homes programme. We expect all this money to have been spent by the end of March 2010.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1149W, on non-domestic rates, whether the domestic or composite hereditament premises of diplomatic missions will have liability for charges for the collection of household waste under proposed pilot schemes. [252737]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Participation in a waste incentives scheme by diplomatic and consular agents would be on a voluntary basis.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to increase awareness of safe drinking levels and the health risks associated with alcohol dependency amongst *(a)* adults aged over 45 years and *(b)* young people under 18 years living in the North East. [255313]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to take forward initiatives and campaigns to increase awareness of lower risk drinking levels and the health risks associated with alcohol dependency in their areas. Information on action taken in the North East can be obtained from PCTs across the North East directly.

However, in May 2008 the Department launched a national communications campaign to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol. The campaign messages were delivered across television, newspapers, outdoor, radio and on-line channels. Phase one focused on improving people's knowledge of how many units of alcohol are in the alcoholic drinks they consume, while phase two focused on improving people's understanding of the link between their alcohol consumption and their health.

Initial assessment of the campaign shows that there is an increased agreement, from 77-82 per cent. that we tend to drink more than is good for us. This has clearly been influenced by the campaign as for those aware of the campaign this figure rises to 85 per cent., while for those not aware of the campaign this figure is 72 per cent.

The second wave of campaign tracking will be available shortly and may provide more information on how the campaign has improved the public's understanding of alcohol related health risks.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group via accident and emergency to NHS hospitals in each region for alcohol-related conditions there were in 2007-08. [255201]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for admitted patients for 2007-08 have not yet been released but should be available next month. The Department will arrange for the information to be made available to the House at that time.

Alcoholism: Health Services

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* adults and *(b)* young people in each strategic health authority area to obtain (i) community-based and (ii) in-patient services to reduce severe alcohol dependency in the latest period for which information is available. [255314]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 1 April 2008 the National Treatment Agency has collected data on individuals who receive specialist alcohol treatment through the National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System. The first year's data is expected to be reported in October 2009, and will include information on waiting times.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many in-patient beds there are in each strategic health authority area for patients who require medical support and intervention to reduce severe alcohol dependency. [255315]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) and their partner agencies to make local commissioning decisions for alcohol treatment programmes based on their assessment of local need.

Ambulance Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the additional cost the Yorkshire Ambulance Service of the transfer of acute medical services and the cardiac monitoring unit from Bridlington to Scarborough hospital is estimated to be in the first year of operation at Scarborough. [256028]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

The transfer of cardiac and acute medical admissions from the Bridlington and District hospital to the Scarborough hospital, which formed part of the proposals in the public consultation on the future of services at Bridlington hospital in 2006-07 has now been implemented in full.

Costs incurred through the reconfiguration of services are the responsibility of the local national health service. It is for the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust to ensure it provides appropriate services to patients in response to the agreed changes to services.

Benzodiazepines

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy not to amend guidelines to doctors on the prescribing of benzodiazepines. [253453]

Phil Hope: In 1994, the Department issued copies of 'Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Benzodiazepine Dependence', published by the Mental Health Foundation, to all health authorities and recommended their use by general practitioners. The Department issued another publication in 1999 entitled, 'Drug misuse and dependence—guidelines on clinical management (1999)', which reiterates these messages. A copy of this publication has been placed in the Library. The British National Formulary is also an important source of guidance on the management of benzodiazepine dependence.

The CMO Update 37, sent by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Department of Health to all doctors in England, issued in January 2004, issued advice reminding doctors that benzodiazepines should only be prescribed for short-term treatment. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence develops and publishes clinical guidelines and they may amend this advice in future in light of new evidence, but there are no current plans to do so.

Carers: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adult social carers there were in Devon in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [253944]

Phil Hope: The total number of adult social workers in Devon over the last 10 years has increased by 11 per cent. and the number in each year is shown in the following table.

	Devon
1998	185
1999	187
2000	190
2001	199
2002	203
2003	194
2004	185
2005	226
2006	226
2007	206

Source:
SSDS001

Dementia: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the provision of healthcare for people with dementia in Coventry. [255356]

Phil Hope: Dementia is one of the most important issues we face as the population ages. Around 570,000 people already have the condition in England and this number is set to double in the next 30 years, with the costs of dementia tripling. That is why the Department published the first National Dementia Strategy on 3 February 2009. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

The Department will be providing a nationwide regional support programme to work closely with the national health service and local authorities in implementing the strategy. This is set out in an implementation plan, which accompanied the strategy. We have recently appointed a team of deputy regional directors with backgrounds in both health and social care to provide the local support needed for implementation. We will also be working closely with regional partners, including strategic health authorities, Government offices and regional improvement and efficiency partners to ensure delivery of the strategy.

Dementia: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many respite beds for people diagnosed with dementia there were in Devon in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [255361]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Better care for dementia sufferers and their carers is a key part of the National Dementia Strategy, which was published on 3 February 2009. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the efficacy of allowing clinical dental technicians to provide dentures directly to members of the public; [255960]

(2) what guidance he has issued on the role of clinical dental technicians in the NHS; [255961]

(3) what assessment he has made of the role of clinical dental technicians in improving oral health in England; and if he will make a statement. [255962]

Ann Keen: Evidence from overseas countries like Canada, where clinical dental technicians (CDTs) have been able to work legally for much longer than in the United Kingdom, indicate that they can make a very worthwhile contribution to the treatment needs of patients with dentures.

The General Dental Council (GDC) provided for the registration of CDTs with effect from July 2006 and so far, some 80 CDTs are registered with the GDC. It is too early to make a detailed assessment of their impact, but we are examining the role of CDTs in relation to national health service primary care dental services. Currently a primary care trust may contract with a registered CDT to provide NHS primary care dental services under the personal dental services regulations or with a CDT, working in partnership with a dentist, under the general dental services regulations.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology his Department used to calculate the amount dentists were paid per unit of dental activity at the point at which the new contract for NHS dentistry was introduced in 2006. [255576]

Ann Keen: This information is contained in the Department's paper 'NHS Primary Dental Care Services, England: Methodology for Determining Contract Values and Units of Dental Activity Requirements at the Introduction of the New Dental Service Contract on 1 April 2006' which has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes his Department has made to the amount dentists are paid per unit of dental activity since the new contract for NHS dentistry was introduced in 2006. [255577]

Ann Keen: The Department does not determine the value of units of dental activity (UDAs). The Department determines the level of the annual uprating to be applied to all annual contract values for contracts in place on 1 April each year between primary care trusts (PCTs) and dental providers for the provision of primary dental care services, based on the recommendations of the independent Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body.

Any changes in the level of services expected under the terms of those contracts, whether measured by a specified number of UDAs or other service measures, are a matter for local agreement between the individual PCT and dental provider. The overall value of new contracts for primary dental services awarded in-year, and the associated service levels, are determined locally by the individual PCT which commissions the services.

Dental Services: Prescriptions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed by dentists in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire was in each year since 1997; [255642]

(2) how many prescription items were dispensed by dentists in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [255643]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, information on prescribing by dentists is available from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system. It is available only for England as a whole. It is available by calendar year from 2003.

The number and net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed by dentists in each year is shown in the following table.

Calendar year	*Number of items (thousand)*	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
2007	4,569	10,657
2006	4,481	10,078
2005	4,651	9,186
2004	4,706	9,154

Calendar year	*Number of items (thousand)*	*Net ingredient cost (£000)*
2003	4,768	9,231

Notes:
Definitions:
1. PCA Data: Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community by: community pharmacists and appliance contractors; dispensing doctors; and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
2. The vast majority of these prescriptions are written by general medical practitioners in England; however, prescriptions written by nurses, dentists, other non-medical prescribers and hospital doctors are also included provided they were dispensed in the community.
3. The figures are taken from separate tables relating to prescribing by dentists only.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis System

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants in 2008-09 to date and *(b)* flowers in each of the last three years. [254878]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is unable to provide the detailed breakdown of costs as requested.

The Department has a contract with Resource FM to provide a cleaning, and landscaping service to the Department's buildings which includes provision of pot plants, flower displays and landscaping. This is a fixed annual cost.

During the period April 2008 to February 2009 the cost of this service has been £15,269.64.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were dispensed for subutex to persons held in prison in the most recent period for which figures are available. [253971]

Phil Hope: Specific information on the use of buprenorphine is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve standards of geriatric medicine in Coventry. [255358]

Phil Hope: The Department's National Service Framework (NFS) for Older People in 2001 set out a 10 year strategy to improve services for older people, in all settings including in hospital.

One of the key aims of the NSF is to ensure that older people are never unfairly discriminated against in accessing national health service or social care. The NHS makes it clear that NHS services should be provided, regardless of age, on the basis of clinical need alone.

In addition, the NHS Constitution makes it clear that people will have the right not to be unlawfully discriminated against on the grounds of age once the Equality Bill comes into force.

Health Services: Males

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the merits of developing a national men's health policy. [254539]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's key priorities are improving the health and well-being of the population and tackling health inequalities. The Gender Equality Duty, effective from 1 April 2007, necessitates the assessment of all new and existing policies to show they meet the differing needs of both men and women. Government are therefore constantly assessing the health needs of men when developing national health policies. The Department is considering whether there needs to be an additional focus on specific areas.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance against objectives of the 24/7 primary angioplasty service. [254418]

Ann Keen: The Department's new guidance on treatment of heart attack in England was published on 20 October 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library and can also be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089455

It is based on a feasibility study from which it was concluded that roll out of primary angioplasty across England would be feasible, that a 24/7 service was likely to lead to best outcomes and that acceptable times to treatment were 120 minutes from patients call for help and 90 minutes from arrival at hospital. An impact assessment suggested that roll out would be feasible in three years for 97 per cent. of the population.

The status of this guidance is 'best practice' and so decisions about the pace of change are for local commissioners. The treatment times given are to guide local planning and local performance assessment. The Department has however worked with the national health service to put in place appropriate monitoring mechanisms to assess progress. A recent survey of the 31 cardiac clinical networks identified that 10 had achieved 24/7 coverage and that a further 18 had plans for the introduction of primary angioplasty.

A plan of English cardiac networks can be found at:

www.heart.nhs.uk/heart/CardiacNetworks/tabid/105/Default.aspx#ss

Heroin: Rehabilitation

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of treatment of heroin addicts with morphine; and if he will make a statement. [255480]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of the Department-commissioned "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management (2007)", the clinical guidelines expert group who developed the document commented on the potential role of slow release oral morphine (SROM) in the treatment of drug dependence. It stated that SROM is not licensed in the UK for the treatment of opiate dependence and should not normally be used in the community. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

However, the clinical guidelines expert group also acknowledged European research that has shown that SROM can be effective in treating drug dependent patients who 'fail to tolerate methadone' but recommended that it should only be used in the United Kingdom by specialist clinicians who have the necessary competencies to do so.

Within UK clinical settings morphine is mainly used for the management of severe and chronic pain, especially in palliative care.

The Department commissioned the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to examine and make recommendations on the most effective drugs for substitute opioid treatment. In 2007, NICE recommended methadone and buprenorphine as the most effective substitute opioids to be used in the treatment of opiate dependence.

Hip Replacements

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hip replacements were performed within the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Sefton in each year since 2003. [253411]

Ann Keen: The number of hip replacements performed within the national health service in England and the number of patients having a hip replacement procedure whose general practitioner's post code is within the Sefton National Health Service Primary Care Trust area are shown in the following table.

	Sefton Primary Care Trust	*England*
2006-07	601	89,254
2005-06	553	84,914
2004-05	518	82,919
2003-04	522	82,230
2002-03	393	77,052

Notes:
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Count of finished consultant episodes where the main procedure was a hip replacement procedure for Sefton Primary Care Trust of responsibility (formerly Southport and Formby NHS Primary Care Trust and South Sefton NHS Primary Care Trust prior to 2006-07) and England, 2002-03 to 2006- 07.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many days each NHS hospital trust has been placed on its highest level of alert because of a shortage of beds since 1 November 2008. [254399]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally in the format requested. The information may be available from individual trusts.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many single bedrooms are provided for patient use by each NHS organisation according to estates returns information collection data; [255578]

(2) how many single bedrooms have been provided for patient use by each NHS organisation according to estates returns information collection data in each year since 1997-98. [255579]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

Since 2002-03, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on the percentage of the total number of available beds that are single bedrooms, through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The actual number of single bedrooms is calculated by applying the percentage to the total number of available beds which is also collected by ERIC. The available data for each year since 2002-03 has been placed in the Library.

The proportion of single bedrooms across the national health service estate in England has risen from 22.6 per cent. in 2002-03 to 30.7 per cent. in 2007-08.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date the deep clean of Driffield Hospital took place; and at what cost; [256029]

(2) on what date the deep clean of Bridlington Hospital took place; and at what cost; [256030]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of deep cleaning of NHS hospitals in reducing the incidence of MRSA infections. [256031]

Ann Keen: Deep cleaning is just part of a comprehensive range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle infections set out in the strategy 'Clean, Safe Care: Reducing Infections and Saving Lives', a copy of which is already available in the Library.

The national deep clean programme was overseen by strategic health authorities (SHAs). Information about the specific timing and cost of each individual trust's deep clean was not collected centrally. On 17 January 2008, a written ministerial statement confirmed that out of 328 trusts, 263 had started their deep clean and that the remaining 65 trusts all had agreed plans in place. My right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) made a further written statement on 21 April 2008 marking the end of the deep clean initiative for 2007-08. The same statement confirmed that SHAs had made available all the funding promised for the programme, a total of £62.5 million. The spend for Yorkshire and Humber SHA was £5 million.

On completion of the national deep clean programme, SHAs took the lead in evaluating the impact of each trust's deep clean actions as each programme was different. It was recognised that no single measurement method would pick up all the benefits, particularly as trusts implemented a wide range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle healthcare associated infections.

The Department subsequently worked with SHAs to draw up examples of where a deep clean had had a demonstrable effect in improving patient care and experience. A compendium of good practice, 'From

Deep Clean to Keep Clean' was published in October 2008 to form the basis of shared learning across the national health service. A copy of the compendium has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089716

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* England have had operations cancelled within a week of the scheduled date in the last 12 months. [254750]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department do not collect the number of operations cancelled within a week of the scheduled date of the operation.

The Department do collect data on the number of operations cancelled at the last minute[1] for non-clinical reasons. Data on last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons for Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust and England are shown in the following table.

[1] A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.

Operations cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons, Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust and England

	Quarter	*Mid Essex*	*England*
2007-08	Q3	76	15,650
2007-08	Q4	136	16,771
2008-09	Q1	139	14,608
2008-09	Q2	117	13,127

Source:
Department of Health QMCO

If a patient's operation is cancelled by the hospital on or after the day of admission (including the day of surgery) for non clinical reasons, the hospital will have to offer another binding date within a maximum of the next 28 days, or fund the patient's treatment at the time and hospital of the patient's choice.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many items of correspondence he received relating to the Review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff from members of the public in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; [255652]

(2) when he plans to publish his Department's response to the most recent consultation on changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [255653]

Phil Hope: The following table sets out the level of correspondence the Department received which related to the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

The majority of this information will have come from members of the public.

	Number
2006	1,063
2007	1,254
2008	2,842

Details of the new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care will be published shortly, together with a summary of the responses to the last consultation.

Mesothelioma

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government funding has been provided for research into mesothelioma in the last 10 years; and what funding for such research is planned over the next five years. [255475]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations.

Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. They do not provide details of research into particular cancer sites.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a United Kingdom wide partnership between government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org.

Details of current Departmental and Medical Research Council (MRC) site-specific cancer research can be found through this database.

The MRC is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

MRC expenditure over the last 10 years on lung cancer research, including research relating to mesothelioma, has been:

	£ million
1998-99	0.3
1999-2000	0.2
2000-01	0.6
2001-02	1.6
2002-03	1.8
2003-04	2.1
2004-05	1.5
2005-06	1.6
2006-07	2.1
2007-08	2

These figures include funding to the MRC Clinical Trials Unit for the clinical trials in lung cancer programme which included support for the MS01 trial "(Active symptom control with or without chemotherapy for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma)".

The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the MRC is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on lung cancer research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Motor Neurone Disease: Medical Treatments

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce guidance on the use of non-invasive ventilation in the care of those suffering from motor neurone disease; [255344]

(2) when the use of non-invasive ventilation in the care of those suffering from motor neurone disease was first proposed as a subject for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance. [255345]

Dawn Primarolo: Non-invasive ventilation for the treatment of motor neurone disease was first proposed as a topic for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in January 2006. NICE currently expects to issue a short clinical guideline for this topic in early 2011.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reasons he has identified for the change in the number of prescription items *(a)* dispensed in the community and *(b)* dispensed in hospital since 1997. [255453]

Phil Hope: The reasons for the increase in number of prescription items dispensed in the community since 1997 are likely to include an increase in the numbers of patients being treated, improved access to medicines, the availability of additional treatments and demographic changes.

Information on the number of prescriptions items dispensed in hospitals is not available, but we would expect to see an increase in the number of items dispensed in hospitals for similar reasons.

NHS: Reorganisation

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department is making in bringing forward the pilot programme that was announced in the NHS Next Stage Review and the Primary and Community Care Strategy in 2008 to test and evaluate new models of integrated care; and if he will make a statement. [254547]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 247W.

Out-patients: Per Capita Costs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary o[illegible]tate for Health what the average cost per outpat[illegible]ce was across all specialties in each year sin[illegible]98. [254532]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Average cost, based on Trust or Trust and PCT data submitted	*Average cost per outpatient attendance across all specialties[1] (£)*
1997-98	[2]—	[2]—
1998-99	Trusts only	56
1999-2000	Trusts only	73
2000-01	Trusts and PCTs	78
2001-02	Trusts and PCTs	86
2002-03	Trusts and PCTs	92
2003-04	Trusts and PCTs	98
2004-05	Trusts and PCTs	105
2005-06	Trusts and PCTs	102
2006-07[3]	Trusts and PCTs	91

[1] The effect of inflation has not been accounted for in these figures. Were the figures to be adjusted for inflation (using the latest GDP deflator), this would give an average real terms increase in average cost of around 3.6 per cent. per year.

[2] Out-patient attendance cost data was not collected in 1997-98.

[3] 2006-07 is the most recent year for which data has been published.

Source:

National Schedule of Reference Costs

There have been a number of changes to the reference costs collection during the period covered by these figures. They generally fall into two key areas: (i) changes to the scope of the data collected (for example, over time an increased number of treatment function codes (TFCs) have been collected), and (ii) greater disaggregation over time (for example, separately collecting non-consultant-led activity from 2006-07). The changes over time mean that it is difficult to make comparisons between years without fully understanding the underlying changes. The figures presented are based on the full scope of outpatient attendance costs collected in Reference Costs in each year, and are therefore the most accurate reflection of the average cost per outpatient attendance in each year, based on the data collected.

PatientPak

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 627W, on PatientPak, (1) on how many occasions in the last 12 months NHS hospitals have provided in-patients with special soap and shampoo to prevent viral and bacterial infections; [255621]

(2) which proven antimicrobial formula is contained in the special soap and shampoo provided to in-patients by NHS hospitals to prevent viral and bacterial infections; [255622]

(3) under which circumstances NHS hospitals provide in-patients with special soap and shampoo to prevent viral and bacterial infections when such an infection *(a)* has and *(b)* has not been detected in a hospital. [255623]

Ann Keen: The decision to provide patients with antimicrobial soap and shampoo is a local one based on local infection prevention and control policies.

Information on which products are used and how frequently is not collected centrally, however the antimicrobial compounds used in these products include chlorhexidine gluconate and triclosan as the active ingredients.

Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of all prescriptions issued *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each primary care trust area have been dispensed in instalments through repeat dispensing in each of the last two years; [255505]

(2) what proportion of prescription items were dispensed through repeat dispensing arrangements *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in the latest year for which figures are available. [255506]

Phil Hope: Information is not held on the number of prescriptions issued, only on the number issued and then dispensed.

In 2007 the proportion of all items prescribed in the community in England and dispensed in the United Kingdom through repeat dispensing arrangements was 1.4 per cent. of all items dispensed, taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system database. Figures for individual primary care trusts in the same period are taken from the Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system and have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation of patient drug record cards, referred to on page 35 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431. [255508]

Phil Hope: A copy of An Evaluation of the Controlled Drug Recording System Pilot Final Report, commissioned by the Department and produced by the University of Birmingham Health Services Management Centre in March 2008, has been placed in the Library.

A working group is considering how the issues identified in the report can be resolved and effectively implemented.

Prescriptions

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1202-3W, on prescriptions, on how many occasions there has been a report of *(a)* an incident of overdose with a controlled drug and *(b)* other serious incidents reported to the Commission for Social Care Inspection involving a resident in a care establishment in Warrington; and to which individual service each report was made. [250893]

Phil Hope: The requirement for care homes to report incidents to the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is set out in the Care Home Regulations 2001. Regulation 37 requires reports to be made to CSCI without delay of:

> The death of any service user;
>
> The outbreak in the care home of any serious infectious disease;
>
> Serious injury to a service user;
>
> Serious illness of a service user (other than in a nursing home);
>
> Any event in the care home which adversely affects the well-being or safety of a service user;
>
> Any theft, burglary or accident in the care home; and
>
> Any allegation of misconduct by the registered person or a worker at the home.

If a serious incident is reported to CSCI under Regulation 37 of the Care Homes Regulations, which governs notification of death, illness and other events in care homes, it is followed up by the CSCI regulation inspector or regulation manager associated with that service. Depending on circumstances, they may refer the issue to the pharmacist inspector. It is one of CSCI's referral criteria to contact a pharmacist inspector and this may result in inspection of the care home and a resulting report with requirements and recommendations. If the overdose is a result of an incorrect prescription from the general practitioner, the pharmacist inspector will liaise via the local intelligence network through the national health service accountable officer at the relevant primary care trust, who will deal with the issue.

We are informed by CSCI that there were 2,716 notifications to CSCI under Regulation 37 of incidents in care homes in Warrington in the years 2006 to 2008. The following table shows a breakdown of numbers of notifications between care homes. We are informed by CSCI that to extract the incidents involving overdose with a controlled drug from these notifications would involve disproportionate cost.

Notifiable incidents under Regulation 37 (The Care Homes Regulations 2001)—care homes in Warrington

Care home name	*Current status*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Apple Court Care Home	Registered	23	25	26
Arlington House	Registered	4	—	3
Autism Initiatives—Lilford Court	Registered	—	—	2
Booths Hill House	Registered	39	24	30
Brookfield	De-registered	14	15	6
Brookfield	Registered	—	—	12
Calls Care Home	Registered	56	70	54
Cotebrook	Registered	5	2	2
Green Park Care Home	Registered	—	—	18
Green Park Care Home	De-registered	61	76	31
Heathercroft Care Home	Registered	20	31	39
Heathfield	De-registered	7	—	—
Heathfield Residential Home	Registered	5	21	11
Heath Lodge	De-registered	—	19	9
Heath Lodge	Registered	—	—	13
Heathside	Registered	20	20	5
Heathside Mews	Registered	1	5	13
High Peak Nursing Home	Registered	26	23	21
Holcroft Grange	Registered	26	28	27
Hollybush Care Home	Registered	16	26	21
Houghton Hall	De-registered	39	27	—
James Phoenix House	Registered	1	2	2
Keate House	Registered	20	38	46
Lodge Lane Nursing Home	Registered	4	16	5
Meadow View Nursing and Residential Home	Registered	12	29	38
Old Rectory Nursing Home—Warrington	Registered	8	7	8
Padgate House	Registered	42	56	62
Radcliffe Meadows Mental Nursing Home	Registered	2	11	2
Riverbank Nursing Home	Registered	153	129	112
Rose Villa	De-registered	1	—	—
Rosevilla Residential Home	Registered	6	7	—

Notifiable incidents under Regulation 37 (The Care Homes Regulations 2001)—care homes in Warrington

Care home name	*Current status*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
St. Marys Continuing Care	Registered	27	25	12
St. Oswalds House Nursing Home	Registered	24	46	12
Summerville Nursing Centre	Registered	—	20	42
Summerville Nursing Home	De-registered	26	1	1
The Glen Deregistered	De-registered	1	—	—
Thelwall Grange Nursing and Residential Home	Registered		4	15
Thelwall Grange Nursing and Residential Home	De-registered	11	8	—
The Old Vicarage Nursing Residential Care Centre	Registered	13	12	13
Three Bridges Nursing and Residential Home	Registered	18	42	21
Three Elms	Registered	31	26	21
Warrington Community Living—Twin Green	Registered	8	3	5
Waverley House	Registered	8	14	18
Westleigh	Registered	1	3	1
Westvale House	Registered		29	47
Westvale House Care Home	De-registered	31	6	—
Winty Hall	Registered	29	17	35
Wigshaw Grange	Registered	1	—	—
Woodleigh	Registered	7	17	16
Totals		852	978	886
Grand totld for 2006-08			2,716	

Note:
Homes denoted as registered were registered with CSCI consequently operational at the time the data were prepared. Those denoted as de-registered were not. De-registration usually means permanent closure of a home. However, it may in some cases be temporary, for example when a care home is sold, or closed for refurbishment.
Source:
CSCI database at 28 January 2009

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription messages have been issued using the electronic prescription service in each quarter since the service became operational; how many prescription messages *(a)* were downloaded for dispensing, *(b)* resulted in a prescription being dispensed and *(c)* resulted in a prescription being dispensed expressed as a proportion of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in each such quarter. [255443]

Mr. Bradshaw: In release one of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), an electronic message is transmitted to the EPS in parallel with a paper FP10 prescription form which is handed to the patient. The following table provides the number of electronic messages transmitted through the service since its inception.

	Total number of EPS R1 prescription messages generated	*Total number of EPS R1 prescription messages downloaded*	*Total number of EPS R1 prescription messages where dispensed status uploaded*	*Percentage of scripts generated via EPS subsequently shown as dispensed*	*Dispensed as a percentage of total scripts*
Pre-Q2 2007	16,595,257	504,668	259,547	n/a	n/a
Q2 2007	9,241,375	325,288	267,423	2.89	0.29
Q3 2007	14,373,426	728,809	576,080	4.01	0.58
Q4 2007	17,963,038	1,060,773	817,891	4.55	0.83
Q1 2008	20,534,586	1,616,563	1,268,797	6.18	1.33
Q2 2008	22,817,342	2,146,711	1,664,037	7.29	1.72
Q3 2008	24,299,640	2,212,103	1,651,224	6.80	1.66
Q4 2008	27,471,478	2,581,401	1,867,455	6.80	1.90

No data are held to show the total number of prescriptions generated by EPS that are actually dispensed. This is because the dispenser is not required to use EPS Release one to dispense. The figures available show how many were downloaded by the dispenser and the number where the dispenser uploaded the dispensing status.

Spinal Injuries: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds are allocated for patients with spinal cord injury in the North East. [254909]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally. This information can instead be obtained direct from the South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust.

St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade: South East

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times St John Ambulance provided an emergency response on behalf of the South East Coast Ambulance Service in each of the last 12 months. [255851]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to raise his query directly with South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Surgery: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of patients in the London Borough of Bexley who have had operations cancelled within a week of the scheduled date in the last 12 months. [255718]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect the number of operations cancelled within a week of the scheduled date of the operation.

The Department does collect data on the number of operations cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons.

	Quarter	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	England
2007-08	Q3	42	14	77	15,690
2007-08	Q4	32	25	66	16,771
2008-09	Q1	47	18	58	14,608
2008-09	Q2	24	23	28	13,127

Note:
A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operations.
Source:
Department of Health QMCO

JUSTICE

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions wasted costs have been ordered against the Crown Prosecution Service in magistrates' courts in each of the last five years; and what the total costs awarded were. [254261]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides a summary of the total number and value of costs awarded against the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in the last three financial years. Records for the preceding years are not available due to a change in the department's finance system.

The CPS does not record the jurisdiction of the court making the order and therefore cannot disaggregate costs orders made in magistrates courts from the figures in respect of all courts.

The CPS's records do not distinguish between awards made under section 19(1) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and regulation 3 of the Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations 1986, which provides for awards of costs between parties, and those made under section 19A, which provides for the court to order costs, or decide it is not appropriate and disallow a legal or other representative from being liable for costs.

Costs awarded against the Crown Prosecution Service

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Value (£000)	156	403	752
Number	378	262	333

Note:
Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is comprehensive and correct but a full reconciliation against the original transactions has not been performed because of time and cost constraints.

Coroners: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time was between a coroner being asked to hold a treasure inquest and the start of the inquest for finds from Wiltshire in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [255538]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the number of finds under the Treasure Act 1996 reported to coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, the number of treasure inquests concluded during the year and, of these, the number of verdicts of treasure returned. Information is not collected on the time taken to conduct treasure inquests.

The statistics show that 16 finds under the Treasure Act were reported to the coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon during 2007. 11 treasure inquests were concluded during the year, all of which resulted in a verdict of treasure.

Courts: Internet

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy for court transcripts to be posted on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [255361]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have announced their intention to open up the criminal justice system through the power of the internet by publishing the outcomes of criminal cases on a public-facing website. Further details on this will be brought forward in the spring. However this will not, include court transcripts.

The Government also plan to open up the family courts by increasing the amount and quality of information coming from the courts.

At present, anonymised judgments of the Court of Appeal, and in some instances of the High Court, are made public. But this is not the situation for the county courts or the family proceedings courts, which deal with the bulk of family law cases.

We have therefore decided to pilot the provision of written judgments when a final order is made in certain family cases.

The courts in the pilot areas—Leeds, Wolverhampton and Cardiff—will, for the first time, routinely produce a written record of the decision for the parties involved. In selected cases where the court is making life-changing decisions for a child, they will publish an anonymised judgment online so that the wider public can read it.

Judgments from the Civil and Criminal Divisions of the Court of Appeal, including the Administrative Court, selected by the Judge concerned, are available at no charge on the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) database. If a High Court judgment is not available by this means, the court can be contacted direct for a copy.

Crown Dependencies: Financial Services

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department takes to facilitate co-operation between Crown Dependencies and HM Treasury on financial regulation matters. [255487]

Mr. Wills: There is regular contact at a senior level between officials in HM Treasury and the Ministry of Justice and between senior officials in the Ministry of Justice and the administrations in the Crown Dependencies. Where there is a need, Ministry of Justice officials ensure appropriate contact is made between HM Treasury and the Islands' administrations.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255068]

Mr. Wills: In 2007-08 the Ministry of Justice completed and published 1,606 Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs). The cost for EIAs is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females who were (i) under 17, (ii) between 17 and 21, (iii) between 21 and 25, (iv) between 25 and 29 and (v) over 30 years of age were convicted of drug offences in the Chelmsford division of the Essex police force area in each of the last 10 years. [254838]

Maria Eagle: Information showing the number of males and females found guilty at all courts for drug offences in Essex police force area broken down by age is given in the following table. Court data are not collected centrally by police force division.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences, in the Essex police force area, 1998 to 2007, broken down by age and sex[1, 2]

Age	*Sex*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[3]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Male	24	45	51	48	60	54	42	53	25	22
	Female	3	1	3	—	2	4	1	5	4	3
10-16	Total	27	46	54	48	62	58	43	58	29	25
	Male	240	201	205	221	244	223	158	133	120	92
	Female	20	16	19	18	13	13	11	16	7	8
17-20	Total	260	217	224	239	257	236	169	149	127	100
	Male	178	173	178	155	158	140	99	101	108	84
	Female	20	16	9	18	18	16	12	17	14	8
21-24	Total	198	189	187	173	176	156	111	118	122	92
	Male	222	199	181	148	130	132	109	103	117	79
	Female	28	28	18	18	9	16	10	16	28	19
25-29	Total	250	227	199	166	139	148	119	119	145	98
	Male	361	371	281	305	320	264	245	288	272	216
	Female	46	65	56	48	27	34	35	42	47	39
30 and over	Total	407	436	337	353	347	298	280	330	319	255
All ages		1,142	1,115	1,001	979	981	896	722	774	742	570

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Cannabis was reclassified from a class B to a class C drug in January 2004, which also saw the introduction of the cannabis warning as an out of court disposal.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Human Trafficking: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in Essex were identified as having been trafficked in each of the last three years; [254782]

(2) what accommodation in Essex his Department and its agencies provide for those identified as having been trafficked into the UK. [254785]

Maria Eagle: The Government fund the Poppy project to provide adult victims that have been trafficked into sexual exploitation with safe, appropriate accommodation and a range of support services. Although the accommodation is based within the London region the project takes national referrals and provides an outreach service. This year's grant also includes a small flexible budget to temporary accommodate victims with other refuges if the project reaches capacity. We will be expanding the services available to adult victims of human trafficking this year.

Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of child trafficking victims falls within the designated responsibilities of local authorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children under the provisions of the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts.

Central Government do not hold a record on the number of victims identified as being trafficked by region. We are developing a national referral mechanism to help in the identification and referral of all victims under our implementation plans for the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This will also provide a mechanism for more co-ordinated national data collection on identified victims.

Land

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) who the absolute owner of land is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Cornwall and *(f)* the Isles of Scilly; [255057]

(2) who has responsibility for land in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Cornwall and *(f)* the Isles of Scilly under circumstances in which deeds to land have been lost. [255058]

Bridget Prentice: : The Crown is the ultimate owner of all land in England and Wales (including the Isles of Scilly): all other owners hold an estate in land. Although there is some land that the Crown has never granted away, most land is held of the Crown as freehold or leasehold. If there is no other owner, land will belong to the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall.

The loss of title deeds does not alter the ownership of land or responsibility for it in England and Wales (including the Isles of Scilly). Title deeds are evidence of ownership of unregistered land. If the deeds have been lost, other evidence could be used to prove ownership. Title to registered land is derived from the register of title maintained under the Land Registration Act 2002.

Responsibility for land law and succession law in Scotland and Northern Ireland is devolved. Questions about land law in these jurisdictions should be addressed to the Scottish Executive and the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland respectively.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many firms undertook criminal legal aid work in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2008. [255253]

Mr. Malik: The number of contracts held between the Legal Services Commission and solicitors' offices to provide legal aid under the General Criminal Contract was 2,909 at 31 March 2002. At 31 March 2008 the number of contracts held was 2,230. These figures do not include former providers with claims yet to be paid or those completing existing cases but not taking on new work.

Before the introduction of the Unified Contract for crime work in July 2008, solicitor firms practising from more than one office needed to hold a separate contract for each office that provided legal aid. However, from 14 July 2008 there were 1,799 providers contracted under the new contracts to offer criminal legal aid through 2,274 individual offices. The LSC has continued to maintain 100 per cent. coverage of its police station and magistrates court duty solicitor schemes through these providers.

The reduction in the number of contracts reflects the trend in the last several years of offices doing small amounts of legal aid work to drop out of the market or merge with other offices, so that the work is done in larger volumes at fewer offices. This has not affected the availability of legal aid to those that need it.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid by his Department for *(a)* criminal legal aid work and *(b)* other legal aid work in each of the last five years. [255259]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice funds legal aid through a grant to the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The following table shows the grant paid to the LSC in each of the financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 for its provision of Criminal Defence Service (CDS) and the Community Legal Service (CLS). All criminal legal aid work is funded by the CDS grant, and all other legal aid work funded by the CLS grant.

£ million

	CDS	*CLS*
2003-04	1,179	905
2004-05	1,190	858
2005-06	1,205	796
2006-07	1,172	807
2007-08	1,178	844

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there were in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Winchester Prison on the latest date for which figures are available; what the maximum prison capacity in England and Wales is; and what the maximum capacity of Winchester Prison is. [256278]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of January 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 82,240 prisoners detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales and 701 prisoners in HMP Winchester. The useable operational capacity for all prison establishments in England and Wales was 84,902 and the operational capacity of HMP Winchester was 706.

Operational capacity for establishments is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sark

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department plans to take in response to the Court of Appeal ruling on 5 December 2008 in the case of R (Barclay and others) *v.* Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and others. [255488]

Mr. Wills: In a letter to the Seneschal, the Minister for the Crown Dependencies, Lord Bach, has made clear that both he and officials in the Ministry of Justice expect to be kept informed of the progress made in reforming the role of the Seneschal.

Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals have been made to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those appeals were successful. [255708]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Range[1]	*Appeals Received*[2]	*Appeals Registered*	*Successful*[3]
1998-99	2,595	2,412	921
1999-00	2,642	2,463	931
2000-01	3,035	2,728	757
2001-02	3,445	3,048	684
2002-03	3,772	3,532	683
2003-04	3,637	3,354	725
2004-05	3,513	3,215	677
2005-06	3,717	3,410	666
2006-07	3,370	3,110	673
2007-08	3,635	3,392	624

[1] The data relate to academic years, September to August.

[2] The SEND annual data are presented on the basis of: All Appeals Received and Appeals Registered. The Appeal Received data also include appeals received by SEND that fall outside of SEND jurisdiction. The Appeals Registered data include all the appeals that are accepted by SEND as falling within its jurisdiction and which are taken forward to hearing and disposal.

[3] The successful decisions issued do not relate to appeals registered in that particular year; this figure will include appeals which were carried over from the preceding year. The registered appeals are those which could be decided i.e. those which were within jurisdiction and within the time limits in which an appeal must be lodged.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Chelmsford Prison: Education

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* young offenders obtained qualifications while at HM Prison Chelmsford in each of the last five years. [254753]

Mr. Simon: Qualifications at HMP Chelmsford are achieved by offenders in a variety of areas of the prison's work. Data are not recorded uniformly although we will improve this through the Learning and Skills Council's IT-based Learner Record system shortly to roll-out across prisons. As well as solving the longstanding problem of prisoner learner data not following them as they move from prison to prison, the new system will for the first time allow all learning outcomes, no matter by whom delivered in the prison, to be recorded on a single record for the learner.

Health and safety qualifications are delivered in the prison's workshops. 109 qualifications were achieved in 2005, 350 in 2006, 305 in 2007 and 325 in 2008. A further 734 qualifications, including in textiles and engineering, have been delivered in the prison's workshops since 2005. Food hygiene qualifications are delivered in the prison kitchens, literacy and numeracy qualifications through Learn Direct provision, parenting qualifications through the Ormiston Trust, a variety of information technology qualifications through a Prison ICT Academy (PICTA) workshop.

The physical education department at the prison has recorded the award of 272 qualifications in financial year 2004-05, 282 in 2005-06, 406 in 2006-07 and 438 in 2007-08. The information is not recorded by age.

Learning and Skills Council data for the 2006-07 academic year shows a total of 52 individual achievements recorded by the offender learning and skills service provider at HMP Chelmsford, of which 15 were achieved by those aged under 21. Final data for 2007-08 are not yet available, but indications are that there were a total of 524 achievements, of which 191 were achieved by those aged under 21. We believe there was significant under-recording of achievements in 2006-07, which we have now taken steps to resolve.

Prior to the 2006-07 academic year, education at HMP Chelmsford was provided by Norwich City College. Data from that period show there were 471 awards recorded against the HM Prison Service Key Performance Target for basic skills in financial year 2003-04, 1,123 in 2004-05, 1,241 in 2005-06 and 617 awards in the first four months of financial year 2006-07.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255070]

Mr. Simon: In the last 12 months DIUS has undertaken four equality impact assessments. As this is part of routine policy development, I have made no separate estimate of the cost.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers in each year since it was established. [256117]

Mr. Simon: The Department occupies space in buildings that are managed by other Government Departments. The Department's contribution towards the cost of plants and flowers is:

	£
2007-08	517
2008-09	1,722
Total	2,239

This includes expenditure on plant displays and maintenance, purchase of Christmas trees and Remembrance Day wreaths and flowers, and cannot be further broken down between pot plants and flowers.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new recruits his Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254463]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. 34 new recruits joined the Department up to 31 March 2008 and to date, 51 have joined since 1 April 2008. A breakdown of permanent and temporary staff could be produced only at disproportionate cost. The Department does not hold central records of recruitment campaigns as the majority of vacancies are managed locally by individual vacancy managers. A joint campaign was run on behalf of the DIUS and the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the Private Office in May 2008 which resulted in 16 executive officers being recruited on a permanent basis into the Department.

The number of agency staff engaged by the Department since its creation is shown in the following table. January 2009 figures are not available yet.

Financial year	*Agency staff*
July 2007 to March 2008	22
April 2008 to December 2008	19

We have no reason to suppose that figures for permanent or agency staff will vary significantly in 2009-10 and 2010-11 but we will continue to review.

Forward Commitment Procurement Model

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to develop the Forward Commitment Procurement Model for wider use in public sector procurement. [255015]

Mr. Simon: In November, DIUS launched the Innovation for Sustainability Competition to identify and develop Forward Commitment Procurement (FCP) projects in the public sector. The programme is designed to have a multiplier effect by creating a portfolio of FCP projects which can be used as exemplars and a broad base of public sector leaders and professionals who understand and can promote FCP approaches to sustainability and innovation.

We are working with BERR and OGC to take forward the recommendations of the recent report by Anne Glover—"Accelerating the SME Economic Engine", including wider use of outcome-based specifications across the public sector, for example through use of FCP.

Special Educational Needs: Young Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that when young offenders have previously been subject to a statement of special educational needs that the details of the statement are made available to the education department at the young offender's institution. [255439]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The "Offender Learning Journey" sets out our core expectations for the delivery of education and training for children and young people in YOIs. It requires that the education provider working in custody must work in partnership with other establishments, such as the young person's previous school, to obtain relevant educational information including any statement of special educational needs and any psychologist's report on previous learning difficulties. The "Offender Learning Journey" also requires all young people should be diagnostically assessed within 10 working days of entry to custody and should be screened for specific learning difficulties.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill which was introduced into Parliament on 4 February includes a clause which places a new duty on local education authorities in England and Wales with youth accommodation in their area to secure suitable education for those children and young people detained in custody. In carrying out this duty, local authorities will need to have regard to young peoples' special educational needs or learning difficulties. This duty is subject to the successful passage of the Bill through Parliament.

Students: Loans

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people defaulted on student loan repayments in each of the last five years; and what action was taken in relation to such people. [255024]

Mr. Lammy: The data are shown in the following table.

Student loan borrowers in arrears status at the end of each financial year[1], England

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08[2]*
Income-contingent loan borrowers overseas in arrears	200	400	500
Mortgage-style loan borrowers in arrears[3]	85,800	83,800	81,900
Total borrowers in arrears[3]	86,000	84,200	82,400

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 100. Consistent information is not available for earlier years.

[2] Provisional.

[3] Mortgage-style loan borrowers with accounts in more than one status may be counted more than once. Figures exclude mortgage-style borrowers deferring repayments due to income below the repayment threshold with arrears on their accounts. In March 2008, there were 6,500 borrowers in deferment with arrears.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

Student loans taken out since 1 September 1998 have income-contingent repayment where borrowers repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000, usually collected by employers alongside income tax and national insurance contributions. It is not normally possible to default on these repayments, except where a borrower moves abroad and repayments are made direct to the Student Loans Company. In these cases, the company traces the borrowers and enforces the debt.

Borrowers with the older mortgage-style loans repay instalments to the Student Loans Company whenever their annual income exceeds the repayment threshold, currently £25,936, usually through direct debits. The company takes a number of steps to trace borrowers who are not repaying and to bring their accounts into order, and—as a last resort—will take cases to court. Exceptions are made for some vulnerable borrowers.

Vocational Training

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England have signed the Skills Pledge. [253916]

Mr. Simon: The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by employers to support their employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

Since the launch of the Skills Pledge in June 2007 we have made excellent progress. The latest published figures up until November 2008, show that 12 organisations in the London borough of Bexley; 2,008 organisations in the London LSC region and 10,295 organisations in England have made the Skills Pledge. Please note that these figures include both public and private organisations.

TREASURY

Billing: Public Sector

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in ensuring that invoices for public sector contracts are paid within 10 days. [256182]

Angela Eagle: The Department has been monitoring its performance against the requirement to pay all invoices within 10 days. For the period between November 2008 and January 2009, 90 per cent. of invoices were paid within 10 days. All staff involved in the processing of invoices are receiving training and regular reports on directorate's performances are made to the Treasury Board and the Finance Committee.

Borrowing: Public Sector

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the level of funding of the Government's borrowing needs. [254586]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's policy on funding the gross financing requirement is set out in the "Debt Management Review" 1995, published by HM Treasury and the Bank of England, which states that:

> "Beginning in 1996-97, the Government has decided to introduce a new framework to financing... The Government will aim to sell sufficient gilts of any maturity, Treasury bills and National Savings products to finance the CGBR (plus maturing debt and any net increase in the official foreign exchange reserves). All debt such issuance will take place within a set maturity structure, to be determined and published each year.... The Government has no current plans to make significantly greater use than at present of short-term debt issuance...."

The most recent expression of this policy was set out in paragraph 4.1 of the "Debt and reserves management report" 2008-09, published alongside Budget 2008, which states that:

> "The Government intends to continue to finance the central government net cash requirement (CGNCR) using the framework that was established in the 1995 Debt Management Review. The Government aims to finance its net cash requirement plus maturing debt and any financing required for additional net foreign currency reserves through the issuance of debt. All such debt issuance will take place within a set maturity structure..."

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of providing financial assistance to small and medium-sized businesses to meet their costs in respect of making redundancies during the recession. [255581]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the need of supporting small and medium-sized business during the recession. In the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a package of Government support for small and medium-sized businesses to help them through the current economic difficulties. Since then, the Government have been working alongside the banks, business organisations and financial organisations to ensure that we speedily transform this announcement into real help for business.

On 14 January 2009, as part of the Government's Real Help for Business, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform announced that businesses can now access the full range of support. In particular, the Enterprise "Finance Guarantee" is designed to help good businesses, who are currently not able to access the finance they need, to secure loans of between £1,000 and £1 million through the Government guarantee. This scheme will enable banks to open additional lines of credit worth £1.3 billion, available to businesses with turnover up to £25 million. It is available from a range of high street banks.

Child Benefit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of increasing child benefit for the first child by *(a)* £1, *(b)* £1.50, *(c)* £2, *(d)* £2.50, *(e)* £3, *(f)* £3.50 and *(g)* £4 per week above indexation in 2010-11 in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [255658]

Mr. Timms: The estimated annual cost of increasing the first child rate by the requested amounts are shown in the following table.

Estimated cost to the Department

£ million

Increasing child benefit for the first child by:	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
£1	390	390	410	420	430
£1.50	590	610	630	650	670
£2	780	810	820	850	880
£2.50	980	1,000	1,040	1,070	1,100
£3	1,180	1,200	1,240	1,290	1,340
£3.50	1,370	1,400	1,430	1,490	1,550
£4	1,570	1,590	1,650	1,700	1,750

Child Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of increasing the child element of child tax credit by *(a)* £10, *(b)* £20, *(c)* £30, *(d)* £40, *(e)* £50 and *(f)* £60 per year above indexation in 2010-11 in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [255657]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the cost of increasing the child element of child tax credit by *(a)* £10, *(b)* £20, *(c)* £30, *(d)* £40, *(e)* £50 and *(f)* £60 per year above indexation in 2010-11 in each of the next five years are provided in the following table.

Estimated cost of increasing the child element of child tax credit per year

£ million

Increase in child element in 2010-11	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
£10	80	60	80	80
£20	140	140	170	170
£30	220	230	220	220
£40	310	310	310	310
£50	390	370	390	390
£60	450	450	510	500

Estimates for 2014-15 are not available.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256174]

Angela Eagle: Prior to May 2008, HM Treasury contracted a supplier to provide fresh cut flowers for the reception area.

Details of spend on cut flowers is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*£*
2005-06	3,666.00
2006-07	3,666.00
2007-08	3,666.00
2008-09	562.45

The contract to provide cut flowers was terminated in May 2008.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 586W, on departmental training, what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* duration and *(c)* nature was of each of the courses undertaken; and which Ministers attended each. [254869]

Angela Eagle: As I set out in my answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 586W, the three courses attended by Treasury Ministers in the period concerned were intended to enable Ministers to carry out their duties effectively in line with the Ministerial Code. Two courses lasted a day, and one 90 minutes. The total cost of the courses was £1,285. Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Loans: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Government has made of the merits of provision of loan guarantees by nationalised and part-nationalised banks for energy infrastructure projects. [255083]

Ian Pearson: Government have taken measures to recapitalise the financial sector and recently announced a package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs. Taken together, these measures will provide a significant boost to companies seeking finance.

The Government are monitoring the effect of the current difficult economic circumstances on investment in large infrastructure projects.

Money Guidance Pathfinder Scheme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount to be paid by his Department to AE4 in respect of its role as a face-to-face partner for the Money Guidance Pathfinder Scheme; [252234]

(2) which companies applied for contracts to act as face-to-face partners for the Money Guidance Pathfinder Scheme. [252235]

Ian Pearson: The £12 million Money Guidance pathfinder, jointly funded by HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority, will launch this spring in the North West and North East of England. Delivery partners, which will offer Money Guidance on the telephone and face-to-face, were announced on 13 January. The Government cannot disclose the information requested about the tendering and contracting process for partners at this stage for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

Northern Rock

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the expected time scale for Northern Rock's repayment of its loans now is. [256220]

Ian Pearson: Last month, Northern Rock announced that in order to support the Government's policy to increase mortgage lending capacity in the market, it was slowing down the rate of mortgage redemptions and this will lead to it repaying its loan to Government at a slower rate.

Northern Rock is currently ahead of its loan repayment target having, on a net basis, reduced the amount outstanding to the Government by £15.4 billion to £11.5 billion at 30 September 2008 (from £26.9 billion at 31 December 2007).

Government are pleased with the progress Northern Rock has made in repaying the loan. We are working closely with the company to develop an updated strategy and business plan. A full statement will be made in due course once the strategic review is complete.

VAT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* businesses and *(b)* the Exchequer of the doubling of value added tax (VAT) turnover threshold for the VAT cash accounting scheme in 2007. [255464]

Mr. Timms: The increase in the VAT cash accounting scheme threshold in 2007 was estimated to cost the Exchequer around £120 million in 2007-08, as published in table A1.1 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2007. This represents the amount of VAT receipts delayed from 2007-08 into 2008-09 as a result of increased membership of the scheme. The effect on individual businesses depends on their turnover and how quickly they make and receive payments in the course of their business activities. The overall benefit to business is equivalent to the cost to the Exchequer.

World Economy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the global economic downturn. [255849]

Ian Pearson: The Government's immediate priority are to continue to support the economy through these difficult times. As part of that, in addition to its regular monitoring of developments, HM Treasury has regular engagements with other Governments, including the US, on a range of issues relating to the economy.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Bookstart Scheme: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Enfield North constituency participated in the Bookstart programme in each year from 2002 to 2008. [248727]

Beverley Hughes: It is not possible to provide figures broken down by constituency. Booktrust tell me that the total number of free Bookstart packs issued to parents of children in Enfield local authority between April 2002 and March 2008 follows:

	Bookstart baby pack	*Bookstart and packs*	*Bookstart Treasure Chest*
2002-03	4,000	—	—
2003-04	4,000	—	—
2004-05	3,000	—	—
2005-06	3,300	3,630	3,520
2006-07	3,300	3,630	3,520
2007-08	3,300	3,630	3.520

Over the last two year period from 2006-08 we have provided £18 million for the Bookstart programme in England.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in care from families resident in Scotland have been fostered through English local authorities in each year since 1999; [252668]

(2) how many children in care from families in Wales have been fostered through English local authorities in each year since 1999. [252667]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children in care from families resident in Scotland or Wales who have been fostered by English local authorities in each year since 1999 is not collected centrally by the Department.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care from families resident in England have been fostered under arrangements with *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* Scottish authorities in each year since 1999. [253325]

Beverley Hughes: There were 59,500 looked-after children in England at 31 March 2008, of which 42,300 were in foster placements. In total, 540 of the children looked after by English local authorities at 31 March 2008 were in placements outside England and 370 of these were in foster placements, this includes those in placements in Wales and Scotland. These figures exclude those children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

It is not possible to provide figures for earlier years or to give figures for Wales and Scotland separately due to data availability.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether ContactPoint will record whether a child has previously been subject to a child protection plan. [253436]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint is an online tool to enable delivery of co-ordinated support for children and young people and ensure that they do not slip through the net. It will be the quick way for practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child. It will contain basic identifying information about all children and young people in England, up to their 18th birthday, and contact details for their parents/carers and for services working with a child or young person.

ContactPoint does not and will not record whether a child has previously been subject to a child protection plan, nor does it or will it hold any other case information. The data that can be held on ContactPoint is restricted by the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children whose information will be shielded on ContactPoint. [255713]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: As in my previous response to the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Mrs. Miller) on 29 January 2009, *Official*

Report, column 832W, we are not in a position at this early point to provide a definitive figure for number of records that may be shielded. However, early indications are that between a 100 records and 200 records on average may be shielded in each local authority.

Children: Poverty

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the initial results of the child poverty pilots announced in the 2007 Budget. [241458]

Beverley Hughes: The child poverty pilots announced in Budget 2008 will help lift children out of poverty and, importantly, will guide the Government as they work to eradicate child poverty. The pilots will run until April 2011. They will enable local authorities, and their partners, to use resources in the way that makes sense in their locality, test out new ideas and create an evidence base to inform the strategy to develop a sustainable solution to eradicating child poverty by 2020. Evaluation is an essential part of this process and we will ensure that all key findings are published and disseminated, including lessons learnt from the pilots as they progress.

Cross-Department Assessment Panel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the members were of the cross-department assessment panel convened to assess bids for intensive intervention projects; and whether any members of the panel declared an interest. [240764]

Beverley Hughes: The assessment panel was made up of officials from Government offices, Youth Justice Board, CLG and Youth Taskforce. None of the people making the decision on the bids was an employee of the authorities or organisations being assessed.

Culture: Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to provide all children with quality cultural opportunities in and outside schools; and what his Department's definition of quality cultural opportunities is. [253301]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools offer many cultural activities in the school curriculum, and there is much cultural activity taking place outside school and beyond the school day. The 'Find Your Talent' programme, launched in February 2008, will build on the cultural activities already taking place around the country, and work towards a position where all children and young people have the opportunity to access high quality cultural activities in and out of school. These will include: attending and taking part in top quality theatre and dance performances; attending national and local exhibitions, museums and heritage sites; learning a musical instrument and singing in ensembles; producing creative writing and artwork; and making films. 10 pathfinders are trialling ways of delivering a structured cultural offer. They will help us to establish what activities should be included, and how to define and ensure the quality of the activities. Young people will work with the very best of the professional cultural sector.

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto supports schools in offering extra activities to pupils, including creative and arts activities. A Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge will be awarded to provider organisations who have demonstrated that they meet six quality indicators. There is also a considerable amount of investment by the Government in culture and arts programmes such as Creative Partnerships and the support given to enable museums to run educational programmes.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 101-02W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* original expected cost was, *(b)* original expected delivery date was and *(c)* current expected completion date is of each ICT project listed; and if he will make a statement. [251093]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: With reference to the reply of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 101-02W, on departmental ICT, I have updated the information given on a best-fit basis to show the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* the original expected delivery date and *(c)* the current expected completion date of each ICT project listed. The costs shown are total project costs, which include ICT specific expenditure. The information is based on current plans and is subject to actual outturns. Some DCSF expenditure also includes elements relating to services provided to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills following machinery of government changes that are not readily identifiable.

Project	*Costs (£ million)*	*Original expected cost*	*Original expected delivery date*	*Current expected completion date*	*Comments*
ContactPoint	224.00	224.00	Live service December 2008	Live service January 2009	—
eCommon Assessment Framework	44.00	44.00	Live service before end 2009	Live service first quarter 2010	—
National Strategies Contract	5.90 with agreed enhancements	5.50	April 2009	April 2009	Further enhancement of the content bank to improve accessibility

Project	*Costs (£ million)*	*Original expected cost*	*Original expected delivery date*	*Current expected completion date*	*Comments*
Schools Recruitment—CPP Shared Services	2.285 no spend yet	2.285	June 2009 Web-service for schools	June 2009	—
Implementing e-Channels	34.30	22.90	February 2011	March 2013	Requirement changed and increased during the definition stage. The service delivery period has also been extended
Identity Assurance	11.00-15.00	11.00-15.00	—	—	Delivery timetable not yet fixed—still at planning stage
Corporate Services Transformation Programme	26.00	26.90	April 2009	Autumn 2009	—
GCA—Minerva	18.00	26.00	September 2010	March 2009	Scope reduction

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste has been produced by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much of that waste was recycled. [253293]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created on 28 June 2007.

The Department and its predecessors can only provide an aggregate total for waste produced and recycled which includes cardboard, metal cans, glass, fluorescent tubes, batteries and toners. It does not hold separate information on the itemised waste products requested. The aggregate total also includes waste from other occupiers in the Departments' buildings which is not separately accounted for. The breakdown of aggregate waste produced and recycled for each of the last three years is as follows:

All weights are shown in tonnes

		Recycled	
	Overall total	*Weight*	*Percentage*
2006/07	810.457	371.123	45.8
2007/08	1447.793	1127.599	77.9
2008/09 (to December 2008)	603.327	367.621	60.9

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252232]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The names of external organisations engaged to provide training for the staff in the fast stream are listed below:

	Organisations
2007 (from 28 June 2007)	National School for Government
2008	National School for Government
	Stanton Marris Associates
	Westminster Explained
	Parity Training Limited
	PTS Consortium

The number of civil servants who have participated in training for external organisations since the Department's creation is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252260]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department did not attend any courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each year since his Department was established. [251884]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department. [253600]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As a matter of general administrative policy the Department for Children, Schools and Families does not levy financial penalties against third party organisations or individuals.

First Aid: Education

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve the level of first aid training available to school children. [253852]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education provides children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed choices in a range of contexts related to health and safety. Children learn about basic and emergency first aid, as well as where and how to obtain health information, how to recognise and follow health and safety procedures and ways of reducing risk and minimising harm in risky situations.

In October 2008, we announced our intention to make PSHE education statutory, in recognition of the key role it plays in equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy and successful lives. At the same time we launched an independent review of how this might be achieved in the most effective and practicable way. Sir Alasdair Macdonald, the head teacher of Morpeth school in Tower Hamlets, is conducting the review and will report in April 2009. Proposals for the statutory implementation of PSHE education will be the subject of a full public consultation.

Free School Meals: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children receive free school meals in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [253128]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on free school meal eligibility for the areas requested is shown in the following table:

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools: school meal arrangements—north east government office region, Tees Valley and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency, as at January 2008

	Maintained Nursery and Primary Schools[1]	*Maintained Secondary Schools*[1, 2]
	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
North East Government Office Region	41,050	26,860
Tees Valley	12,177	8,338
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland Parliamentary Constituency	1,542	900

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[3] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils

Note:

Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

History: Education

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the teaching of history includes the history of other countries, including their perception of the UK. [253725]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The history curriculum at key stages 2 and 3 provide plenty of scope for students to learn about the history of other countries. At key stage 3 in particular students will investigate Britain's relationships with the wider world and identify and analyse different interpretations of the past. This learning is complimented by elements of the citizenship curriculum.

Intensive Intervention Projects

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria his Department plans to use to assess the effectiveness of intensive intervention projects. [240768]

Beverley Hughes: The evaluation of Intensive Intervention projects will seek to identify which techniques are most effective for delivering the outcomes as described in the reply given to the hon. Member on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1018W.

This will include analysis of statistical data and the gathering of qualitative case studies.

The tender for this work will be issued early in February 2009. The tender document will describe more fully the methodology and process for the evaluation.

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* hits the Sing Up website has received in each month since it was established. [254789]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows how many unique visitors and hits the Sing Up website has received in each month since January 2008—the period for which these figures are available.

	Unique visits	*Total visits*
2008		
January	3,926	7,242
February	5,749	10,995
March	2,050	3,980
April	7,680	16,143
May	14,877	34,631
June	30,563	63,597
July	33,248	66,726
August	54,184	75,225
September	43,792	92,044
October	35,640	72,040
November	35,176	72,437
December	30,163	56,614
2009		
January	39,505	77,812
February	8,523	12,892

National Assessment Agency: Ofqual

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what involvement Ofqual had in the procurement process that led to the award of the standard assessment test administration contract to ETS referred to at paragraph 2.50 of the Sutherland Inquiry report HC 62; [245829]

(2) for what reasons the meeting between the National Assessment Agency and Ofqual requested in May did not take place until July, as referred to in paragraph 6.96 of the Sutherland Inquiry report HC 62. [245825]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information. Isabel Nisbet, acting chief executive of the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) has written to the hon. Member and a copy of the response has been placed in both the Libraries.

Letter from Isabel Nisbet, dated 9 January 2009:

In his written response to you on the Parliamentary Questions listed above, the Minister of State for Schools and Learners stated that these were questions relating to the conduct of the new regulator Ofqual. He has therefore asked Ofqual to write directly to you in response to these questions. For ease of reference the questions were:

(245825) To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, for what reasons the meeting between the National Assessment Agency and Ofqual requested in May did not take place until July, as referred to in paragraph 6.96 of the Sutherland Inquiry report, (HC 62).

(245829) To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what the nature was of Ofqual's involvement in the procurement process that led to the award of the SAT administration contract to ETS referred to at paragraph 2.50 of the Sutherland Inquiry report, (HC 62).

As you are aware Ofqual was created in April 2008 on an interim basis, within the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). Before this time the regulatory functions were carried out by the Regulation and Standards Division of the QCA, and I was its Director.

In PQ 245825 you have asked about the accountability meeting that Ofqual held with the National Assessment Agency (NAA) in July 2008. In dealing with the issues of delivery in 2008 Ofqual advised the NAA in May 2008 of its intention to hold an accountability meeting. Its purpose was analogous to that of the formal accountability meetings held with the GCSE and A level awarding bodies a week before the results of those examinations are due to be announced. At these meetings the awarding body is required to provide assurances that the code of practice has been followed, that all papers have been marked and that results will be available on time. It is also an opportunity for the regulator and the awarding body to highlight concerns about any aspect of the past series.

With regard to the tests in 2009, Ofqual now holds quarterly formal accountability meetings with QCA, and the first of these was held on 2 December 2008. The third of these (planned for May 2009) will be an opportunity to bring together any emerging issues regarding problems with marking or preparation to deliver results.

To answer PQ245829, as the Sutherland Inquiry states at paragraph 2.48 'although the Regulator had not been formally involved in the procurement process, they were in July 2006 asked informally about how proposed changes to the National Curriculum test process might impact the Code of Practice'. Regulatory requirements were taken into account. Copies of the Regulatory Framework and the Code of Practice were supplied to all bidders by the NAA. The Regulation and Standards Division also offered all bidders the opportunity to contact them with any further queries. As Director of Regulation and Standards I was a member of the QCA Executive at the time the contract was awarded.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me (contact details below) or Helen Knee on 024 7671 6705 and helen.knee@ofqual.gov.uk.

I am copying this letter to Kathleen Tattersall, Chair of Ofqual, and to Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners.

National College for School Leadership: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the workplace parking charges being introduced by Nottingham City Council will be required to be paid by members of staff in whole or in part in respect of National College for School Leadership offices located within the workplace parking charging zone. [253775]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No decision has been taken by Transport Ministers on whether to confirm Nottingham city council's workplace parking levy scheme order, and it would not be appropriate to speculate on the implications for the National College for School Leadership.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children were working securely within each assessment of the foundation stage profile in the areas between *(a)* 0 and 10 per cent., *(b)* 10 and 30 per cent., *(c)* 30 and 50 per cent., *(d)* 50 and 70 per cent., *(e)* 70 and 90 per cent. and *(f)* 90 and 100 per cent. on the index of deprivation in each year since 2005. [249527]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: Information is only readily available for seven of the 13 assessment scales; these are personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy. Further information on the proportion of children working securely within the additional six assessment scales and for earlier years can be compiled and checked only at a disproportionate cost.

Information on the proportion of children working securely within these seven scales of the foundation stage profile in 2008, by percentile groups of deprivation, can be found in table D1 as part of the additional information for Statistical Release 32/2008 'Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007-08':

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/sOQ0822/index.shtml

The latest published foundation stage profile results for children working securely in these seven scales can be found in Statistical Release 25/2008:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsqateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml

Primary Education: Nutrition

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance providers of healthy eating his Department has issued to Early Years settings. [255638]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets quality standards for learning and care for all settings looking after children aged from birth to five. This makes clear that where children are provided with a meal, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious.

Supporting guidance offers a range of information on diet and nutrition for children in the early years, and refers providers to other relevant sources such as the DCSF guidance on Healthy School Lunches for pupils in Nursery Schools and the Food Standards Agency website which provides information on age-appropriate nutrition for young children.

Schools: Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of health risks to children from incorrectly-sized or poor quality school furniture. [255438]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not made a specific assessment of health risks to children using poor quality or incorrectly sized furniture. Schools are responsible for choosing good quality furniture of the correct size for their pupils.

The Department supports them in discharging this responsibility by raising awareness of the importance of buying furniture that is fit for purpose. We are supporting the development of an ergonomic furniture website tool to help users identify the appropriate size of furniture for each child. The delivery organisation for the Building Schools for the Future programme, Partnerships for Schools and DCSF are in the process of re-writing an output specification on furniture and equipment. This supports the expectation that furniture is specified to meet EN1729 (the new European standard for educational furniture covering both ergonomics and strength and stability). We welcome the British Educational Supplies Association agreement that all classroom tables will comply with EN1729 by April 2009.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that furniture purchased under the Building Schools for the Future programme conforms with the European Furniture Standard EN1729. [255742]

Jim Knight: The Department is working with Partnerships for Schools, the delivery agency for the Building Schools for the Future programme, on an updated comprehensive output specification on furniture and equipment. Within this specification, furniture which meets EN1729 is proposed as an expectation for those involved in the BSF programme. We know that members of the British Educational Supplies Association (BESA) have agreed that all classroom tables will comply with EN 1729 by April 2009 and we welcome this.

Social Services: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authority children's services were placed in special measures in each of the last five years. [241896]

Beverley Hughes: 'Special measures' is not a term that the Department uses with reference to its engagement with local authority children's services. Ministers may take action to engage with and intervene in local authorities where there is evidence of weakness in performance, for example as the result of 'inadequate' Ofsted judgment(s) in annual performance assessments (APAs) and joint area reviews (JARs). Such intervention can take various forms, from offering external improvement support, enhanced monitoring and challenge through to issuing an improvement notice (IN) in more serious cases. In the most serious cases, the Secretary of State may decide to make use of his statutory powers of direction and intervention.

In the last five years, Ministers have made use of their statutory powers of direction in relation to north-east Lincolnshire (2005), Stoke-on-Trent (2007) and Haringey (2008), and have issued improvement notices to Salford, Leicester City and Surrey. We have also intervened without the use of statutory powers or improvement notices in various local authorities, deploying a range of improvement support options, including external consultancy support teams, independently-chair improvement boards and enhanced monitoring arrangements. These authorities were:

2004-05

Swindon
Barnsley
Cumbria

2005-06

Sandwell
Staffordshire

2006-07

Bristol
Isle of Wight
Peterborough
Plymouth
Devon
Herefordshire
Medway

2007-08

Dorset
Hertfordshire
Thurrock

2008-09

Oxfordshire
Lancashire

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary mainstream schools were assessed as having inadequate provision for special educational needs in their most recent inspections. [252675]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in both the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 2 February:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The inspection judgement relating to special educational needs sits within the Achievement and Standards judgement, 'how well learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make progress'.

Since the introduction of the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5) in September 2005, 16,873 inspections have been carried out in primary schools. The progress of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities was judged to be inadequate in 467 (2.8%) inspections.

During the same period, 3,455 inspections were carried out in secondary schools. The progress of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities was judged to be inadequate in 206 (6%) inspections.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Key Stage 4 pupils who had *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs attended (i) maintained, (ii) independent and (iii) independent special schools in each year since 1997. [253439]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the table.

Data on national curriculum year group are only reliable from 2003 onwards. Therefore data prior to this are not available. Information on KS4 pupils with special educational needs is not available for independent schools. Information is given for non-maintained special schools. Information on other types of special schools is not collected.

Maintained secondary schools, maintained special schools and non maintained special schools: number of pupils in national curriculum year groups 10 and 11 who had a statement of special educational needs and who had unstatemented special educational needs[1]—position in January each year 2003 to 2008—England

	Maintained secondary				*Maintained special schools[3]*				*Non maintained special schools[4]*			
	Number of pupils who had a statement of special educational needs[2]		*Number of pupils who had unstatemented special educational needs[2]*		*Number of pupils who had a statement of special educational needs[3]*		*Number of pupils who had unstatemented special educational needs[4]*		*Number of pupils who had a statement of special educational needs[3]*		*Number of pupils who had unstatemented special educational needs[4]*	
—	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*
2003	15,010	14,200	77,600	67,360	9,740	9,370	50	60	650	620	—	—
2004	15,100	14,540	79,920	71,790	9,350	9,090	50	90	600	600	10	—
2005	15,080	14,100	85,420	76,020	9,340	9,160	70	90	570	570	0	4
2006	14,610	13,970	90,870	83,020	9,660	9,320	50	70	610	540	—	—
2007	13,800	13,310	97,650	90,830	9,660	9,610	40	90	580	560	10	0
2008	12,900	12,700	102,550	101,600	9,460	9,580	60	100	500	570	0	10

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] In 2003 and 2004, may include some pupils recorded at statutory assessment stage. Includes middle schools as deemed.

[3] Including general and special hospital schools.

[4] Excludes general hospital schools. Data for pupils with SEN without statements is not collected from these schools.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special schools there were in each local authority are in each year since 1997. [254518]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1072-73W.

Special Educational Needs: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs are in maintained *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* special schools in Leeds West constituency. [255482]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been provided in the following table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and all special schools: pupils with special educational needs with and without statements[1], position in January 2008

	Leeds West parliamentary constituency Pupils with SEN with and without statements[2,3,4]
Maintained Primary Schools[5]	1,408
State-Funded Secondary Schools[5,6]	1,006
All Special Schools	148

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] Includes pupils at School Action and School Action Plus.

[3] Includes pupils with statements in general hospital schools.

[4] Excludes pupils with SEN but without statements in general hospital schools.

[5] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[6] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

Note:

Data for pupils with SEN without statements is not collected from these schools.

Source:

School Census

Special Educational Needs: Private Sector

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which independent special schools have opened in each of the last 10 years. [252669]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with special educational needs which opened between 1 September 1998 and 31 August 2008 is as follows:

Academic Year	*Number of schools opened*
1998-99	19
1999-00	14

Academic Year	*Number of schools opened*
2000-01	19
2001-02	18
2002-03	22
2003-04	11
2004-05	39
2005-06	92
2006-07	66
2007-08	70
Total	370

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs were given a fixed-period exclusion from primary schools in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by reason for exclusion. [251102]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information provided shows the number of fixed period exclusions (and not number of pupils) broken down by SEN and reason for exclusion. Pupils can be excluded more than once and these can be for different reasons.

Maintained primary schools[1] number of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs and by reason for exclusion 2006-07 England

	Pupils with SEN
Physical assault against a pupil	8,660
Physical assault against an adult	5,810
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	1,980
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	4,620
Bullying	330
Racist abuse	250
Sexual misconduct	200
Drug and alcohol related	40
Damage	710
Theft	220
Persistent disruptive behaviour	11,720
Other	2,380
Total	36,920

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Teachers: Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government is taking to reduce levels of verbal and physical abuse towards teachers in primary schools. [249519]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Any verbal or physical abuse against school staff is totally unacceptable. While the overwhelming majority of schools are orderly places, the Government recognise that a small minority of pupils present challenging behaviour problems and back schools' authority to intervene to tackle bad behaviour and to stop problems from spiralling out of control.

Much has been done to protect teachers, in terms of promoting good practice to help reduce violence through behaviour management and school ethos, and through giving schools stronger legal powers to discipline and use legally reasonable force to restrain pupils. We are also helping schools form partnerships with other schools, police and other agencies to strengthen behaviour management.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Maternal Morbidity

7. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce maternal morbidity in developing countries. [255791]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Reducing maternal ill-health is the most off-track MDG and therefore a priority in DFID's country and global-level work. DFID has committed to spend £6 billion up to 2015 on health systems strengthening. The UK strategy has four priorities: Advocacy: Scaling-up evidence-based interventions; addressing the social and economic barriers to maternal health and developing new knowledge.

Advocacy gives voice to disempowered and vulnerable women. Scaling-up expands health services and the availability of neglected high impact interventions, safe abortion and contraception. We also invest in increasing girls' education, improving women's rights and increasing research capacity in developing countries.

Thailand

8. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has for aid to Thailand. [255793]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have no plans for bilateral aid to Thailand, which is a successful middle-income country. We are, however, providing this financial year £1 million to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium to assist Burmese refugees in Thailand and internally displaced people in Burma, and £220,000 to three Burmese non-governmental organisations working in north-east Thailand. We are considering proposals for future assistance to organisations on the Thailand-Burma border.

Loans

9. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what monitoring his Department has undertaken of the provision of development-related small loans and microfinance initiatives in developing countries in the last 12 months. [255794]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID recognises the potential of microfinance to reduce poverty and contribute to the achievement of the millennium development goals. We are keen to ensure that the availability of microfinance is sustained through present global economic conditions.

DFID supports the overall monitoring of microfinance through the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a multi-donor partnership working to expand access to finance to which DFID provided £250,000 in the current financial year. DFID contributes to, and relies upon CGAP's surveys of microfinance programmes. We are maintaining close contact with CGAP to monitor evolving trends in the context of the current financial crisis.

Guyana

10. **Mr. Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what ways his Department is working with the government of Guyana to promote the preservation of the rainforest in that country. [255795]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID contributed £100,000 to work by Guyana on a low carbon investment prospectus and implementation plan, including a costing of conserving Guyana's rainforests. The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (to which the UK contributed £15 million) is preparing a reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation readiness plan. Guyana is included in the Caribbean Regional Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, and also likely to be part of the Caribbean Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (part of the climate investment funds to which the UK is contributing £250 million). DFID Officials regularly discuss forest protection with their Guyanese counterparts.

Anti-retroviral Therapies

11. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage pharmaceutical companies to develop infant formulae for anti-retroviral therapies for use for children in developing countries. [255796]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: DFID is supporting a major five year clinical trial implemented by the Medical Research Council (MRC) in Uganda and Zimbabwe, on the best ways to provide antiretroviral drug treatment for infants and children with HIV. Based on this work, new triple formulations for babies and small children were recently approved and are now being distributed to children in Africa. DFID also funds the work of UNITAID and the Clinton Foundation, aimed at developing and facilitating access to new paediatric drug formulations for tuberculosis and HIV.

Zimbabwe

12. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [255797]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is dire. Around 70,000 people have been affected by the country's worst ever cholera outbreak and over 3,000 have died. Water and sanitation systems and the health service are collapsing. Over six million people are receiving food aid and HIV/AIDS continues to decimate households. The international community is doing all it can to alleviate the situation and support ordinary Zimbabweans. The UK will provide £47 million in life-saving support this year and is one of the leading donors in the cholera response and the UN food programme. None of this aid goes through government of Zimbabwe systems.

Global Economic Downturn

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the global economic downturn on the conditionality of international development aid; and if he will make a statement. [255798]

Mr. Thomas: We have no plans to change the UK's conditionality policy. We assess whether partner governments show commitment to tackling poverty, upholding human rights and managing public money wisely. We may, and do, interrupt or stop aid if these commitments are breached.

The International Monetary Fund's emergency support to the economic crisis is being provided either unconditionally or with conditions limited to actions essential for ensuring stability.

The World Bank also provides increased lending when other sources of finance are constrained. All its programmes conform to its 2005 Good Practice Principles on Conditionality, which is regularly monitored.

Gaza

14. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [255799]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations, with others, has recently completed a rapid needs assessment to determine immediate humanitarian needs and to inform the UN flash appeal which is available at:

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EDIS-7NVP4B?OpenDocument

Further assessments are currently under way and a more detailed assessment is expected to be completed by the end of February.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received from the Mines Advisory Group on the types of unexploded ordinance it has removed from schools in Gaza. [254514]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are 157 UNICEF-supported schools in Gaza, and work with the Palestinian Ministry of Education identified 40 as high risk in terms of potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination. These schools have been visited by technicians from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). During this clearance 40mm high explosive grenades, as well as 81mm and 120mm high explosive mortars, were removed. Remnants of exploded ordnance were also taken away, including parts of Hell Fire missiles and 155mm high explosive and white phosphorous artillery shells.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. [255792]

Mr. Michael Foster: We monitor the situation through our high commission and other sources and by field visits. In October 2008 we announced £2.5 million of humanitarian funding through international agencies. We are sending another humanitarian assessment mission this week and have agreed a further £2.5 million humanitarian funding. We share the widespread concern at the plight of civilians trapped by the fighting and have called on both sides to cease fire and allow humanitarian access.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 February 2009

NORTHERN IRELAND

Christmas

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on Christmas, for what reason his Department spent £33,000 on Christmas receptions in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [248588]

Mr. Woodward: Every year the Northern Ireland Office use Hillsborough Castle to host a series of receptions at Christmas time to bring a wide cross-section of the community together and to use these opportunities to build community confidence.

2008 was in exactly the same mould as previous years. The four Christmas receptions held in Northern Ireland in 2007 were attended by over 1,400 members of the public drawn from the criminal justice, policing, military, business, charity and community sectors. The guests included families of the security forces and serving personnel, representatives of victims groups, churches and businesses, as well as many others working in the community sectors across Northern Ireland.

These events provide some recognition of the tremendous contribution made by people, both individually and collectively, who have helped to transform Northern Ireland. We work hard to monitor costs at these occasions as we are mindful in Government of the need to provide value for money. Anyone with a close understanding of Northern Ireland will know the value of these occasions in bringing people together in a renewed political environment.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 772-3W, on departmental domestic visits, how many of the overnight visits involved staying in an hotel. [257264]

Mr. Woodward: None.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255235]

Mr. Woodward: No such representations have been received.

Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the number of guns held by *(a)* loyalist paramilitaries and *(b)* republican dissidents. [255272]

Paul Goggins: This is an intelligence matter and it is the longstanding practice of successive Governments not to comment on such matters.

WALES

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256197]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [256664]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 192W.

Digital Broadcasting: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps are being taken to increase levels of digital inclusion in Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [255468]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Several activities are taking place in Leeds to promote digital inclusion:

The Department for Children, Schools and Families Computers for Pupils programme has helped over 3,000 pupils in Leeds since its inception, and a further 400 learners will benefit from grant funding recently awarded under the new Home Access for Targeted Groups fund., West constituency host UK online centres, which act as 'Media Beacons', helping young people who are excluded from school to use new technologies such as music video software and to operate community radio stations, as part of their 'Interplay Theatre' programme. These centres also offer training on new media to staff in other parts of the UK online centres network.

Leeds city council provides public access and training in internet use throughout their network of libraries and community centres. A mobile learning vehicle offers internet access on a regular route around targeted communities, and the city's mobile library vehicles will shortly be fitted with wifi internet access.

In December, senior officers from the city council met to raise awareness of the impact that technology can have on communities and the advantages that it can deliver. A 'Digital Community Vision' is now being developed which will identify and capture the city's digital inclusion aspirations for the future, leading to an action plan for further digital inclusion work.

Legal Services Commission

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had on the future of the Legal Services Commission in Wales with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Justice and *(b)* the First Minister; and if he will make a statement. [255544]

Mr. David: I have discussed this issue with the Welsh Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and with colleagues at the Ministry of Justice. I have also corresponded with my noble Friend Lord Bach, Minister for Legal Aid.

My right hon. Friend and I will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Justice and the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that where efficiency savings need to be made within the Legal Services Commission, the best solution for Wales is found.

TRANSPORT

A1: Road Traffic

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to reduce congestion on the A1 in *(a)* Tyne and Wear and *(b)* Northumberland. [255768]

Paul Clark: The A1 through Northumberland suffers little in the way of congestion. Schemes to dual discrete sections of the A1 north of Newcastle are being considered for funding by the north-east region, as part of the current regional funding allocation process.

The A1 through Tyne and Wear suffers severe congestion at peak times, and this can extend to periods outside the daily peak, particularly if incidents occur. A number of measures have been carried out over the last few years to improve route performance. These include signing and lining improvements, a slow moving vehicle ban in peak periods, variable message signing (VMS), close circuit television (CCTV), the introduction of the traffic officers, free to customer breakdown recovery services, and the "Retriever" motorcycle which can get to incidents more quickly and tow vehicles up-to 1,600 kg in weight to recently built emergency refuges.

The Department for Transport publication "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: Motorways and Trunk Roads" in January 2009 stated that the Highways Agency will continue to work with local authorities to consider further the options for relieving congestion on the A1 around Newcastle and Gateshead.

Following the earlier government study the Highways Agency is looking at options for upgrading the A1 Newcastle and Gateshead Western Bypass. This work is being informed by the outcomes of the Tyne and Wear authorities "People in Motion" demand management study, and findings of the agency's work are expected to be considered in the first half of 2009.

A303: Inspections

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles of each nationality of registration were *(a)* inspected and *(b)* prohibited following inspection at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency checkpoint at Wylye on the A303(T) in the latest year for which figures are available; and for what reasons each vehicle was prohibited. [255883]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)'s inspection figures from its site at Wylye are as follows:

Country	*Roadworthiness inspections*	*Mechanical prohibitions*
Heavy goods vehicle roadworthiness inspections		
Belgium	1	0
Eire	2	1
France	1	0
Germany	0	0
Great Britain	32	6
Lithuania	3	0
Netherlands	4	2
Northern Ireland	0	0
Poland	4	0
Romania	1	1
Slovenia	2	1
Spain	1	0
Yugoslavia	1	0
Grand total	52	11
Trailer roadworthiness inspections		
Belgium	4	1
Eire	1	0
France	1	0
Great Britain	13	3
Lithuania	1	0
Netherlands	6	2
Poland	2	2
Slovenia	2	0
Spain	1	1
Yugoslavia	1	0
Grand total	32	9

Heavy goods vehicle traffic inspections

Country	*Traffic inspections*	*Drivers hours prohibitions*	*Weighed inspections*	*Overloads prohibitions*
Belgium	0	0	0	0
Eire	0	0	0	0
France	2	0	2	0
Germany	1	0	1	1
Great Britain	5	2	3	1
Lithuania	1	0	1	0
Netherlands	3	1	2	0
Northern Ireland	1	1	1	0
Poland	1	0	1	0
Romania	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	2	2	2	0
Spain	1	0	1	0
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	0
Grand total	18	6	15	2

Light goods vehicle traffic inspections

Country	*Weighed inspections*	*Overloading prohibitions*
Great Britain	3	3
Poland	1	1
Grand total	4	4

Figures are from April 08 to January 2009.

Air Passenger Bonds

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the terms of the original Civil Aviation Authority insurance policy with American International Group on air passenger bonds. [253448]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Travel Trust Fund is currently structured to meet tour operator failure costs through a combination of cash, credit facilities and insurance. Cash is received primarily from ATOL Protection Contributions, and Barclays Bank plc provides credit facilities totalling £60 million, which includes a level of liquidity supported by a Government Guarantee.

The insurance policy placed by the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust with AIG UK Limited and Axis Specialty Ltd., is designed to provide the Air Travel Trust with access to funds in the event of a major tour operator failure where costs arising from refund and repatriation exceed £50 million in a year. The policy document is subject to a confidentiality agreement and the insurers have declined permission to disclose the terms of the policy.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish details of the PricewaterhouseCoopers financial model on air passenger bonds prepared for his Department and the Civil Aviation Authority. [253449]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A detailed overview of the financial model, of the Air Travel Trust, was included in appendix 4 of the "Consultation on Reform of ATOL Bonding Arrangements and the Replenishment of the Air Travel Trust Fund", published by the Civil Aviation Authority and Department for Transport in April 2007. The consultation document can be viewed at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/Consultation_ATOL_Reform_2007.pdf

The model was produced by the Civil Aviation Authority (commissioned by the trustees of the Air Travel Trust), to assess the sustainability of a per passenger ATOL Protection Contribution in building up sufficient funds to meet potential refund and repatriation costs arising from the failure of tour operators, under different adverse scenarios. External forecasts from third parties such as travel companies, insurance firms and banks were used as the basis for assumptions. Information was received from a spread of ATOL license holders, including the four largest air travel tour operators, five medium sized operators and two online tour operators. The spread of firms accounted for more than half of all passengers covered by the ATOL protection scheme.

The Civil Aviation Authority engaged a professional services firm with expertise in economic modelling and the travel sector to review the model methodology, its fitness for purpose and a number of the underlying assumptions. The detailed overview in appendix 4 of the consultation paper took into account the work undertaken by the firm appointed by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Civil Aviation Authority have received on the adequacy of cover for bonding arrangements for passengers travelling by aircraft, with particular reference to the PricewaterhouseCoopers report on Reform of Air Travel Organisers' Licensing bonding arrangements. [253450]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "Consultation on Reform of ATOL Bonding Arrangements and the Replenishment of the Air Travel Trust Fund", was published by the Civil Aviation Authority and Department for Transport in April 2007. The consultation document can be viewed at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/Consultation_ATOL_Reform_2007.pdf

There were 88 respondents to this consultation and a summary of the responses is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2007/atol/summary

A large majority of responses supported the introduction of a £1 per passenger ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) to replace bonding as the main means of meeting costs from the failure of tour operators and to replenish the Air Travel Trust Fund. The decision to introduce the APC was announced to Parliament on 22 October 2007.

Biofuels

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government is taking to foster the development of second generation biofuels. [256650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) creates a market for first generation biofuels which in turn helps to set the right conditions for the development of commercially viable second generation biofuels. The UK will be required to modify the RTFO in order to implement the Renewable Energy Directive in 2010. The directive incentivises second generation biofuels through requiring member states to count their contribution towards renewable energy targets as twice those of first generation biofuels. We shall be consulting later this year about how to take forward the implementation of the directive in UK legislation.

In addition the Government have recently announced £20 million of funding for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's (BBSRC) new Sustainable Bioenergy Centre. This is a £27 million initiative aiming to build UK capacity in bioenergy research. Among other things, it will target research on the development of second generation bioenergy and biofuels. Last autumn the Government also announced that the Department anticipates contributing up to £3 million per year over the next two financial years to the Carbon Trust's Advanced Bioenergy Directed Research Accelerator. This will allow the Carbon Trust to further increase its advanced bioenergy research and development activities.

Bus Services: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department provided to Chorley Borough Council for the purposes of concessionary bus travel in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [254733]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The Department for Transport therefore provided no direct funding to Chorley borough council for concessionary bus travel in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The Department did however provide Chorley borough council with £69,004 in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all their eligible people. In 2008-09 DFT will provide Chorley borough council with special grant funding of £280,000 for the improvement to statutory concessionary travel; this is in addition to the existing formula grant funding from CLG. The Special Grant Funding represents a 33 per cent. increase in funding over and above Chorley borough council's declared costs of £0.85 million for concessionary travel in 2007-08.

Delegated Examiners: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many delegated examiners there are in the Greater London area. [256234]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[Holding answer 11 February 2009]:* There are 23 delegated examiners in the Greater London area working for fire and police authorities and bus and coach operators.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* nitrogen oxides, *(b)* carbon dioxide and *(c)* other greenhouse gasses recorded at Heathrow were caused by (i) aircraft, (ii) cars and (iii) each specified other source in each year since 1995; and what percentage he expects to be caused by each source in each year up to 2020. [250531]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The following sets out the information available:

Nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions

The White Paper set out the following strict conditions from 2010, in line with the current European Union directive on nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) related pollutants[1]:

Hourly limit value for the protection of human health: 200micro/m3 NO_2, not to be exceeded more than 18 times in a calendar year; and

Annual limit value for the protection of human health: 40micro/m3 NO_2 annual average.

The Department for Transport's 2007 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation' document concluded that these conditions could be met.

Further information is available in the following documents:

'Air Quality Studies for Heathrow: Base Case, Segregated Mode, Mixed Mode' and 'Third Runway Scenarios modelled using ADMS'—Airport, 15 November 2007, Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, Table 4.5-4.7; Table 4.12-4.13

'Heathrow Airport Emission Summaries', October 2007, AEA Energy and Environment, Table 4.1.4-Table 4.8.4 Annual emissions by source category, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/technicalreports/emissionsummaries.pdf

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions

Published emissions data from DECC are at the national level only these are listed by source category, including breakdown by transport mode.

Published data at the UK national level can be found in Table 4a of 'Estimated emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2 expressed as carbon dioxide) by IPCC source category: 1970-2006—last published 31 January 2008 at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/download/xls/gatb04.xls

Data based on fuel uplifted at Heathrow is reported—this is published in the Department for Transport's 2009 impact assessment 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport', where aviation carbon dioxide emissions attributable to flights departing from Heathrow in 2005 are estimated at 17.2 $MtCO_2$ or 2.9 per cent. of total UK CO_2 emissions.

Data are not available regarding CO_2 emissions released specifically into the air surrounding Heathrow so the percentages by source are not available.

Other greenhouse gas emissions

Other greenhouse gas emissions are not currently reported specifically for the Heathrow area.

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[1] The revised directive provides for later compliance (up to 2015) in certain circumstances

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average *(a)* nitrogen oxide and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions per passenger mile (i) were and (ii) are predicted to be for average aircraft using Heathrow Airport in (A) 1990, (B) 1995, (C) 2000, (D) 2005, (E) 2010, (F) 2015, (G) 2020 and (H) 2025. [253935]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following information sets out what information is available for: *(a)* NO_x emissions; *(b)* CO_2 emissions, and *(c)* other greenhouse gas emissions:

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Emissions

The White Paper set out the following strict conditions from 2010, in line with the current European Union directive on nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) related pollutants[1]:

Hourly limit value for the protection of human health—200micro/m3 NO_2, not to be exceeded more than 18 times in a calendar year; and

Annual limit value for the protection of human health—40micro/m3 NO_2 annual average

The Department for Transport's 2007 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document concluded that these conditions could be met.

Further information is available in the following documents:

Air Quality Studies for Heathrow: Base Case, Segregated Mode, Mixed Mode and Third Runway Scenarios modelled using ADMS-Airport, 15 November 2007, Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, Table 4.5—4.7; Table 4.12—4.13

Heathrow Airport Emission Summaries, October 2007, AEA Energy and Environment, Table 4.1.4—Table 4.8.4 Annual emissions by source category, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/technicalreports/emissionsummaries.pdf

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Emissions

There is limited data regarding past CO_2 emissions at Heathrow airport specifically. Published emissions data from DECC are at the national level only. However, data based on fuel uplifted at Heathrow are reported—this is published in the Department for Transport's 2009 'Impact Assessment Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport', where aviation carbon dioxide emissions attributable to flights departing from Heathrow in 2005 are estimated at 17.2MtCO_2 or 2.9 per cent. of total UK CO_2. emissions.

Average CO_2 emissions from aircraft at Heathrow airport in 2005 are estimated from DfT modelling to be around 114 grams of CO_2 per passenger km. This is in line with the air transport conversion factors published by DEFRA in 2008 and reflects the mix of aircraft used and flights made from Heathrow in that year.

For future years, the Government have announced a new target to get UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 below 2005 levels for the UK as a whole.

Once aviation joins the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2012, CO_2 emissions from all flights departing and arriving at airports in the EU will be capped at 97 per cent. of average 2004-06 levels, with the cap tightening to 95 per cent. of average 2004-06 levels from 2013 onwards (the cap applies at the EU level, and not at individual member state or airport levels). Any aviation emissions above this cap will need to be accounted for by airlines securing reductions from other sectors within the EU ETS. So any change in the capacity of Heathrow in future years will not lead to any net increase in CO_2 emissions.

[1] The revised directive provides for later compliance (up to 2015) in certain circumstances

Heathrow Airport: Greenhouse Gases

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what levels of *(a)* nitrogen oxide, *(b)* carbon dioxide and *(c)* other green house gases have been released in the air surrounding Heathrow Airport in each year since 1995; and what estimate he has made of the level of each at Heathrow in each year to 2020. [249897]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 January 2009]:* The following information sets out what information is available for: *(a)* NOx emissions; *(b)* CO_2 emissions, and *(c)* other greenhouse gas emissions.

Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) Emissions

The White Paper set out the following strict conditions from 2010, in line with the current European Union Directive on nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) related pollutants[1]:

Hourly limit value for the protection of human health—200micro/m3 NO_2, not to be exceeded more than 18 times in a calendar year; and

Annual limit value for the protection of human health—40micro/m3 NO_2 annual average

The Department for Transport's 2007 "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document concluded that these conditions could be met.

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Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Emissions

There is limited data regarding past CO_2 emissions at Heathrow airport specifically. Published emissions data from DECC are at the national level only. However, data based on fuel uplifted at Heathrow is reported—this is published in the Department for Transport's 2009 Impact Assessment "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport", where aviation carbon dioxide emissions attributable to flights departing from Heathrow in 2005 are estimated at 17.2MtCO_2 or 2.9 per cent. of total UK CO_2. emissions.

For future years, the Government have announced a new target to get UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 below 2005 levels for the UK as a whole.

Once aviation joins the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2012, CO_2 emissions from all flights departing and arriving at airports in the EU will be capped at 97 per cent. of average 2004-06 levels, with the cap tightening to 95 per cent. of average 2004-06 levels from 2013 onwards (the cap applies at the EU level, and not at individual member state or airport levels). Any aviation emissions above this cap will need to be accounted for by airlines securing reductions from other sectors within the EU ETS. So any change in the capacity of Heathrow in future years will not lead to any net increase in CO_2 emissions.

Other Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Other greenhouse gas emissions are not currently reported specifically for Heathrow airport.

[1] The revised directive provides for later compliance (up to 2015) in certain circumstances .

Heathrow Airport: Road Traffic

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the additional road vehicle movements which would result from *(a)* an increase from 67 to 122 million passengers a year and *(b)* an increase of 125,000 flight movements a year at Heathrow Airport. [252660]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Forecasts of surface access demand at Heathrow are set out in BAA's 'Surface Access Report', published alongside the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document. This is available at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/technicalreports/surfaceaccess.pdf

The figure of 122 million passengers assumes around 702,000 flights a year in 2030, whereas we are initially supporting a maximum of 605,000 (an additional 125,000 a year). The additional number of passengers accessing the airport by road is therefore expected to be around 14 million, around half the number previously assumed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of additional car journeys per day which will result from the establishment of a third runway at Heathrow, broken down by major road. [253936]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Forecasts of surface access demand at Heathrow are set out in BAA's 'Surface Access Report', published alongside the 2007 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document. This is available on the Department's website at the following link:

http://wvwv.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/technicalreports/surfaceaccess.pdf

Table 36 reproduced below shows the daily traffic composition for the main road corridors (A4, M4 and M25) with a third runway in 2020 and 605,000 air transport movements a year, which is the limit we are supporting initially.

Table 36: Traffic composition at air quality hotspots for the R3/T6 core scenario in 2020

			Percentage						
Air quality hotspot	*Road*	*Map ref*	*Car: air passengers*	*Cars: business*	*Cars: non business*	*Light goods vehicles*	*Heavy goods vehicles*	*Buses*	*Annual average daily traffic*
A4 corridor	Northern perimeter road (E of Spur)	1	4	14	32	7	3	40	5,900
	A4 (E of Spur)	2	1	7	73	10	6	2	31,800
M4 corridor	A312 S of M4	3	6	5	59	22	8	1	60,700
	M4 Spur	4	78	2	15	2	2	2	99,800
	M4 J4b-5	5	8	12	63	8	8	0	165,300
	M4 J4-4b	6	36	6	45	6	8	0	164,400
	M4 J3-4	7	27	7	51	8	8	0	147,800
	M4 J 2-3	8	35	7	46	8	5	1	103,800
M25 corridor	M25 J13-14	9	12	12	61	8	7	0	224,600
	M25 J14-T5 Spur	10	8	14	62	8	8	0	174,100
	M25 T5 Spur-J15	11	21	12	53	7	7	0	236,800
	M25 J15-16	12	21	12	51	7	9	0	210,400

Passenger Focus

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of Passenger Focus in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [256560]

Paul Clark: The total cost of Passenger Focus to the public purse in 2007-08 was £5.315 million.

Railways: Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on rail replacement bus services in each of the last 10 years. [247301]

Paul Clark: The information is not held by the Department for Transport and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Employment

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had any discussions with train operators about the effect on their businesses of a reduction in *(a)* UK GDP and *(b)* Central London employment levels. [256007]

Paul Clark: There are regular meetings with all operators to discuss all aspects of their performance. These discussions include, where appropriate, the impacts of UK GDP and central London employment levels on revenues.

Railways: Fares

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the RP plus one per cent. formula for regulated fares may result in a negative number. [256015]

Paul Clark: Yes, the RPI plus 1 formula for regulated fares may result in a negative number.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions about *(a)* economic growth and *(b)* passenger volumes were made in the franchise agreements for the (i) East Coast Main Line, (ii) East Midlands, (iii) South West Trains, (iv) South Eastern and (v) East Anglian franchises. [255979]

Paul Clark: The information requested is commercially confidential between the Department for Transport and the respective train operators.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of contingency plans made by Network Rail and train operating companies to minimise disruption to rail services caused by severe weather events; when he next plans to review the implementation of those plans; and if he will make a statement. [255375]

Paul Clark: The handling of major disruptions to rail services is reviewed in detail by the industry to see what can be learned for the future. Ministers meet senior representatives of the industry regularly to discuss rail performance.

The Department for Transport will encourage the industry to implement any improvements to contingency planning which are identified following the recent bad weather.

Shipping: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on the development of a global emissions trading scheme for shipping under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization. [255177]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are clear that shipping emissions must be tackled and that the shipping sector must operate under carbon limits. We believe that a coordinated multilateral maritime carbon emissions trading system is the best option for delivering cost-effective reductions while maintaining a thriving shipping sector.

The Government actively support the development of such a scheme under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization. If this proves impossible we would support inclusion of maritime emissions in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. However, because of the world-wide nature of the shipping industry, the Government believe that any action by the EU should be seen as a stepping stone to future global agreements on international shipping emissions.

We are working with industry and our European partners to develop further the maritime emissions trading concept.

Taxis: Disabled People

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of progress on implementation of new regulations covering access to taxis for people with disabilities. [255783]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport published a consultation document about improving access to taxis on 2 February and this consultation will run for the statutory 12-week period. The consultation looks at ways to make taxi services more accessible to disabled people. We will consider in detail the responses to the consultation to inform the way forward.

Thameslink: Procurement

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest expected timing is of the *(a)* (i) start and (ii) completion of Stage 1 and *(b)* the delivery of the new units to the Thameslink franchise for Phase 1. [255998]

Paul Clark: The Thameslink timetable change which comes into effect on 22 March 2009 marks the start of the Key Output One stage of the Thameslink Programme. This stage is due for completion in March 2012.

The first new Class 377 dual voltage unit was delivered to Southern trains on 30 January 2009. The remaining 22 units will follow over the next few months.

Transport: EC Action

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions of EU directives within his Department's responsibilities have not yet been transposed into United Kingdom law; in respect of the provisions of which such directives the UK has been subject to infringement action by the European Commission since January 2005; and what stage has been reached in such actions in each case. [255494]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are 24 EU directives within my Department's responsibilities that have not yet been transposed into UK law. The stages of infringement proceedings are:

Five are the subject of Article 226 Letters.

Four are at the Article 226 Reasoned Opinion stage.

Four were the subject of infringement proceedings that have since been closed or withdrawn.

11 are not yet subject to infringement proceedings by the Commission.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with train operators about services which did not operate on 2 February 2009; and what steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of those problems. [255908]

Paul Clark: Of the just over 18,000 trains due to have run on 2 February, nearly 9,000 reached their destination on time and another 2,000 ran but arrived late. The remaining 7,000 were cancelled, most of them on routes south of the Thames.

The provision of train services is a matter for operators and I am satisfied that they understand the need to have arrangements in place to deal with exceptional weather. Ministers have not therefore sought to discuss train performance on 2 February with them.

Vehicle Number Plates: Flags

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on vehicle number plates: flags, when he plans to make an announcement on the way forward. [256130]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are bringing forward the new legislation to legalise the display of national flags on number plates in GB as soon as possible. It is expected, subject to the outcome of an informal consultation, that the revised regulations will come into force around the end of April 2009.

Wrexham-Bidston Railway Line

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Government has for the electrification of the Bidston to Wrexham railway line. [256269]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* A cross-industry working group led by Network Rail is assessing the case for electrifying a wide range of lines. The group is expected to publish its conclusions at the end of March.

If costs can be reduced and funding identified, it would be for Merseytravel to consider whether a Bidston to Wrexham scheme is suitable to promote for major scheme funding via its local transport plan, provided that this is endorsed as a priority as part of the regional funding allocation process.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Prime Minister how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Office since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254741]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 53W.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish a copy of No. 10 Downing Street's website accessibility plan. [257216]

The Prime Minister: Information on accessibility is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/footer/accessibility

A copy of this web page has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister which of the public appointments for which he is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restrictions, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Office keeps in respect of such appointments. [254263]

The Prime Minister: Information on public appointments I make are published on the No. 10 website and announced to Parliament where appropriate. More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's annual report. Vacancies may also be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Energy and Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Prime Minister what work the No. 10 Policy Directorate *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on energy and climate-related matters. [255042]

The Prime Minister: The No. 10 Policy Unit covers all Government policy, including energy and climate-related matters.

Forfeiture Committee

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on how many occasions the Forfeiture Committee has met since 1997; [256561]

(2) whether peerages fall within the terms of reference of the Forfeiture Committee. [256562]

The Prime Minister: Arrangements for the Forfeiture Committee are as set out by the then Prime Minister, the right hon. Sir John Major, on 2 December 1994, *Official Report*, column 923W

> "Cancellation is considered in cases where retention of the appointment or award would bring the honours system into disrepute. There are no set guidelines for cancellations, which are considered on a case-by-case basis."

Details of forfeitures are published in the *London Gazette*. Peerages do not fall within the terms of reference of the Forfeiture Committee.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister to what events held in the United Kingdom to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel he has been invited; what such invitations he has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* declined; and if he will make a statement. [254992]

The Prime Minister: It is already a matter of public record. I attended the Embassy of Israel 60th Anniversary Reception on 12 May 2008 in London.

Ministerial Appointments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister under what circumstances Ministerial appointments may be made for a fixed-term period at the request of the appointee. [255817]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 541W.

Peers: Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether he received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255236]

The Prime Minister: No.

Russia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he last met Russian President Medvedev; [256563]

(2) when he last met Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. [256564]

The Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with the Russian leadership, including at G8 and G20 summits.

I have invited President Medvedev to the G20 in London in April.

Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister how many parliamentary questions he has not answered since June 2007 on the grounds of disproportionate cost; and if he will make a statement. [254990]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister how many parliamentary questions for written answer he has transferred to other Ministers since May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [254991]

The Prime Minister: Questions are answered by the responsible Minister. Details of transfers can be found in the daily "Questions Book", copies of which are available in the Vote Office.

TREASURY

Tax Avoidance

8. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs' most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the Exchequer of tax avoidance in the corporate sector; and if he will make a statement. [256289]

Mr. Timms: Due to its nature, it is difficult to be precise about the scale of avoidance. The most recent estimate, published by HMRC last March but relating to the start of the decade, showed corporate tax avoidance to be in the range £2.1 billion to £6.6 billion per year. HMRC continues to close down loopholes as it becomes aware of them.

Banking Industry

9. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the remuneration packages for senior executives of banks which are in temporary public ownership or which have received recapitalisation funding from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [256290]

Ian Pearson: For those banks that we recapitalised last October there were conditions imposed in relation to bank lending and restrictions on rewards for senior executives and on payment of dividends.

17. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on bank lending policies of his recapitalisation of the banks. [256299]

Ian Pearson: The measures that the Government announced on 8 October were to ensure the stability of the financial system and to protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers.

The Government's recapitalisation scheme has helped to reduce the inter-bank lending rate, and the cost of insuring inter-bank lending through credit default swaps. As a result the price of wholesale funding—the money the banks use to finance lending to their customers—has come down considerably.

As part of their investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments, including on lending.

19. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on remuneration packages for staff of banks which are in temporary public ownership or which have received recapitalisation funding from the public purse. [256301]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Treasury's shareholding in recapitalised banks. UKFI has a role in scrutinising banks compliance with the recapitalisation conditions, and also in scrutinising banks remuneration policies—to protect the interests of the taxpayer as a major shareholder.

The Government have rightly been closely involved in decisions on rewards for senior executives—those who made the decisions that brought the banks into difficulty. We have ensured that none of the banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme will award cash bonuses for 2008 to board members.

20. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on bank lending policies of his recapitalisation of the banks. [256302]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stourbridge (Lynda Waltho) today (256299).

Global Economic Situation

10. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on measures to reduce the effects of the global economic downturn in EU member states. [256291]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Treasury Ministers attend regular meetings of EU Ministers, including the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers (ECOFIN). These discussions cover a wide range of issues including the co-ordination of measures among EU member states. The European economic recovery plan, as agreed by the December European Council, outlined a range of measures for member states to enact a co-ordinated response to the economic downturn.

UK Economy

11. **Mr. David Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with the International Monetary Fund on the UK's economic performance. [256292]

Yvette Cooper: The IMF holds bilateral discussions with each of its member countries, usually every year as part of its country surveillance function, under Article IV of the IMF's articles of agreement. IMF staff last visited London in May 2008 and met with various institutions including HM Treasury to discuss issues relating to the economy. The Government of course continue also to work closely with the IMF and other international partners in responding to the financial crisis.

13. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecasts of economic growth he has made for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [256294]

Mr. Timms: The Government's most recent forecasts were published at the pre-Budget report. We will publish updated forecasts at the time of Budget 2009, as is normal practice. This will include a full assessment of developments and prospects for the world and UK economies, based on all relevant factors.

Business Rates

12 **Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next plans to review the liability of property owners for business rates on empty commercial properties. [256293]

Angela Eagle: In the pre-Budget report, the Government temporarily raised the threshold for exemption from national non-domestic rates on empty properties from £2,200 to £15,000 to take effect from 1 April 2009. As a result, an estimated 70 per cent. of empty properties will be exempt from business rates in the 2009-10 tax year.

Any further decisions on taxation are matters for the Chancellor at Budget.

Financial Markets

14. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the effects on financial markets of media reporting on those markets. [256295]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor receives representations from a wide range of stakeholders on issues relating to financial markets issues.

In October 2008 the Government announced a comprehensive package of support for the financial system both to support the stability of the banking system and to protect savers and depositors. On 19 January the Government announced a second support package designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system and provide a longer-term solution.

I follow media reporting on the markets with interest. It is routinely of a high quality. I hope all commentators, whether from the financial markets or from the general media, will continue to report responsibly, and bear in mind that unsubstantiated speculation has the potential to undermine financial stability and harm savers and depositors.

Savers

15. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department plans to take to assist savers who are pensioners during the economic downturn. [256296]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to supporting pensioners through the global economic slowdown, providing support for all, but more for those who need it most. A range of measures was announced at PBR 2008 to support pensioners including an extra £60 payment, and an increase in the pension credit by more than indexation, on top of the additional support announced in last year's Budget.

Bingo Clubs

16. **John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will remove liability for value added tax from bingo clubs. [256298]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and decisions about gambling taxation are made at the Budget alongside all tax and spending decisions. The Government take all relevant factors into consideration when establishing and maintaining fair gambling tax regimes. These include the state of the industry and wider conditions within the economy.

Miners: Tax

18. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the decision to tax miners with small pensions from April 2009. [256300]

Ian Pearson: HMRC intend to bring a number of previously untaxed pensions into tax under PAYE from April 2009. We have received representations about this from a number of pensioner lobby groups, but none specifically in relation to miners.

Budget Statement

21. **John Howell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will update his forecasts for the public finances and economic growth in the UK before the Budget statement. [256303]

Yvette Cooper: The Government will publish updated forecasts at the time of Budget 2009, as is normal practice. This will include a full assessment of developments and prospects for the world and UK economies, based on all relevant factors.

Climate Change

22. **Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he has taken of the effect of climate change on the economy in his preparations for the carbon budget. [256304]

Angela Eagle: The Climate Change Act requires the Secretary of State to take into account economic circumstances in setting the level of carbon budgets. Action to achieve environmental goals remains a high priority for the Government in the current economic circumstances. The Government will consider carefully the Committee on Climate Change advice on economic impacts of carbon budgets and announce the levels of the first three carbon budgets alongside Budget 2009.

State Pensions

23. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will replace the 25p age addition to state pensions with an additional £25 on the winter fuel allowance for the over-80s as a Budget measure. [256305]

Ian Pearson: The Government provide additional support to older pensioners. Higher age-related allowances and free TV licences help those aged over 75, while households with someone aged over 80 receive a higher winter fuel payment. The Government keep all tax and benefit rates under review as part of the normal Budget process.

Company Taxation

24. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that companies in the financial sector are paying the appropriate levels of taxation. [256306]

Mr. Timms: It is important that all taxpayers pay their fair share of tax. Most corporates, including those in the financial sector, do pay their fair share. The Government will continue to tackle those companies who deliberately seek to evade or avoid tax. Each recent Budget has contained measures to close down avoidance schemes with a potential annual cost of £1-1½ billion a year.

Bank of England: Assets

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Bank of England has received requests to buy assets in all sectors. [256184]

Angela Eagle: As set out in its market notice on 6 February 2009, the Bank of England is currently consulting with the financial markets on the operational details of the asset purchase facility. The facility is expected to commence operation on 13 February 2009.

Banks: Finance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total monetary value of funds drawn down against the Bank of England Special Liquidity Scheme has been to date. [256179]

Angela Eagle: The drawdown period for the SLS closed on 30 January. The nominal value of Treasury Bills drawdown as of 30 January 2009 was £185 billion. The monetary value of Treasury Bills changes based on market prices.

Further details can be accessed via the Bank of England website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/news/2009/006.htm

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what monitoring his Department has put in place to determine whether additional bank recapitalisation may be necessary. [256180]

Angela Eagle: In addition to decisive actions taken last October, on 19 January the Government announced further measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy.

The Government are now working to implement these schemes and will monitor the impact of these measures.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the expected exposure range for the Government's insurance scheme for banks for expected bad debts is; [256183]

(2) whether any banks have submitted applications for cover to the Government insurance scheme for banks for expected bad debts. [256189]

Mr. Timms: The Government will publish further details of the Asset Protection Scheme by the last week of February.

Banks: Government Shareholding

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what dates *(a)* ordinary and *(b)* preference shares taken by the Government in (i) Lloyds Bank, (ii) HBOS and (iii) Royal Bank of Scotland were subscribed; what type of share was issued on each such date; and how much was paid for each type of share; [256404]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 587-8W, on Government shareholding, when copies of the placing and open offer agreements were placed in the Library; [256406]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 587-8W, on Government shareholding, where in the documents referred to in the answer information is provided on whether the non-payment of preference dividends by the board of directors would be treated as an act of default entitling the Government to initiate proceedings for the winding-up of the company; [256407]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 587-8W, on Government shareholding, for what reasons he did not bring forward proposals to *(a)* make the preference shares cumulative and *(b)* adjust the coupon on the shares to a lower rate; and if he will make a statement; [256408]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 587-8W, on Government shareholding, where in the documents referred to in the answer information is given on *(a)* what happens if the board of directors decides to pass the preference dividends and *(b)* whether the lost dividend will be recoverable for the public purse. [256409]

Angela Eagle: On 1 December 2008, the Government purchased both 22.8 billion RBS ordinary shares at 65.5p and five million RBS preference shares at £1,000 each. On 19 January 2009, the Government, in consultation with UKFI, agreed to convert the RBS preference shares, plus accrued coupon and underwriting fees, into ordinary shares. The Government will acquire those that are not bought by existing shareholders in the placing and open offer process. The placing price is 31.75p.

As of 15 January 2009, immediately prior to the merger between Lloyds TSB and HBOS, the Government purchased 2.6 billion Lloyds TSB ordinary shares at £1.733 each and one million Lloyds TSB preference snares at £1,000 each, as well as 7.5 billion HBOS ordinary shares at £1.136 each and three million HBOS preference shares at £1,000 each.

The final placing and open offer agreements have been in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament since 18 November 2008.

Schedule 1 of the preference share agreements makes clear that if a dividend is not paid the preference share holders 'shall have no claim in respect of such non-payment'. It also makes clear that the shares are non-cumulative, and therefore lost dividend is not recoverable.

The preference share dividend was required to be non-cumulative and discretionary to enable the investment to score as the best type of capital (tier one) and thereby to maximise the impact on financial stability.

Banks: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to *(a)* prohibit the payment of bonuses to staff of those banks in which the Government has a majority stake and *(b)* review the levels of remuneration packages awarded to those staff at the end of 2009. [256502]

Angela Eagle: As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of conditions with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme, including restrictions on bonuses for senior executives—both for 2008 (when the Government expect no cash bonuses to be paid to board members) and for remuneration policy going forward, where incentive schemes will be reviewed and linked to long-term value creation, taking proper account of risk. In the future remuneration packages should reflect long-term sustainable success and not simply short-term gains.

Bradford and Bingley

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the decision to nationalise Bradford and Bingley was made. [255440]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor) on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 365W.

Housing Market: Regulation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the status of the consultation on regulation by the Financial Services Authority of house sale and rent-back schemes is; and when a decision is expected. [256185]

Mr. Timms: On 6 February 2009, the Government published a consultation document, proposing that companies offering sale and rent-back agreements are brought within the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation. The consultation will close on 1 May 2009. It is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_sale_rent.htm

The FSA has published a separate consultation alongside on the detail of its proposed new regime, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Policy/CP/2009/09_06.shtml

Income Tax

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are worse off as a result of the abolition of the 10p rate of income tax; and if he will make a statement. [255818]

Mr. Timms: An assessment of the impact of the Budget 2007 personal tax changes, and the subsequent reforms made to income tax, were included in the 2008 pre Budget report at paragraph 5.10.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 24 October 2008 from the hon. Member for North Norfolk. [256011]

Angela Eagle: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 13 November 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on NDFA investments via Lehman Brothers Treasury Company BV, Netherlands, PO reference: 1/63049/2008. [256810]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by HM Revenue and Customs. [255932]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property it occupies that requires a display energy certificate; that is, those of 1,000 square metres or above.

Revenue and Customs: Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what administrative financial penalties may be levied by HM Revenue and Customs. [253601]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) administer almost 20 different taxes and duties and several other collection and payment regimes such as tax credits, national insurance and child benefit. All of the regimes make provision for administrative financial penalties to underpin compliance.

Financial penalties are levied to address non-compliant behaviour in the following areas:

Failure to notify taxable activity;

Late filing or non-filing of returns;

Late or non-payment of taxes, duties and national insurance contributions;

Errors on returns due to negligence, carelessness or deliberate action;

Failure to provide information or to make business premises and records available for inspection;

Regime specific contraventions such as unauthorised issue of VAT invoices or unauthorised use of a customs warehouse.

The numerous existing regime specific penalties are being replaced by a smaller number of new generic administrative financial penalties, with no penalty charged for mistakes where the taxpayer has taken reasonable care. Significant reductions will be available for those who make unprompted disclosures, with smaller reductions for prompted disclosures. Most penalties will be charged as a percentage of the tax under-declared.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the proposed closure of the HM Revenue and Customs offices at *(a)* Regian House, Liverpool, *(b)* Dukes House, Southport and *(c)* Birchen House, Birkenhead. [256520]

Mr. Timms: HMRC announced the planned closure of these three offices in February 2008. While we cannot rule out compulsory redundancies, our aim is to avoid them as far as is reasonably possible, and there have been none so far.

We have set up implementation teams to consider when and how to implement closures and other office changes. They will seek a solution for each member of staff affected, with the first choice being to transfer to another HMRC office. The teams will consult with staff and local unions and advise and support managers and staff affected by planned closures.

Taxation: Personal Savings

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax has been repatriated to the UK by each country adopting the withholding tax option under the EU Savings Tax Directive. [255258]

Mr. Timms: The amounts of tax paid to the United Kingdom by those countries adopting withholding tax under the terms of the European savings directive or equivalent agreements with third party jurisdictions for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are set out in the following tables.

The withholding tax regime is a transitional mechanism. The UK strongly supports, and is promoting internationally, transparency through exchange of information as the way forward in combating cross-border tax evasion.

UK tax year 2005-06, as at January 2009

	Amount of withholding tax			
Country	*£*	*€*	*$*	*Swiss Frs*
EU member state				
Austria	—	213,037.32	—	—
Belgium	—	663,601.22	—	—
Luxembourg	—	1,763,133.54	—	—
Associated and dependent territories				
British Virgin Islands	429.17	0.79	—	—
Gibraltar	87,239.99	—	—	—
Guernsey	2,330,160.03	27,547.26	184,144.79	18,646.36
Isle of Man	6,393,423.50	—	—	—
Jersey	5,513,642.44	101,054.29	922,165.96	815.70
Netherlands Antilles	0	—	—	—
Turks and Caicos Islands	—	—	2,773.51	—
Third party states				
Andorra	—	58,692.81	—	—
Liechtenstein	59,246.58	—	—	—
Monaco	—	372,994.00	—	—
San Marino	—	2,927.53	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	12,965,211.70

UK tax year 2006-07, as at January 2009

	Amount of withholding tax			
Country	*£*	*€*	*$*	*Swiss Frs*
EU member state				
Austria	—	716,410.86	—	—
Belgium	—	1,621,577.96	—	—

UK tax year 2006-07, as at January 2009

	Amount of withholding tax			
Country	*£*	*€*	*$*	*Swiss Frs*
Luxembourg	—	3,868,148.76	—	—
Associated and dependent territories				
British Virgin Islands	1,278.52	158.39	—	—
Gibraltar	421,984.11	—	—	—
Guernsey	7,164,128.93	880,057.37	463,165.62	53,364.21
Isle of Man	9,765,119.30	—	—	—
Jersey	12,795,799.00	242,410.00	2,027,643.00	205.00
Netherlands Antilles	—	—	—	NA gld 1,121.59
Turks and Caicos Islands	—	—	9,331.46	—
Third party states				
Andorra	—	—	—	—
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	371,593.84
Monaco	—	995,583.00	—	—
San Marino	—	11,372.78	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	12,983,994.17

UK tax year 2007-08, as at January 2009

	Amount of withholding tax			
Country	*£*	*€*	*$*	*Swiss Frs*
EU member state				
Austria	—	1,086,497.75	—	—
Belgium	—	2,224,448.73	—	—
Luxembourg	—	3,812,286.91	—	—
Associated and dependent territories				
British Virgin Islands	—	1.47	3,748.23	1,397.87
Gibraltar	—	—	—	—
Guernsey	7,471,670.19	800,818.05	289,957.60	59,219.53
Isle of Man	10,699,869.08	—	—	—
Jersey	15,546,309.00	402,977.00	2,125,508.00	2,127.00
Netherlands Antilles	—	—	—	NAgld 1,466.73
Turks and Caicos Islands	4,972.36	—	—	—
Third party states				
Andorra	—	200,492.80	—	—
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	542,534.00
Monaco	—	1,067,492.00	—	—
San Marino	9,961.44	—	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	40,227,819.75

VAT: Channel Islands

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on value added tax (VAT) revenue of VAT-free goods coming through the Channel Islands into the UK in each of the last three financial years. [256410]

Mr. Timms: We estimate that the cost of the Low Value Consignment Relief on imports from the Channel Islands was around £70 million in 2006-07 and £80 million in 2007-08.

Insufficient data are available to produce comparable estimates for the year 2005-06.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to prevent value added tax-free goods entering the UK from the Channel Islands. [256476]

Mr. Timms: Over the last three years the Government have worked with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey to address this issue. As a result, and to avoid potential damage to their international reputation, the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey have taken a number of steps to restrain the exploitation of the low value consignment VAT relief by UK companies. These are set out in detail in my speech to the House on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 275-76.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants resident in Hemel Hempstead were overpaid tax credits in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [256486]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely annual cost to the public purse of extending the working tax credit scheme to 18 to 25-year-olds; and if he will make a statement. [253297]

Mr. Timms: The annual cost of extending working tax credit to 18 to 25-year-olds is estimated to be around £285 million in 2009-10.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity: Departmental Coordination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the January meeting of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity was postponed; how often meetings of the group are scheduled to be held; when the group's next meeting will be held; and what matters will be considered at that meeting. [255919]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The January meeting of the Inter Departmental Ministerial Group on biodiversity (IDMGb) was regrettably postponed because of a clash with other parliamentary business. However, the topics for discussion at the IDMGb were addressed over the subsequent week by correspondence between myself and the relevant Ministers from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Gommonweath Office (FCO).

Meetings of the IDMGb were originally intended to take place at intervals of six to nine months, but in practice have occurred less frequently, and more on the basis of clearly identified need. We are aiming to hold the next meeting in the spring, when the Government's proposed strategy for the conservation of biodiversity in the UK overseas territories will be discussed.

Farms: Inspections

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed to conduct farm inspections by each inspection body for which his Department is responsible in each of the last five years. [240666]

Jane Kennedy: The Veterinary Medicine Directorate employs five inspectors. This has been the case for the last five years.

The Plant Health Seed Inspectorate year-end figures for the last five years are:

Year end March	*Number*
2003-04	92
2004-05	95
2005-06	94
2006-07	90
2007-08	75

Over the past five years, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has employed between 265 and 278 (full-time equivalent) (FTE) inspectors to conduct a range of farm and trader inspections under Common Agricultural Policy and United Kingdom schemes. Most of these inspectors are multi-skilled, trained to conduct single payment scheme and cross-compliance inspections, including livestock identification inspections, as well as rural development scheme inspections on behalf of Natural England. The number of farm inspectors, on an FTE basis, employed by RPA at the end of each of the last five financial years is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	265
2005-06	266
2006-07	277
2007-08	278
December 2008	265

Central Science Laboratory's GM Inspectorate undertakes field inspection where consents for release of genetically modified organisms for research purposes have been granted by the Secretary of State under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the

Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002. Research

trials may be carried out on premises such as private farms and research institutes.

Details of full-time equivalent staff employed in the GM Inspectorate in each of the last five years are given in the table.

	Full time equivalents
2004-05	5.01
2005-06	3.40
2006-07	1.94
2007-08	0.11
2008-09	[1]0.33

[1] To 31 November 2008

The number of staff employed by Animal Health who are available to carry-out inspections/visits are as follows:

	Number
2006	586
2007	653
2008	616

Please note these are a snap-shot at a given point in the year, figures are not available for 2004 (State Veterinary Service—Animal Health's predecessor—was part of DEFRA) and 2005.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed to conduct farm inspections by each inspection body which is the responsibility of his Department in each of the last five years. [241024]

Jane Kennedy: The Veterinary Medicine Directorate employs five inspectors. This has been the case for the last five years.

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Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors were considered before deciding not to include waste reduction through home composting in the landfill allowance trading scheme targets. [252727]

Jane Kennedy: A robust mechanism for determining the amount of waste diverted by home composting would be necessary to enable home composting to be included in the landfill allowance trading scheme. When the targets were set this was not available and that remains the case.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 24 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 853-854W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, which organisations are flagged as having an interest in the new charges for the collection of household waste on his Department's shared stakeholders database. [252203]

Jane Kennedy: The shared stakeholders database indicates the organisations from all interested sectors that responded to DEFRA's incentives for recycling by households consultation in May 2007.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the agreement between the International Security Assistance Force and the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan to be finalised; and what his assessment is of the effect of not having an agreement on on-going military and civilian operations in Afghanistan. [251648]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

While there is no specific agreement between the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL), ISAF has procedures in place to provide support to other international organisations including EUPOL if needed.

EUPOL and ISAF continue to co-ordinate closely in theatre. Furthermore, there is much work involved in arranging technical arrangements between the two organisations, especially given that many ISAF members are contributing to EUPOL.

Nevertheless, the UK continues to emphasise to EU member states and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies the importance of improved EU-NATO co-ordination.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which organisation has managed each project funded by his Department in Helmand province since 2005; what the budget of each was; how much has been spent in each case; what monitoring, impact assessments and evaluations have been undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [245775]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs gave on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*; column 1202W.

Military Aircraft: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much training Royal Air Force *(a)* navigators and *(b)* flight engineers receive for their performance of those roles each year. [254921]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Aircrew are monitored for competency levels throughout their flying career and training continues for front-line aircrew after the initial award of Combat Ready status. The majority of flying training is achieved during routine flying hours and all flying tasks include an element of aircrew training; therefore it is not possible to show average flying training hours separately. All aircrew undertake regular periodic assessment by an appropriate examining body.

Multi-engine aircraft, Hercules C130K, VC10, Sentry, Sentinel R1, Nimrod R1, Nimrod MR2, have both Weapons System Officers (Navigator) (WSO(Nav)) and Flight Engineers as part of their crew. Tristar aircraft have only Flight Engineers. Figures for the average hours of flying for crews of the Sentinel R1 aircraft are not provided as the aircraft came into service only in November 2008. All figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five.

Type of aircraft	*Average hours of flying for crews in financial year 2007-08*
Hercules C130K	305
VC10	390
Sentry	200
Sentinel R1	[1]—
Nimrod R1	470
Nimrod MR2	290
Tristar	410

[1] Not available.

Fast jet aircraft in the RAF fleet which have Navigators are shown in the following table. The allocated number of flying hours per crew flown in financial year 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

Type of aircraft	*Allocated hours of flying for crews in financial year 2007-08*
Tornado GR4	210
Tornado F3	210

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training sorties for the *(a)* Hercules C-130, *(b)* Tristar, *(c)* VC-10 and *(d)* C-17 Globemaster were cancelled in each of the last two years. [255627]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Weapons

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Orion laser is capable of *(a)* developing the nuclear warheads for the new generation of nuclear submarines and *(b)* producing warheads compatible with future US-designed missiles. [256194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In the nuclear test ban era, laser physics is one of the principal areas of research essential to underwrite the safety and reliability of the UK's nuclear warhead stockpile. High-powered lasers enable the replication in the laboratory of the physical conditions present in a nuclear detonation on a minute scale, over a tiny fraction of a second.

The Atomic Weapons Establishment's HELEN laser has been operating for over 25 years and is now reaching the end of its technically useful working life. Its replacement, Orion, will enable us to continue to underwrite the safety and reliability of the Trident stockpile through the remainder of its service life.

There is currently no programme to develop a new UK warhead, although decisions are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

Whilst not specifically designed for the purpose, the Orion laser could have utility in any research employing laser physics in support of any possible future warhead design.

Warships

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on warships, what assessment the Royal Navy made of the merits of *(a)* compiling a shortlist of tenderers for the contract entitled Vessel Requirement S&MO CB/3193 and *(b)* inviting tenderers to visit the Falkland Islands to enable clear visibility of the requirement before being given the opportunity to revise or confirm any bid. [256667]

Mr. Quentin Davies: 13 companies submitted tenders for the provision of harbour support and coastal re-supply services to the Falkland Islands. In accordance with MOD and EU commercial regulations, as well as best practice, all tenders were evaluated against declared technical and commercial evaluation criteria. The three best tenders were subsequently short listed and these companies were offered the opportunity to visit the Falkland Islands but all three declined.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on warships, what steps the Royal Navy took to assess tenderers for the contract entitled Vessel Requirement S&MO CB/3193 according to their understanding of the project requirement; what visits were made to the site for this purpose; and on what dates the requirement was discussed with the officer responsible for this operation. [256668]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Tenderers for the provision of harbour support and coastal re-supply services to the Falkland Islands were assessed against pre-determined technical and commercial evaluation criteria that were supplied to the companies when they were invited to bid for the requirement.

The tender evaluation panel included personnel who have visited the Falkland Islands on a number of occasions and who have therefore built up a good working knowledge of the requirement. The views of MOD personnel based on the Islands, who are responsible for the day to day operation of the service, were also obtained.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 1407W, on warships, what plans the Royal Navy have to proceed with the award of the contract entitled Vessel Requirement S&MO CB/3193 to Van Wijingaarden Marine Services B.V.; and what account the Royal Navy has taken of the expert opinion on the suitability of the interim vessel delivered on 2 February. [256669]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The contract for the provision of harbour support and coastal re-supply services to the Falkland Islands was awarded to Van Wijingaarden Marine Services B.V. on 23 January 2009 and the service is due to commence on 1 April 2009. Under the contract, the company will provide a temporary vessel which will result in an acceptable provision of an interim service until the arrival of new permanent vessels which are in the process of being built. As was made clear to all bidders in clarification advice that was provided to them during the tendering process, MOD recognised that complete solutions may not be in place before the contract was awarded and that interim solutions would therefore be acceptable.

A number of expert opinions, including from MOD personnel who are responsible for the day to day operation of the service, were sought about Van Wijingaarden's proposals for fulfilling the contract.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 1407W, on warships, for what reason the requirements of the Royal Navy contract entitled Specialist Vessel Requirement S&MO CB/3193 were changed to a tugging contract after the tender had been awarded. [256670]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The tugging elements of the requirement for the provision of harbour support and coastal re-supply services to the Falkland Islands have not changed since they were specified in the invitations to tender that were issued in October 2008.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 February 2009

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proposals for capture of carbon dioxide emissions the Government has approved in each of the last five years; what recent assessment he has made of the commercial viability of carbon capture technology; and if he will make a statement. [253698]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: The Government fund projects on CO_2 capture via the DIUS funded Research Council's Energy Programme and the Technology Strategy Board. In addition, DECC provides support via the Environmental Transformation Programme.

The Research Councils support wide-ranging underpinning research and training in carbon capture and storage (CCS) through the Research Councils' Energy Programme and through their individual programmes. In the last five years 25 projects covering CCS totalling over £23 million have been funded, of which around 18 include $C0_2$ capture technologies. In addition CCS research is carried out at institutes and centres supported by the Research Councils, in particular NERC's British Geological Survey and Plymouth Marine Laboratory. Fundamental research is also supported by the councils which may feed in over the longer term to CCS technologies.

The TSB has identified carbon abatement technologies as a priority for funding and currently supports 11 projects with grant funding of £6.4 million, of which eight projects are specifically on capture technologies.

DECC's ETF supports one oxy-fuel combustion project under the Carbon Abatement Technologies demonstration programme with grant funding of £2.2 million.

There are three options for capturing carbon dioxide emissions; post-combustion, pre-combustion and oxy-fuel combustion. The Government have not undertaken a comparative assessment of the commercial viability of these options, although other organisations such McKinsey and Company have done some analysis

http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/ccsi/pdf/CCS_Assessing_the_Economics.pdf.

The Government support the demonstration of all these technology options globally to meet our objective for carbon capture and storage technology to become commercially viable by 2020.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans the Government has to meet the EU's 20 per cent. carbon dioxide emissions reduction target by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [255391]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: The Climate Change Act 2008 puts in place a system of five-year carbon budgets that will set a legally binding limit on UK greenhouse gas emissions. Following advice from the Committee on Climate Change received in December 2008, the Government will set the levels of the first three carbon budgets, covering the period 2008 to 2022, by 1 June 2009. These must set with a view to complying with our European obligations, including the 2020 targets.

As the Act requires, the Government will lay a report before Parliament setting out their proposals and policies for meeting the first three carbon budgets in mid-2009. A key instrument to reduce emissions will be the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The combination of a more ambitious, EU-wide cap on emissions with an annually declining trajectory to 2020 and beyond will ensure that emissions reductions from the EU ETS will correspond to approximately two thirds of the effort the EU will need to make to reach the 20 per cent. target by 2020.

Coal: Imports

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Castle Point of 27 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 419W, on coal: imports, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the amount of energy consumed and *(b)* the volume of carbon dioxide emissions produced in transporting the coal imported into the UK in 2007. [254048]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 5 February 2009]*: These estimates are not available. This is because we do not know all the details of the transport or other operations in the countries of origin, which will affect the energy consumed and hence the emissions.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what efficiency savings have been made by his Department since its creation. [255198]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As for all Departments, the Department of Energy and Climate Change will be required by HM Treasury under the terms of its comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement to deliver 5 per cent. per annum real efficiency savings in 2009-10 and 2010-11 compared to the baseline budget set for 2008-09. The administration budget for 2008-09 will be set in the upcoming spring supplementary estimate.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, agencies and non-departmental bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251485]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change brought forward £50 million of capital expenditure on the Warm Front programme from 2010-11 into 2009-10 and received additional funding of £50 million for 2008-09 and £50 million for 2009-10, also on the Warm Front programme, to support the economy, as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Departmental Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department will establish a performance and efficiency programme. [255161]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Establishing a performance and efficiency programme is a key priority for DECC for 2009-10. This will follow on from the completion of the business planning exercise currently being conducted following the agreement of DECC's budgets for the remainder of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises since his Department was established. [251879]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the policy of his Department is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252033]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The final details of staff transferring from these Departments are yet to be confirmed.

However, it has not been the policy of these Departments to manage and monitor time off in lieu centrally. Authority is delegated to local line managers. The Department would incur a disproportionate cost if it were to manage this process centrally.

Energy Supply

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the agenda and *(b)* the minutes of the meeting he held with the main energy supply companies on 17 November 2008. [242486]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 14-15WS in which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State reported to the House on the outcome of the 17 November meeting.

Energy: Billing

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to ensure that prepayment customers pay no more for their energy bills than those who are billed quarterly. [253975]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: Ofgem, the independent regulator, has investigated the charges for different payment methods made by supply companies as part of their recent probe into retail gas and electricity markets. It is now consulting publicly on remedies to prevent energy supply companies from charging unjustified premia for payment methods such as pre-payment meters. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for DECC has; already told the House that should a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue not be reached by Ofgem and the companies, he will not hesitate to legislate.

Energy: Housing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effects of power line communications in the home, as used by smart meters, on shortwave radio users. [254604]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not carried out such an assessment.

As with all electrical and electronic products sold in the United Kingdom, Power Line Communications equipment is required to meet the relevant regulations before it can be placed on the market. In particular, it must comply with the Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2006 (the EMC Regulations). The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is responsible for the EMC Regulations. Enforcement powers are delegated to local Trading Standards offices and to Ofcom where there is a radio spectrum protection or management issue.

The Government announced in October last year our intention to mandate the installation of smart meters in all households, with an indicative timetable of the end of 2020 for completion of the roll-out. Detailed work will be required on a range of issues, including communications technologies, in preparation for roll-out.

Energy: Meters

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce the public consultation on the roll-out of smart meters. [255842]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: The Government announced on 28 October last year that we will mandate the provision of smart meters to all households. We are currently considering a range of policy issues which need to be developed further in preparation for the roll out of smart meters. We will make further announcements on these issues and the next steps towards roll out when we are able to do so.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make arrangements for steel manufacturers to have access to energy supplies at sub-market prices. [253485]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has no plans to make arrangements for steel manufacturers to have access to energy supplies at sub-market prices.

The UK has an energy market, regulated by Ofgem, who aim to ensure consumers benefit from energy prices set in a competitive market.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much from the Environmental Transformation Fund has *(a)* been allocated and *(b)* disbursed since its inception; what criteria will be used to determine the disbursal of funds unallocated to date; when those funds will be allocated; whether such funds will be disbursed as grants; and through which bilateral and multilateral organisations such funding will be disbursed. [256671]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK (DFID and DECC) has allocated the full £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund to the World Bank administered Climate Investment Funds.

The first instalment of funds (£100 million) will be disbursed to the Climate Investment Funds once the trust fund arrangement with the World Bank has been approved and signed by the UK (DFID and DECC).

The World Bank Climate Investment Funds secretariat will draw down on the £100 million (and further disbursements from the £800 million) in accordance with a pre-agreed encashment schedule.

The UK expects that up to 10 per cent. of the £800 million contribution to the fund will be disbursed as grants.

The funds will be managed by the World Bank with individual programmes implemented through any one of the multilateral development banks. We expect UN agencies to participate as delivery agents in country.

Fuel Poverty: Expenditure

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the fund established to assist fuel poor individuals has been spent to date. [244696]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 December 2009]:* The £1 billion Home Energy Saving Programme announced by the Prime Minister on 11 September 2008 included new obligations on energy suppliers and electricity generators to improve household energy efficiency (estimated to be worth around £910 million) and £90 million of additional Government funding (£74 million for the warm front scheme and £16 million for cold weather payments).

From 1 October 2008 to 25 January 2009 the warm front scheme spent approximately £43 million (86 per cent.) of the extra £50 million provided for 2008-09. An estimated 5.8 million cold weather payments have been made this winter, totalling more than £145 million.

Government will shortly be consulting on the detailed provisions of the new energy efficiency obligations on the energy suppliers and electricity generators.

Natural Gas: Asia

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking with his EU counterparts to develop the southern corridor for gas supplies from Central Asia. [255195]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The EU has identified diversification of the sources of EU energy supply as a top priority. In this context, it identified the 'Southern Corridor' as a project of European interest in 2007, and appointed a European Co-ordinator. This commitment was underlined in the Commission's Second Strategic Energy Review of November 2008, which recognised the corridor as a priority project and proposed specific actions to aid its progress. At the Extraordinary Energy Council on 12 January 2009 member states again confirmed that diversification of routes and sources of supply must be a major criterion for selecting projects for European support. Additionally the Southern Corridor is a priority for the Czech presidency who will hold a high-level meeting on the subject in May.

The UK fully supports the development of a southern corridor for gas and continues to actively engage with EU partners and countries in the region to help make the concept a reality. The UK will continue to underline its importance to European colleagues at this month's Energy Council, and future EU meetings, as well as continuing to work closely with supply countries in the region on a bi-lateral basis

Recycling: Oils

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the production of renewable fuels from recycled cooking oil using gravity separation and filtration techniques; and if he will make a statement. [251153]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The renewable transport fuel obligation requires suppliers of fossil fuel to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply is renewable fuel. Under the scheme biodiesel made from waste cooking oil is an eligible renewable fuel.

The Renewable Fuel Agency administers the scheme and their January quarterly report summarises data on fuel supplied between April and October 2008. This report indicates that used cooking oil made up 3 per cent. (22 million litres) of the biofuel supplied over this period to meet the obligation. Their report is available on the RFA website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/

Serco

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the value was of his Department's contracts held with SERCO since his Department was established. [253256]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: The Department is not at present party to any contracts, as the Transfer of Function Order related to the creation of DECC has not yet come into force. Existing contracts related to energy and climate change matters will remain with BERR and Defra respectively until the Transfer of Function Order comes into force.

Street Lighting

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects Ofgem to make an announcement following its consideration of proposals for central monitoring systems for street lights. [250761]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: In April 2008 Ofgem issued an open letter that sought views regarding whether it should seek to facilitate the development of Central Management Systems (CMS). Although there was substantial stakeholder engagement with the consultation, there was no clear consensus on whether there was a need for the changes proposed. I understand, therefore, that Ofgem is currently considering the way forward.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 18 years and more and (ii) 17 years and less were admitted to each hospital in England in each of the last five years with an alcohol-related reason for the admission, broken down by primary care trust. [255752]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables which give the numbers of alcohol-related finished admissions by primary care trust (PCT) of residence and health care provider for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07, broken down by age and sex have been placed in the Library. These are the last five years for which data are available.

Some PCT boundaries changed between 2002-03 and 2003-04 and between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Separate breakdowns have been provided for PCT of residence and healthcare provider, rather than a combined breakdown, to reduce the amount of information that has to be suppressed to prevent the disclosure of personal information.

Alcoholism: Health Services

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to assess the effectiveness of alcohol rehabilitation services in each strategic health authority. [255317]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs), local social services authorities, and their partner agencies to estimate the level and nature of need for alcohol treatment services for their local populations and the effectiveness of the services that they commission to meet these needs, as part of local commissioning.

From April 2008, a new indicator became part of both National Health Service Vital Signs and the National Indicator Set for Local Area Agreements. This measures change in the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions and will help PCTs assess the effectiveness of the services that they are commissioning in relation to alcohol treatment. There are 99 PCTs and 76 local authorities which have included this indicator as one of their local priorities, setting out local targets and plans for reducing alcohol related hospital admissions.

The Department's World Class Commissioning Programme will drive forward real improvements in how services (including alcohol treatment services) are commissioned resulting in tangible improvements in outcomes and patient experience.

Autism: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to address the needs of children with high levels of autistic traits in the North East. [254894]

Phil Hope: The Department is taking forward a programme of work to benefit children and adults with autistic spectrum conditions in all parts of the country, including the North East.

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (NSF), published in 2004, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, included a series of exemplar patient journeys. These illustrated some of the key themes in the NSF and showed how some children and young people might access the services they need. One such exemplar covered children with autistic spectrum conditions.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W, on blood products, if he will disclose the 35 documents wholly or partly withheld by his Department which relate to the infection of haemophiliacs by contaminated blood products. [256830]

Dawn Primarolo: These 35 documents were the only papers out of some 4,500 that were, after careful consideration, withheld under an exemption in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The exemptions that applied are:

Section 38—Health and Safety—10 documents or part documents;

Section 40—Personal information—nine documents or part documents;

Section 42—Legal professional privilege—nine documents or part documents; and

Section 43—Commercial interests—seven documents or part documents.

For the avoidance of any continuing doubt in this matter, and given the time that has now elapsed, I have asked the Department's officials to review the seven documents withheld under Section 43 (Commercial interests), to see if there is another way that this information can be placed in the public domain.

In relation to the other three categories, these documents have been withheld for reasons that are clearly provided for within the FOI Act, and not in any way to withhold relevant information on the subject of contamination of blood and blood products.

Blood: Diseases

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include provisions for care for Thalassaemia within his Department's standards for clinical care. [255387]

Ann Keen: The UK Thalassaemia Society produced, "Standards for the Clinical Care of Children and Adults with Thalassaemia in the UK" in June 2005 and updated them in October 2008.

The Department supports this document and encourages the national health service to use it.

Cancer: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve provision of the cancer services in Coventry. [255354]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007, sets out guidance to the local national health service on how to improve cancer prevention, speed up the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, reduce inequalities, improve the experience of people living with and beyond cancer, ensure care is delivered in the most appropriate settings and ensure patients can access effective new treatments quickly. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to use the funds made available to them and work in partnership with strategic health authorities, local services, cancer networks and other local stakeholders to deliver these aims. Information on the work being done in the Coventry area can be obtained direct from Coventry Teaching PCT.

Through the Cancer Reform Strategy's National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, the Department, in partnership with Cancer Research UK, is co-ordinating a programme to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness, and encourage people to seek help early.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to extend the vascular checks programme beyond GP surgeries; [255744]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of carrying out vascular risk assessments and measurements in the workplace as part of the health, work and well-being strategy; [255746]

(3) in what setting vascular risk assessments and measurements will be provided for people between the ages of 40 and 74 years. [256014]

Ann Keen: The vascular checks programme has been designed to be undertaken in a variety of settings to ensure that those who are not regularly in touch with formal health care can access the programme. Primary care trusts will commission the programme to reflect the needs of their population and how they access services. Primary care trusts may, therefore, commission the service from general practitioners, pharmacies or other providers which their target group access. This could include running the programme in a workplace setting.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how people aged between 40 and 74 years old will be notified that they are eligible for vascular risk assessments and measurements. [255745]

Ann Keen: As part of preparing primary care trusts for implementation, the Department will make available a standard invitation letter and leaflet about the vascular checks programme. Until the national call and recall system is developed, primary care trusts will decide locally who and how to call people first. Current vascular checks type activity across the country suggests that for some populations other methods of invitation e.g. through telephone calls generate a better take up. Working through NHS Improvement, we are making available learning on this and other aspects of the programme across the country. Once the call and recall system is developed, people will recalled every five years for their check.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to measure the level of uptake of vascular risk assessment and measurements amongst people between the ages of 40 to 74 years; [255747]

(2) whether all primary care trusts in England will be required to implement the vascular checks programme from 1 April 2009. [256013]

Ann Keen: Many primary care trusts, especially in spearhead areas, already have vascular checks type programmes in place. The implementation of the vascular checks programme will be phased during 2009-10. All primary care trusts will be expected to have undertaken some activity to support the programme during this period. We are working with strategic health authorities to ensure all primary care trusts implement the programme. We are developing an evaluation strategy that will provide information on the rate and mode of implementation. As part of the evaluation, we will look at uptake amongst groups less likely to participate in the programme and those particularly likely to benefit since they are inherently likely to be at higher risk. These groups will vary from primary care trusts to primary care trusts.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking in the implementation of the vascular checks programme *(a)* to ensure that hard-to-reach groups receive checks and *(b)* to evaluate uptake among these groups; [255748]

(2) what role the vascular checks programme will have in reducing health inequalities; and if he will make a statement. [256012]

Ann Keen: The vascular checks programme has the potential to reduce health inequalities and has been designed to form part of the Department's overall programme for tackling them. The assessment element of the programme has been designed to be undertaken in a variety of settings to help to ensure that everyone who is eligible can access the programme. In November 2008 the Department issued guidance to primary care trusts Next Steps' guidance for Primary Care Trusts which underlines the need for them to commission a programme that tackles and reduces health inequalities. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of care home residents were asked to pay a top-up fee in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England in each year since 2004. [257202]

Phil Hope: Information about top-up fees is not collected centrally. However, according to the Office of Fair Trading report, "Survey of Older People in Care Homes", published in May 2005, 33 per cent. of the 382 United Kingdom local authority funded residents interviewed said part of their fees were paid as a third party contribution or top-up.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of care homes did not meet each of the National Minimum Standards for care homes in the year ended 31 March 2008. [255595]

Phil Hope: I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that its inspectors assess the performance of care homes against each national minimum standard (NMS) and rate them on a four-point scale. A score of 4 indicates that a standard has been exceeded. A score of 3 shows that it has been met. A score of 2 denotes that the standard has not been met with minor shortfalls—this indicates that one of the numerous subsections in the standard has not been completely met. A score of 1 means the standard has not been met.

The following tables show the scores of care homes against the NMS for care homes for younger adults and older people, broken down by number and percentage, for the year ending 31 March 2008.

Scores against NMS for care homes for younger adults as at 31 March 2008

	Score1 Standard not met		Score-2 Standard not met with minor shortfalls		Score-3 Standard met		Score-4 Standard exceeded	
NMS heading	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Information	123	2	1,403	20	5,125	73	349	5
Needs assessment	73	1	567	8	6,175	83	668	9
Meeting needs	139	2	599	9	5,487	84	297	5
Introductory visits	35	1	200	3	5,985	91	359	5
Contract	195	3	1,161	17	5,148	78	131	2
Service user plan	162	2	1,716	23	4,567	61	1,074	14
Decision making	57	1	614	8	5,939	79	907	12
Participation	55	1	533	8	5,436	83	505	8
Risk taking	116	2	1,160	15	5,561	74	677	9
Confidentiality	53	1	507	8	5,633	90	96	2
Personal development	62	1	429	6	5,337	82	682	10
Education and occupation	40	1	567	8	5,670	75	1,234	16
Community links and social inclusion	45	1	491	7	5,915	79	1,064	14
Leisure	72	1	676	10	5,145	75	948	14
Relationships	4	0	158	2	6,980	87	782	10
Daily routines	38	1	382	5	6,186	82	895	12
Meals and mealtimes	43	1	564	8	6,167	82	733	10
Personal support	43	1	451	6	6,155	82	868	12
Healthcare	55	1	711	9	5,898	78	856	11
Medication	160	2	1,865	25	5,193	69	299	4
Ageing and death	76	1	686	12	4,901	83	259	4
Concerns and complaints	31	0	701	9	6,427	83	367	5
Protection	146	2	1,229	16	5,839	78	312	4
Premises	207	3	1,967	26	4,714	63	669	9
Space requirements	55	1	456	7	5,748	87	381	6
Furniture and fittings	84	1	878	13	5,355	80	336	5
Toilets and bathrooms	170	3	1,072	16	5,123	77	266	4
Shared space	74	1	733	11	5,469	85	338	5
Adaptations and equipment	52	1	616	10	5,235	85	189	3
Hygiene and control of infection	68	1	841	11	6,161	82	462	6

Scores against NMS for care homes for younger adults as at 31 March 2008[1]

	Score1 Standard not met		Score-2 Standard not met with minor shortfalls		Score-3 Standard met		Score-4 Standard exceeded	
NMS heading	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Roles	78	1	459	7	5,621	90	120	2
Qualities and qualifications	79	1	1,109	15	5,486	73	796	11
Staff team	228	3	1,373	20	4,951	72	289	4
Recruitment	257	3	1,298	17	5,567	75	340	5
Training and development	130	2	1,470	20	5,239	70	624	8
Supervision and support	179	3	1,211	18	5,046	75	312	5
Day to day operations	152	2	1,273	17	5,231	70	863	11
Ethos	109	2	434	7	5,176	81	679	11
Quality assurance	177	2	1,657	22	5,061	67	603	8
Policies and procedures	106	2	1,193	19	4,891	78	87	1
Record keeping	223	3	1,629	26	4,423	69	103	2
Safe working practices	182	2	1,843	25	5,185	69	302	4
Conduct of the service	182	3	964	16	4,783	80	70	1

[1] Data shown are for care homes which were active at 31 March 2008 and had been inspected against the NMS for care homes for younger adults at some point prior.

Note:

Percentage scores are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

Source:

CSCI database.

Scores against NMS for care homes for older people as at 31 March 2008[1]

	Score-1 Standard not met		Score-2 Standard not met with minor shortfalls		Score-3 Standard met		Score-4 Standard exceeded	
NMS heading	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Information	198	2	1,778	18	7,362	76	380	4
Contract	136	1	1,269	14	7,720	84	115	1
Needs assessment	138	1	1,079	10	8,466	82	670	6
Meeting needs	257	3	1,171	13	7,230	80	336	4
Trial visits	18	0	218	2	8,503	95	211	2
Intermediate care	80	4	157	7	1,798	84	101	5
Service user plan	367	4	3,541	34	5,691	55	782	8
Healthcare	186	2	1,551	15	7,760	75	882	8
Medication	415	4	3,044	29	6,665	64	250	2
Privacy and dignity	87	1	860	8	8,566	83	854	8
Dying and death	64	1	867	10	7,214	84	481	6
Social contact and activities	178	2	2,194	21	6,452	62	1,557	15
Community contact	6	0	246	2	9,157	88	962	9
Autonomy and choice	55	1	808	8	8,692	84	813	8
Meals and mealtimes	83	1	1,205	12	7,718	74	1,371	13
Complaints	89	1	920	9	8,983	87	390	4
Rights	34	0	273	3	7,975	96	49	1
Protection	203	2	1,597	15	8,316	80	264	3
Premises	264	3	2,532	24	6,530	63	1,057	10
Shared facilities	106	1	1,051	11	7,421	81	601	7
Lavatories and washing facilities	242	3	1,695	19	6,866	75	359	4
Adaptations and equipment	212	2	1,703	19	6,910	76	232	3
Space requirements	54	1	604	7	7,839	88	403	5
Furniture and fittings	133	1	1,659	18	7,010	75	493	5
Heating and lighting	305	3	1,917	21	6,679	73	255	3
Hygiene and infection control	169	2	1,694	16	7,693	74	822	8
Staff complement	273	3	1,636	16	7,950	77	519	5
Qualifications	100	1	1,510	15	7,456	72	1,236	12
Recruitment	473	5	2,064	20	7,478	72	350	3
Staff training	249	2	2,197	21	7,087	68	835	8
Day to day operations	284	3	1,663	16	7,176	69	1,249	12
Ethos	199	2	842	9	6,959	78	945	11
Quality assurance	287	3	2,193	21	7,017	68	858	8
Financial procedures	172	2	769	9	7,108	88	63	1
Service user money	70	1	649	6	9,255	91	192	2

Scores against NMS for care homes for older people as at 31 March 2008[1]

	Score-1 Standard not met		*Score-2 Standard not met with minor shortfalls*		*Score-3 Standard met*		*Score-4 Standard exceeded*	
NMS heading	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Staff supervision	443	5	2,494	26	6,345	67	192	2
Record keeping	440	5	2,559	29	5,789	65	116	1
Safe working practices	386	4	2,703	26	6,878	66	415	4

[1] Data shown are for care homes which were active at 31 March 2008 and had been inspected against the NMS for care homes for older people at some point prior.

Note:

Percentage scores are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

Source:

CSCI database.

Carers

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carers in each county were *(a)* offered and *(b)* provided with an assessment of their needs in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [255542]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care collects and publishes information on the number of carers offered and receiving assessments or reviews from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs). Data are not collected on a county basis.

Data for assessments only are not collected centrally. A table which shows how many carers have been offered an assessment or review of their needs and how many carers, by CASSRs, have had an assessment of their needs from 2005-06 to 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

Charity Research Support Fund

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the effectiveness of the formula used to distribute funds from the Charity Research Support Fund. [256514]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides a Quality Related (QR) block grant for research to higher education institutions in England. The QR grant is determined by adding together a number of elements. The "charity support element" is calculated by reference to institutions' levels of charitable research income. The funding that arises from this calculation is distributed to institutions within their overall QR block grant rather than as a separate fund. The detail of the QR formula is for HEFCE to determine.

Childbirth

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the risks of caesarean section delivery for *(a)* all women and *(b)* obese women; [256243]

(2) how many women with a body mass index greater than 30 have received *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency caesarean section operations in each of the last five years. [256244]

Ann Keen: The most recent assessment of the risks of caesarean sections was set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on caesarean section, published in 2004. The guidance does not suggest significantly greater risk for obese patients although it should be recognised that surgery generally carries greater risk for obese women. We do not collect centrally any statistics on the body mass index of patients undergoing different procedures .

The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health are currently undertaking a project (2008-10) which will cover all maternity units in the United Kingdom. It includes:

a national survey of maternity services for women with obesity;

the development of consensus standards for care; and

a national audit to:

1. determine prevalence of maternal obesity (BMI greater than 35) and
2. assess maternity care against consensus standards.

Dementia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with dementia in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [254892]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have information on the number of people who have been diagnosed with dementia. However, the Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society, estimated that there are currently around 570,000 people in England.

The General Practitioner Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for England has recorded the number of people with a diagnosis of dementia but this is available for only 2006-07 and 2007-08.

We are unable to supply information for all the areas requested as some are not health areas. Where this occurs we have supplied information for the health areas that best fit those requested.

The figures are given in the following table.

Financial year	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Stockton on Tees Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	745	737
Middlesbrough PCT	487	524
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	629	575
North East Strategic Health Authority	12,420	12,128

[1] This PCT was formerly known as North Tees.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* postcode location of each NHS dentist listed on the NHS choices website is. [255305]

Ann Keen: The NHS Choices service, launched in June 2007, is the Department's and National Health Service's primary online service to the public for health related information and advice. All data records published via NHS Choices, including 7,685 NHS Dentists with their contact details and location, are freely available to the public via the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk.

The name and postcode location of each NHS dentist listed on NHS Choices has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256208]

Mr. Bradshaw: A full identity and nationality check is carried out using documentary evidence prior to all appointments to the Department. A record of nationality is kept on individuals' hard-copy personnel files. The level of detail recorded on our central human resource information system is not sufficient to answer this question and it would involve disproportionate costs to examine all relevant individual files.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255230]

Mr. Bradshaw: No.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new recruits his Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff, and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the total number of civil servants recruited to the Department in the years from 2005-06 to 2007-08. This information is taken from the published annual departmental reports. Information about the number of recruits who were temporary civil servants is not held in a way that can be used to address the question. Information from the Department's human resources (HR) system shows that 201 civil servants have been employed in 2008-09 as at 31 December 2008, of which 36 were temporary.

Financial year	*All civil servants employed by Department*
2007-08	175
2006-07	108
2005-06	162

Prior to 2008, the quality and coverage of information held centrally by the Department on the agency workers it engages was limited and unreliable. With the introduction of a new HR database, our recording has improved, and so far, in 2008-09 the Department has engaged 108 agency workers.

The Department is currently mid way through its business planning for 2009-11 and therefore cannot provide an estimate of likely recruitment for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Diabetes: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years have been diagnosed with diabetes in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [254917]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are some 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority type 1 diabetes), and some experts suggest that there may be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) hospital doctors and (ii) general practitioners working in the NHS who were non-UK nationals in the latest year for which figures are available. [254834]

Ann Keen: Nationality of national health service staff is not collected centrally. The following table shows the number and proportion of hospital doctors and general practitioners (GPs) by country of primary qualification.

General practitioners and hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff by country of primary qualification, England at 30 September 2007

	Number (headcount) and percentage		
	All NHS doctors	*HCHS medical and dental staff*[1]	*General practitioners*
All Countries of Qualification	128,210	91,790	36,420
All Countries of Qualification (excluding unknown staff)	123,802	87,850	35,952
Qualified in United Kingdom	82,957	54,978	27,979
Percentage[2]	67	63	78
Qualified outside UK	40,845	32,872	7,973
Percentage[2]	33	37	22
Unknown[3]	4,408	3,940	468

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[2] This is a percentage of the total staff whose country of primary qualification is known.

[3] All dental staff are shown as unknown within the table. Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown.

Data Quality:

Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level, they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level, this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Doctors: Pakistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors from Pakistan attached to the NHS are *(a)* studying for post-graduate medical qualifications and *(b)* undertaking further training of another kind. [255382]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect work force information by nationality. Information on doctors undertaking post-graduate study and working in equivalent grades in the national health service is available by country of primary medical qualification.

The following table sets out the number of doctors undertaking post-graduate study or working in equivalent grades, who gained their primary medical qualification in Pakistan, as at 30 September 2007.

All Doctors in training[1] and GP registrars by specified country of qualification[2,3] in England as at 30 September 2007, England

Number (headcount)

	Total headcount	*Of which: obtained primary medical qualification in Pakistan[2,3]*
Total	49,274	1,855
Doctors in training[1,2]	46,783	1,758
GP registrars[3]	2,491	97

[1] Doctors in training and Equivalents is the term used to refer to people in the registrar group, senior house officers, house officers and other staff in equivalent grades who are not in an educationally approved post.

[2] Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown. Out of 45,855 doctors in training whose country of primary medical qualification is known, 1,758 qualified in Pakistan.

[3] In the 2007 GP Census return, 468 GP Registrars had no country of qualification data, this must be taken into consideration when analysing the above figures. Out of 2,023 whose country of primary medical qualification was known, 97 qualified in Pakistan.

Notes:

1. The Medical and Dental census and the GP census can only identify the two groups shown here as doctors who are undertaking post-graduate study and qualifications.
2. Data on nationality or country of origin are not available on the work force census. The data displayed here shows the country where a doctor received their primary medical qualification—which is not an indicator of country of origin or nationality.
3. Data Quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projections his Department has made of the number of doctors at each grade that will be needed to enable compliance with the European Working Time Directive in each of the next 10 years. [255600]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the workforce they need.

It is for local NHS organisations to analyse their local workforce needs and develop plans, in liaison with commissioners, providers and service users, to deliver high quality, safe services and take action to secure the appropriate staff and skills to deliver these services.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners have *(a)* been treated and *(b)* successfully completed a course for drug addiction using subutex in each of the last five years. [253993]

Phil Hope: Specific information on the use of buprenorphine in prison and prisoners who have successfully completed a course for drug addiction using subutex in each of the last five years is not collected centrally.

Head Lice: Schools

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in the incidence of cases of nits in primary school children in the last five years. [256763]

Ann Keen: Information on the incidence of head louse infestation is not collected centrally. Our policy, which is shared by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, is to encourage a 'whole school approach'. This entails encouraging parents to check their children and other family members for head lice as need arises and arranging treatment where necessary, with advice and support from the local primary health care team. We have no plans to reintroduce regular inspections in schools.

The Department has produced a leaflet containing guidance on the prevention and treatment of head lice. The leaflet is widely available from locations that include schools and general practitioner surgeries and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/ll/63/47/04116347.pdf

A copy of the leaflet has been placed in the Library.

Health Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* taken steps to meet the and *(b)* issued guidance to NHS trusts on meeting needs of adult patients who are in the (i) highest and (ii) lowest decile of body height; and if he will make a statement. [256604]

Phil Hope: The Department has not taken specific steps regarding patients who are in the highest or lowest decile of body height. On 30 June 2008, my noble Friend Lord Darzi, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, launched "High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review final report", which makes clear that the NHS must meet the needs of all patients and to pay particular attention to groups or sections of society where improvements in health and life expectancy are not keeping pace with the rest of the population. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to prevent discrimination in the NHS against patients with learning difficulties. [254897]

Phil Hope: On 19 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health published "Valuing People Now"—a new three-year cross-government strategy for people with learning disabilities. A copy has already been placed in the Library. It encompasses the Department's response to the key recommendations of "Healthcare for All"—the report of the Independent Inquiry chaired by Sir Jonathan Michael (DH, 2008)—and affirms that access to high quality health care is a right, and is essential in enabling people to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives that are free from discrimination.

We will be establishing a time-limited Confidential Inquiry (CI) to investigate premature deaths of people with learning disabilities. This will help improve the clinical evidence-base that should underpin commissioning of local services. We are developing a specification for the CI and we expect to invite proposals from potential organisations in the coming months.

We will also establish a public health observatory to provide essential information at national and local level. This responds to the call for improved data, so that the national health service can target action to support people to have better health. It will support primary care trusts in assessing the needs of people with learning disabilities in their local population, assessing how these needs are being met and to understand comparative health outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

The Government accept the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry. We are now taking action that will lead to people with learning disabilities getting the equal access to health care that they deserve. The NHS is already improving the health of people with learning disabilities, for example, through establishing health checks and improving training.

"Valuing People Now" is supported by existing legislation. The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) places a legal responsibility on all health and social care organisations not to discriminate against disabled people or provide them with a poorer quality of service.

Health Services: Sexual Offences

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the provision of health services to victims of sexual crime in the West Midlands. [255357]

Ann Keen: The Department is working with the Home Office to deliver the Response to Sexual Violence Programme. The aim is to set up more sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) in line with the Home Secretary's commitment to increasing provision to one per police force area. SARCs are intended to provide a holistic service for the victims of sexual assaults, including meeting the victim's clinical needs as well as a forensic examination, counselling and the opportunity to give evidence anonymously.

Within the West Midlands area, there is already a SARC in Walsall. A second facility has also been approved, which will be located in Birmingham.

Hospital Beds: Elderly

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the supply of beds in hospital for elderly patients in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [255832]

Phil Hope: No assessment has been made of the adequacy of the supply of beds in hospital for elderly patients in North Yorkshire. It is the responsibility of the national health service locally to ensure that there are appropriate resources to enable all patients to be cared for in an appropriate clinical environment.

The Department's "National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People" published in 2001 sets out a 10-year strategy to improve services for older people, in all settings including hospital. A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library.

One of the key aims of the NSF is to ensure that older people are never unfairly discriminated against in accessing NHS or social care. The NHS makes it clear that NHS services should be provided, regardless of age, on the basis of clinical need alone.

In addition, the NHS constitution makes it clear that people will have the right not to be unlawfully discriminated against on the grounds of age once the Equality Bill comes into force.

Hospitals: Food

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to the NHS on protected meal times for patients. [256261]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any guidance to the NHS on protected meal times for patients.

The protected mealtimes initiative (PMI) was introduced by NHS Estates in partnership with the Royal College of Nursing in 2004, as part of the Better Hospital Food programme. When NHS Estates closed in September 2005, lead responsibility for the protected mealtimes initiative passed to the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA).

The NPSA has been working with key stakeholders in the development of a toolkit to assist NHS organisations in the implementation of the '10 Key Characteristics of Good Nutritional Care'. A factsheet relating to protected mealtimes was developed and launched in April 2008 and the NPSA will be launching the complete toolkit later this year.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to the Chair of the Better Hospital Food Panel in each year since 2001. [256263]

Ann Keen: The chairman of the Better Hospital Food panel received no remuneration. There were no recruitment costs incurred in the appointment.

Hospitals: Hygiene

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were dismissed from NHS hospitals in 2008 for failing to follow hygiene procedures. [255967]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Learning Disability: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have learning difficulties; and what special measures are in place to address this. [255043]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Local authorities hold information relating to people with learning disabilities in their area who are assessed for support or receiving services. General practitioner practices are also encouraged to register people with learning disabilities and provide them with annual health checks.

It is the responsibility of local authorities in partnership with primary care trusts to ensure support and services are in place to meet the assessed needs of people with learning disabilities.

Medical Records

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements are in place for ensuring that a patient's medical records are accurate; and who is responsible for ensuring such accuracy; [254218]

(2) what his policy is on the frequency with which audits of patient data collections should be undertaken; what his most recent assessment is of the *(a)* security and *(b)* accuracy of patient data; how much was spent on auditing data collections in the last year for which figures are available; and what plans he has to review (i) procedures for and (ii) expenditure on audit of data collections; [254281]

(3) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* staff are responsible for auditing medical records in order to ensure that they are (i) secure and (ii) accurate. [254282]

Mr. Bradshaw: As independent statutory bodies, each national health service organisation is responsible for ensuring that the information recorded in a patient's medical record is accurate, up to date and secure. All individuals who work in the NHS are responsible for any records which they create or use in the performance of their duties. This is in line with data protection legislation and guidance provided by the Department and professional bodies. David Nicholson the NHS Chief Executive has also written to all NHS Chief Executives to remind them of their responsibility for assessing risk to information and ensuring it is secure.

It is the responsibility of the management of each organisation to establish and implement procedures which ensure the accuracy and security of records. These procedures may include both internal and external audits of records. It is down to each individual NHS organisation to decide upon the frequency of such audits. There are also independent bodies who have powers to inspect and audit NHS records, and it is a matter for these independent bodies to determine the frequency of these inspections to whom they apply.

The Department does not collect information on the costs involved in auditing all data collections that occur within the NHS.

Mental Health Services: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the provision of mental health services in Coventry. [255355]

Phil Hope: The "National Service Framework for Mental Health" (NSF), published in September 1999. established a 10-year programme of reform, to improve provision of mental health services in England, including Coventry. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

The NSF was followed in 2000 by the NHS Plan. This identified mental health as one of the clinical priorities of the national health service and set precise and challenging targets for mental health services nationally.

The Mental Health Act 2007 makes a range of important changes to existing legislation to modernise and improve it in line with developments in practice. For example, the ability to provide intensive support in the community through the specialist community teams to strengthen patient safeguards and to remedy incompatibilities with the European Convention on Human Rights. The majority of its changes came into force on 3 November 2008.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to improve services for young people who require *(a)* mental health support, *(b)* bereavement counselling and *(c)* individual counselling in the North East; [255311]

(2) what the average waiting time for young people to obtain *(a)* mental health support services, *(b)* bereavement counselling and *(c)* individual counselling services was in the North East in the latest period for which information is available. [255312]

Phil Hope: Data on average waiting times for young people to obtain mental health support services, bereavement counselling and individual counselling services in the North East are not collected centrally.

Counselling is one of the modalities of psychological intervention approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for treating depression and anxiety disorders. Other NICE approved psychological therapies include guided self-help, computerised cognitive behavioural therapy, behavioural activation and exercise. The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Programme aims to help primary care trusts (PCTs) to implement NICE guidelines and improve access to psychological therapies in England for people with depression or anxiety disorders. This is supported by a significant national investment rising to £173 million by 2010-11. Its aim is to train 3,600 more therapists who will help to provide 900,000 more people with access to psychological therapies by 2010-11.

In addition, 11 pathfinder PCTs are now examining the needs of specific groups, including children and young people, new mothers, older people, black and minority ethnic groups, offenders, people with long-term conditions and those with medically unexplained symptoms, to see how access to a range of therapies for these groups could be further improved.

For more general information on the Government's plans to improve services for young people who require mental health support, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 683W, for details of the Government's response to the recently published independent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Review.

Mesothelioma

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the findings of the *(a)* MS101 trial, *(b)* MALCS study, *(c)* MARS study and *(d)* VATS study for treatment of mesothelioma; and if he will make a statement. [255479]

Ann Keen: The results of all trials relating to mesothelioma will be discussed, when available, by the Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma Advisory Group, chaired by the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives worked in the NHS in each year since 1997; and how many worked in each NHS organisation in each of the last three years. [255596]

Ann Keen: The information is contained in the tables that have been placed in the Library.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of calls to NHS Direct were referred to *(a)* 999, *(b)* accident and emergency, *(c)* an out-of-hours GP service, *(d)* self-care, *(e)* pharmacy and *(f)* another service in each quarter since January 2003. [255432]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables. These data include all calls to the 0845 46 47 line and other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners, including calls to The Appointments Line and locally commissioned services such as dental and out-of-hours services.

NHS Direct do not report separately on referrals to general practitioner (GP) out-of-hours services. All calls resulting in a GP referral are treated as a referral to primary care services. Data on referrals to primary care services are included within calls referred to another service, shown in the final table.

Calls referred to 999

	Quarter	*Number*	*Percentage of symptomatic calls*	*Percentage of all calls*
2003	Q1	52,765	6	4
2003	Q2	49,065	5	3
2003	Q3	50,860	6	4
2003	Q4	57,681	6	4
2004	Q1	58,948	6	4
2004	Q2	58,583	6	4
2004	Q3	56,105	6	4
2004	Q4	62,673	6	4
2005	Q1	62,000	5	4
2005	Q2	59,261	5	4
2005	Q3	55,685	5	4
2005	Q4	62,046	6	4
2006	Q1	61,005	5	4
2006	Q2	50,458	5	3
2006	Q3	46,989	5	4
2006	Q4	49,528	5	4
2007	Q1	46,994	5	4
2007	Q2	45,200	5	3
2007	Q3	39,923	4	3
2007	Q4	48,843	5	4
2008	Q1	46,342	4	3
2008	Q2	41,024	4	3
2008	Q3	39,022	4	3
2008	Q4	46,636	4	3

Calls referred to accident and emergency

	Quarter	*Number*	*Percentage of symptomatic calls*	*Percentage of all calls*
2003	Q1	105,230	11	7
2003	Q2	106,974	12	7
2003	Q3	109,361	13	8
2003	Q4	98,794	11	7
2004	Q1	106,576	11	7
2004	Q2	104,427	11	7
2004	Q3	94,873	10	7
2004	Q4	94,189	9	6
2005	Q1	91,395	8	6
2005	Q2	99,764	9	6
2005	Q3	97,610	9	7
2005	Q4	98,766	9	6
2006	Q1	97,115	9	6
2006	Q2	97,575	9	7
2006	Q3	92,483	10	7
2006	Q4	84,922	9	6
2007	Q1	81,560	9	7
2007	Q2	92,995	9	7
2007	Q3	85,702	9	7
2007	Q4	87,553	9	7
2008	Q1	91,871	9	7
2008	Q2	90,395	9	7
2008	Q3	85,104	9	7
2008	Q4	83,982	8	6

Calls referred to self-care

	Quarter	*Number*	*Percentage of symptomatic calls*	*Percentage of all calls*
2003	Q1	118,810	13	8
2003	Q2	115,279	13	8
2003	Q3	110,054	13	8
2003	Q4	119,700	13	8
2004	Q1	124,457	13	9
2004	Q2	136,694	14	9
2004	Q3	143,332	15	10
2004	Q4	170,860	16	11
2005	Q1	183,390	16	11
2005	Q2	180,200	16	11
2005	Q3	176,420	17	12
2005	Q4	188,292	17	12
2006	Q1	195,887	17	13
2006	Q2	189,296	18	13
2006	Q3	177,228	19	13
2006	Q4	179,722	19	14
2007	Q1	173,244	19	14
2007	Q2	208,698	21	16
2007	Q3	210,991	23	18
2007	Q4	275,776	27	22
2008	Q1	316,532	29	23
2008	Q2	323,798	31	25
2008	Q3	299,501	31	24
2008	Q4	366,031	33	27

Calls referred to pharmacy

	Quarter	*Number*	*Percentage of symptomatic calls*	*Percentage of all calls*
2003	Q1	23,973	3	2
2003	Q2	24,204	3	2
2003	Q3	21,104	2	2
2003	Q4	21,493	2	2
2004	Q1	23,959	2	2
2004	Q2	25,038	3	2
2004	Q3	25,813	3	2
2004	Q4	24,670	2	2
2005	Q1	22,771	2	1
2005	Q2	24,395	2	2
2005	Q3	21,173	2	1
2005	Q4	22,504	2	1
2006	Q1	21,530	2	1
2006	Q2	24,958	2	2
2006	Q3	18,843	2	1
2006	Q4	16,260	2	1
2007	Q1	15,009	2	1
2007	Q2	21,046	2	2
2007	Q3	18,247	2	2
2007	Q4	13,515	1	1
2008	Q1	15,716	1	1
2008	Q2	16,279	2	1
2008	Q3	15,298	2	1
2008	Q4	16,495	2	1

Calls referred [illegible]other service[1]

	Quarter	*Number*	*Percentage of symptomatic calls*	*Percentage of all calls*
2003	Q1	589,108	63	41
2003	Q2	564,050	62	39
2003	Q3	532,882	62	40
2003	Q4	585,961	63	41
2004	Q1	613,906	63	42
2004	Q2	616,306	62	42
2004	Q3	591,031	62	42
2004	Q4	671,928	63	44
2005	Q1	689,815	61	42
2005	Q2	666,977	61	43
2005	Q3	623,832	60	43
2005	Q4	683,499	61	44
2006	Q1	705,438	62	45
2006	Q2	654,112	61	44
2006	Q3	572,845	60	43
2006	Q4	571,834	60	44
2007	Q1	534,793	60	43
2007	Q2	591,154	59	46
2007	Q3	530,091	58	46
2007	Q4	555,355	55	44
2008	Q1	583,460	54	43
2008	Q2	573,206	54	44
2008	Q3	527,817	54	43
2008	Q4	564,930	52	41

[1] Includes all GP referrals.

Source:
National Operations Centre, NHS Direct

NHS: Pensions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the NHS Pension Scheme have received pension overpayments due to guaranteed minimum pension data not being properly transferred. [256405]

Ann Keen: NHS pensions are continuing to work with other organisations to confirm the numbers of members of the NHS Pension Scheme who have been overpaid as a result of the incorrect indexation of the guaranteed minimum pension. We estimate that around 51,000 pensioners will be affected. We anticipate that final figures will be known by the end of February 2009.

Nurses: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of student nurses are studying for a *(a)* diploma and *(b)* degree; [255749]

(2) what support is available to nursing students studying for a *(a)* diploma and *(b)* degree. [255750]

Ann Keen: The actual number of student nurses studying degree and diploma courses is not held centrally. However, the number of training posts commissioned each year by strategic health authorities in England in the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 are as follows:

		2005-06 Commissions		*2006-07 Commissions*		*2007-08 Commissions*	
		No.	*Proportion*	*No.*	*Proportion*	*No.*	*Proportion*
Nursing	Degree	3,238	0.16	4,006	0.19	4,062	0.21
	Diploma	17,076	0.84	17,193	0.81	15,290	0.79

Source:
Multi Professional Education and Training quarterly monitoring returns

Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria diploma level nursing students receive a non-means tested NHS bursary and degree level nursing students receive a means tested NHS bursary supplemented by a non means tested Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills student loan (approximately 50 per cent. of the full loan available to non-health care degree level students). Additional allowances are also available, subject to individual circumstances, for students with disabilities, others with dependants and to cover some childcare costs.

University Access to Leaning Funds, administered via most higher education institutions may be available to nursing students who have taken up their full entitlement to a NHS bursary and (if applicable) a student loan and are in need of further financial support. The basic NHS bursary rates for new students in academic year 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

NHS bursary rates	*2008-09 (£)*
Degree	—
London	Up to 3,306
Elsewhere	Up to 2,739
Parental Home	Up to 2,287
Diploma	—
London	7,629
Elsewhere	6,531
Parental Home	6,531

As part of the national health service (NHS) Next Stage Review the Department is undertaking a review of NHS student support to consider a wide range of options for student support, including addressing the anomaly under which nursing degree students receive different support from nursing diploma students. The review is being taken forward in partnership with key stakeholders including trades unions.

In addition to the basic NHS bursary, the NHS meets both diploma and degree level nursing students' liability for a national tuition fee contribution of £7,273 in 2008-09.

Patients Rights

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures will apply to the imposition of financial penalties for hospitals which do not meet required standards of privacy and dignity for patients; [255302]

(2) with reference to his announcement of 28 January 2009 on mixed-sex accommodation in the NHS, what financial penalties hospitals may be liable for; and how he plans to define overriding clinical justification. [255368]

Ann Keen: From 2010-11 hospitals that treat patients in mixed sex accommodation will face significant financial consequences—unless there is an overriding clinical justification.

Officials are currently examining options for financial levers in the standard contracts from April 2010, and are also determining appropriate measures and definitions for "overriding clinical justification".

Physiotherapy: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* physiotherapists and *(b)* speech therapists worked in the NHS in each year since 1997; and how many worked in each NHS organisation in each of the last three years. [255597]

Ann Keen: The information is contained in tables which have been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* deprivation score, as recorded in the indices of deprivation, *(b)* forecast surplus in 2008-09 as a percentage of turnover, *(c)* revenue allocation in 2008-09 per unweighted head and *(d)* the number of GPs per 100,000 population is of each primary care trust. [255436]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in the following table shows:

the index of multiple deprivation (IMD) 2007 score;

forecast outturn surplus or deficit as a percentage of turnover at quarter two 2008-09;

the revenue allocation in 2008-09 per unweighted head; and

the number of general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars) at 30 September 2007 per 100,000 unweighted population for each primary care trust (PCT).

PCT	IMD 2007	Forecast outturn surplus or deficit as percentage of turnover at quarter two 2008-09	2008-09 allocation per unweighted head (£)	Number of GPs per 100,000 population
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	26.9	0.4	1,563	59.4
Barking and Dagenham PCT	34.5	6.1	1,702	48.4
Barnet PCT	21.2	1.3	1,442	64.7
Barnsley PCT	30.5	0.4	1,609	55.2
Bassetlaw PCT	24.1	1.7	1,394	59.3
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	11.5	0.7	1,269	66.4
Bedfordshire PCT	12.3	0.1	1,215	60.7
Berkshire East PCT	12.9	0.0	1,300	58.5
Berkshire West PCT	10.8	0.2	1,230	67.5
Bexley Care Trust	16.2	0.0	1,406	51.1
Birmingham East and North PCT	38.9	0.3	1,605	62.2
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	35.8	1.0	1,565	57.5
Blackpool PCT	37.7	1.2	1,708	62.0
Bolton PCT	29.7	0.2	1,542	65.5
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	19.3	1.1	1,510	71.7
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	32.0	0.2	1,503	80.4
Brent Teaching PCT	29.2	2.6	1,650	69.5
Brighton and Hove City PCT	25.6	0.0	1,562	64.8
Bristol PCT	27.8	0.7	1,425	82.8
Bromley PCT	14.4	0.0	1,405	67.0
Buckinghamshire PCT	8.9	-1.2	1,216	66.6
Bury PCT	21.4	0.1	1,439	58.3
Calderdale PCT	23.0	0.5	1,454	56.6
Cambridgeshire PCT	11.5	0.0	1,230	70.1
Camden PCT	28.6	1.5	1,737	62.8
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	13.8	0.0	1,340	64.5
Central Lancashire PCT	20.8	1.2	1,441	59.4
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	44.9	0.0	1,972	86.1
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	24.0	0.7	1,395	72.2
County Durham PCT	27.1	0.1	1,646	69.4
Coventry Teaching PCT	27.9	1.0	1,548	62.5
Croydon PCT	21.3	1.2	1,444	63.9
Cumbria Teaching PCT	21.2	0.0	1,437	74.0
Darlington PCT	24.2	0.1	1,590	71.6
Derby City PCT	26.6	0.6	1,407	59.5
Derbyshire County PCT	18.8	0.5	1,395	66.1
Devon PCT	17.4	-1.3	1,363	81.4
Doncaster PCT	30.8	0.5	1,567	59.2
Dorset PCT	14.2	0.7	1,388	74.9
Dudley PCT	23.7	0.4	1,423	62.3
Ealing PCT	25.1	0.8	1,595	63.8
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	12.4	0.1	1,275	57.6
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	27.3	0.5	1,554	58.1
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	14.2	0.5	1,276	61.4
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	15.5	0.5	1,451	66.0
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	20.2	0.5	1,455	59.6
Enfield PCT	26.2	0.0	1,508	61.0
Gateshead PCT	29.5	0.1	1,716	74.3
Gloucestershire PCT	14.7	0.7	1,309	67.7
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	24.9	0.0	1,493	62.9
Greenwich Teaching PCT	33.9	0.4	1,665	59.4
Halton and St. Helens PCT	30.9	0.1	1,645	60.9
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	28.1	5.7	1,737	62.7
Hampshire PCT	10.4	-0.3	1,288	64.2
Haringey Teaching PCT	35.7	0.5	1,688	64.8
Harrow PCT	15.6	0.6	1,463	71.3
Hartlepool PCT	34.1	0.1	1,653	69.6
Hastings and Rother PCT	24.8	1.2	1,639	65.0
Havering PCT	16.1	0.2	1,481	55.1
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	48.3	1.9	1,685	61.9

PCT	*IMD 2007*	*Forecast outturn surplus or deficit as percentage of turnover at quarter two 2008-09*	*2008-09 allocation per unweighted head (£)*	*Number of GPs per 100,000 population*
Herefordshire PCT	17.6	0.2	1,337	76.7
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	33.9	0.9	1,603	59.1
Hillingdon PCT	18.6	0.0	1,450	56.1
Hounslow PCT	23.2	0.0	1,563	59.3
Hull Teaching PCT	38.3	1.4	1,524	55.1
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	20.7	0.5	1,524	61.3
Islington PCT	39.0	1.5	2,067	70.0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	23.5	2.5	1,512	48.7
Kingston PCT	13.1	0.1	1,345	66.9
Kirklees PCT	25.2	0.5	1,413	61.2
Knowsley PCT	43.2	0.5	1,886	55.2
Lambeth PCT	34.9	0.5	1,858	86.1
Leeds PCT	25.1	0.4	1,444	66.7
Leicester City PCT	34.7	0.5	1,487	64.0
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	10.6	0.1	1,190	59.2
Lewisham PCT	31.0	0.0	1,799	71.9
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	18.0	0.7	1,346	57.4
Liverpool PCT	47.0	0.9	1,917	71.3
Luton PCT	24.7	0.0	1,433	56.5
Manchester PCT	44.5	0.0	1,759	64.4
Medway PCT	19.5	1.3	1,326	48.0
Mid Essex PCT	11.5	0.0	1,187	57.4
Middlesbrough PCT	38.9	0.1	1,711	68.9
Milton Keynes PCT	15.1	0.0	1,251	61.9
Newcastle PCT	31.4	0.1	1,725	70.9
Newham PCT	43.0	0.5	1,828	73.3
Norfolk PCT	17.3	0.0	1,333	67.5
North East Essex PCT	18.7	0.0	1,388	57.3
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	28.8	0.5	1,464	59.4
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	18.4	0.4	1,436	60.0
North Lincolnshire PCT	22.1	0.4	1,368	61.5
North Somerset PCT	15.0	0.0	1,311	63.8
North Staffordshire PCT	18.2	0.7	1,430	55.1
North Tyneside PCT	23.5	0.1	1,541	72.0
North Yorkshire and York PCT	13.4	0.0	1,269	73.4
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	16.1	0.5	1,304	60.2
Northumberland Care Trust	20.8	0.0	1,461	77.1
Nottingham City PCT	37.3	0.5	1,509	63.4
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	18.8	1.1	1,370	60.2
Oldham PCT	30.8	0.4	1,573	57.9
Oxfordshire PCT	11.1	0.0	1,221	72.7
Peterborough PCT	24.5	0.0	1,552	63.8
Plymouth Teaching PCT	26.1	0.7	1,454	75.2
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	24.2	2.0	1,313	57.9
Redbridge PCT	20.4	3.5	1,392	52.4
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	29.7	0.1	1,635	69.2
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	9.6	0.1	1,449	67.4
Rotherham PCT	26.7	0.5	1,549	61.4
Salford PCT	36.5	0.4	1,792	71.7
Sandwell PCT	36.9	1.4	1,616	60.0
Sefton PCT	25.1	0.1	1,639	60.1
Sheffield PCT	27.8	0.1	1,574	76.0
Shropshire County PCT	16.2	0.1	1,315	69.7
Solihull Care Trust	16.2	0.3	1,323	69.2
Somerset PCT	15.9	0.7	1,331	74.8
South Birmingham PCT	30.9	1.1	1,544	76.5
South East Essex PCT	16.6	0.2	1,409	56.0
South Gloucestershire PCT	9.6	0.0	1,178	71.4
South Staffordshire PCT	15.6	0.6	1,283	59.3
South Tyneside PCT	31.2	0.2	1,724	65.0

PCT	*IMD 2007*	*Forecast outturn surplus or deficit as percentage of turnover at quarter two 2008-09*	*2008-09 allocation per unweighted head (£)*	*Number of GPs per 100,000 population*
South West Essex PCT	18.8	0.0	1,392	48.0
Southampton City PCT	24.3	0.6	1,398	70.1
Southwark PCT	33.3	0.0	1,826	74.7
Stockport PCT	18.1	0.0	1,418	67.3
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	23.8	0.0	1,405	58.8
Stoke on Trent PCT	35.3	1.0	1,618	56.6
Suffolk PCT	13.8	0.0	1,274	65.5
Sunderland Teaching PCT	31.8	0.1	1,744	68.1
Surrey PCT	8.1	0.0	1,316	67.1
Sutton and Merton PCT	14.3	0.0	1,395	64.6
Swindon PCT	16.5	0.7	1,355	65.3
Tameside and Glossop PCT	27.2	0.5	1,572	59.2
Telford and Wrekin PCT	22.3	3.1	1,332	57.9
Torbay Care Trust	26.4	0.7	1,525	72.5
Tower Hamlets PCT	44.6	1.5	1,903	71.2
Trafford PCT	17.3	0.4	1,500	65.0
Wakefield District PCT	27.1	0.5	1,530	67.0
Walsall Teaching PCT	30.3	2.7	1,586	54.3
Waltham Forest PCT	33.2	0.1	1,628	65.8
Wandsworth PCT	20.3	1.0	1,579	71.6
Warrington PCT	17.9	0.4	1,419	61.3
Warwickshire PCT	14.6	0.0	1,321	61.1
West Essex PCT	14.4	0.0	1,377	65.6
West Hertfordshire PCT	11.4	0.1	1,324	65.0
West Kent PCT	13.5	0.5	1,297	58.3
West Sussex PCT	13.1	0.1	1,400	68.0
Western Cheshire PCT	17.0	0.4	1,459	75.0
Westminster PCT	26.3	2.9	1,627	54.0
Wiltshire PCT	10.4	0.2	1,246	65.9
Wirral PCT	27.9	0.5	1,680	70.3
Wolverhampton City PCT	33.0	6.7	1,606	57.0
Worcestershire PCT	15.5	0.7	1,311	72.8
England		0.5	1,449	65.1

Notes:

1. The IMD 2007 is published by Communities and Local Government and combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for small areas in England.
2. The forecast surplus or deficit at quarter two 2008-09 is published by the Department at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_091230.
3. The population used as the denominator is the PCT responsible population for 2008 from the 2004-based Office for National Statistics population projections, adjusted for cross border patient flows using 2007 GP registrations.
4. The number of GPs is from the general practice census published each year by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care at: www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-numbers/nhs-staff-1997-2007-general-practice

Prostate Cancer

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the programmes run by his Department to raise awareness of prostate cancer; [256124]

(2) how much his Department has spent on programmes to raise awareness of prostate cancer in each of the last five years; [256125]

(3) what advice his Department offers to the public on potential symptoms of prostate cancer; and what plans he has to initiate further public awareness campaigns. [256126]

Ann Keen: Raising the public awareness of prostate cancer is a key challenge. We want men to know what their prostate is, what it does, and what can go wrong with it. However, we have to raise awareness in a responsible way so as not to cause undue anxiety.

That is why the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group Public Awareness Working Group developed a definitive set of consistent key messages for the general public about the prostate, including prostate cancer. These messages provide men and their families with information about the prostate designed in such a way as not to cause unnecessary anxiety. The key messages have been agreed by 20 organisations, including charities, patient groups and professional bodies, as well as the Department. The messages are free for all organisations to use, and were published in 2008 in the Royal British Legion's Members Directory and in supplements to the *Daily Express* and *The Daily Telegraph* at a cost of over £5,000.

The Department invested £100,000 in a pilot public awareness programme of the prostate and its function, a joint programme with signatories to the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action who provided £50,000 of funding. The pilot took place in Coventry in 2006 to test the effectiveness of the key messages, the intervention used to promote the messages and the impact promoting the messages has on national health service (NHS) services. The final evaluation reports and recommendations of the pilot have been referred to the Cancer Reform Strategy National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative (NAEDI).

NAEDI aims to make the public and healthcare professionals more aware of the signs and symptoms of cancer, including prostate cancer, and encourage those who may have symptoms to seek advice earlier. An example of future work includes the Football Foundation's awareness raising project, which is part funded by the Department, which will work to raise awareness of the signs, symptoms and risk factors associated with bowel, lung and prostate cancers in men aged over 55.

Other investment in the public awareness of prostate cancer in the last five years has included:

investing over £100,000 in UK Prostate Link, the first comprehensive online source of information of its kind, to help the public, prostate cancer patients, their families and health professionals to find all the information they want to know about prostate cancer, including signs and symptoms. This is a collaborative project, co-funded with signatories to the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action;

providing £30,000 to the Men's Health Forum to help fund its publication, the "Men and Cancer Manual" in 2004;

providing £29,000 to the Men's Health Forum to produce and distribute 'mini' "Men and Cancer Manuals", including detailed information on prostate cancer, in 2007 and 2008. A further collaboration is planned for 2009; and

providing £105,000 to the Prostate Cancer Charity to improve awareness of the risks and symptoms of prostate cancer in African and Afro-Caribbean men between 2003 and 2006.

Prosthetics

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is being made by the NHS to provide modern prosthetic technology to those people with thalidomide related impairments who rely on prosthesis for independent living and mobility. [255523]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to assess the needs of their local population and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of prosthetic services.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways his Department monitors the quality of service of speech and language therapy; and how he plans to inform patients of the findings of such monitoring. [256767]

Ann Keen: The quality of speech and language therapy (SLT) services is not monitored centrally. It is for primary care trusts, working with local stakeholders, to monitor the quality of these services and to disseminate their results.

As part of the improved allied health professional (AHP) service offer, which includes SLTs, announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health in October 2008, we will ensure that as part of the work described in 'High Quality Care for AH' to develop an integrated set of quality metrics, there is a clear focus on metrics related to services provided by clinical teams inclusive of AHPs. The metrics developed through this work will be shared across the country.

Spinal Injuries

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated in NHS hospitals for spinal cord injuries in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [254887]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Strokes: Health Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on *(a)* provision and *(b)* co-ordination of (i) transient ischaemic attack units, (ii) stroke units and (iii) hyper acute units in the same location to enable stroke response; what process is being followed to determine the adequacy of stroke care provision in North East London and the location of a new stroke care unit; what public consultation will take place as part of this process; and what provisions there are to challenge the outcome of the consultation. [253337]

Ann Keen: Policy for stroke services is set out in the national strategy for stroke services in England which was published in December 2007. A copy has already been placed in the Library. It provides a quality framework against which local services can secure improvements to services and address health inequalities relating to stroke over a period of 10 years. It also provides support and guidance for commissioners, strategic health authorities and others in the planning, development and monitoring of services.

How services are configured in response to the strategy is for local decision. Issues related to the provision of stroke services in London are a matter for NHS London and the primary care trusts (PCTs) within it.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees jointly or individually can refer decisions to the Secretary of State if they consider them not in the interests of the health service locally. The Secretary of State may in turn seek advice from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

Suicide

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to achieve a reduction in the number of suicides; and if he will make a statement. [255547]

Phil Hope: The "National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England: Annual Report 2007" highlights action taken to reduce suicides, action planned for 2008 and statistical information on suicides in England.

Since publication of this report, further statistics on suicide "Mortality Target Monitoring" have been published and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_088867

Copies of both publications have been placed in the Library.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what non-governmental organisations working towards the prevention of suicide have received funding from his Department since 1997. [255548]

Phil Hope: The Department has worked with and provided funding to a number of non-governmental organisations in the voluntary, statutory and private sector in taking forward work to prevent suicides including funding from Section 64 grants.

Tables detailing grant awards made to organisations working towards the prevention of suicide and support for those affected by it are as follows.

Section 64 Grants 1996 to 2009: Grants for organisations working towards the prevention of suicide and support for those affected by suicide

£

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
The Samaritans						
Third year core grant	115,000	80,000	60,000	—	—	—
Third year 'Health of the Nation'	50,000	—	—	—	—	—
Elderly Outreach Project	38,500	38,500	38,500	—	—	—
Passport for Life	—	50,050	—	—	—	—
Listen for Life	—	—	37,750	35,950	40,830	—
Festival Branch	—	—	17,500	19,100	20,750	—
Single Number and Volunteer Needs	—	—	—	45,000	45,000	45,000
Reaching Young England	—	—	—	—	32,000	36,000
Availability via Communications Technology	—	—	—	—	—	30,000
SANE						
Third year core grant	125,000	75,000	50,000	—	—	—
Development of London Helproom Management and Volunteer Training	—	—	29,350	29,350	29,350	—
Expansion and development of Sane's internal and external Mental Health Awareness training project	—	—	—	40,000	40,000	40,000

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
The Samaritans							
Reaching Young England	40,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Availability via Communications Technology	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minority Groups project	40,000	40,000	40,000	25,000	—	—	—
Joint Working project	45,000	40,000	40,000	25,000	—	—	—
Core Funding	—	100,000	90,000	80,000	—	—	—
Making space							
Mainstreaming Carer Support (to assist delivery of enhanced CPA & DH targets on suicide/readmissions)	—	40,000	38,000	36,000	—	—	—
Asian Family Counselling Service							
Aanchal (Suicide and Asian Women)	—	—	—	40,000	40,000	40,000	—
PAPYRUS -Prevention of Suicides							
Hopeline UK	—	—	—	35,000	35,000	35,000	—
Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS)							
Core Funding	—	—	—	20,000	19,500	19,000	—
Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)							
CALM National Launch	—	—	—	—	45,000	40,000	38,000

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS spent on the prevention of suicide in each year since 1992; [255549]

(2) how much each primary care trust spent on the prevention of suicide in the latest year for which records are available; [255550]

(3) what funding his Department has provided to local government for work related to the prevention of suicide since 1997. [255552]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1742W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, when he expects to publish the results of the detailed periodic assessment of the Government's Afghanistan strategy. [246328]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced to the House on 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-29, a review of the Government's Afghanistan policy is under way, involving the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, and reporting to the Prime Minister. Once completed, the findings and implications of the review will be announced to the House.

Burma: Christianity

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of *(a)* closures of churches in Burma and *(b)* the treatment of Christians in that country; what recent representations he has made to the government of Burma on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [254176]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned that the Burmese regime has imposed restrictions on churches and other places of worship for religious minorities in Rangoon. We condemn the marginalisation or persecution of any community based on their religious beliefs. We also remain concerned about reports that the mainly Buddhist Burmese authorities restrict freedom of religion. There are Christians among a variety of ethnic groups in Burma, though their persecution by the authorities appears to be based largely on their ethnicity rather than their faith.

The regime's actions are part of a wider deterioration of the human rights situation in Burma and the UK will continue to ask the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices mission and representatives of the UN human rights bodies to raise our concerns with the State Peace and Development Council.

Central Asia: Nuclear Weapons

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the entry into force of a Central Asian nuclear weapon-free zone. [253390]

Bill Rammell: The UK supports the principle of a Central Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and welcomes Kazakhstan's recent ratification of the treaty of Semipalatinsk. The Government believe this gives the central Asian states the opportunity to amend articles IV and XII, the provisions of which pertaining to transit arrangements and the primacy of previous security arrangements are not in our view compatible with a nuclear weapon-free zone. Acceptable amendments to these provisions will enable the UK to ratify the protocol to the treaty.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average cost to his Department of responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been since 2006. [255679]

Gillian Merron: A report prepared for the Ministry of Justice by Frontier Economics Ltd. in October 2006 entitled "Independent Review of the impact of the Freedom of Information Act" estimated a figure of £254 for a central Government body to deal with an initial Freedom of Information request. Based on this figure, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent an estimated £805,434 since 2006.

The report is available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/foi-independent-review.pdf

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest annual survey of the UK's reputation in the US, China and India in the financial services, ICT, life sciences and energy sectors, as referred to on page eight of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [246259]

David Miliband: A copy of the UK reputation benchmarking survey has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246979]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its executive agencies maintain one 0845 number. This number is provided as an alternative to the FCO website for users to access up to date travel advice. The FCO receives no financial benefit from this arrangement.

Egypt: Religious Freedom

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of *(a)* attacks on the Abu Fana monastery in Egypt and *(b)* the risk of attacks on the Coptic community in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [254177]

Bill Rammell: The Government have received reports of an incident which occurred at the Abu Fana Coptic monastery on 31 May 2008. The incident concerned the building of a wall on agricultural land disputed by the local village, Deir Abu Fana and the monastery. The dispute became violent when a mob attacked the monastery, killing a local resident. Two monastery workers suffered bullet wounds, two monks suffered injuries and three monks were taken by the mob and badly beaten. I understand that the disagreement has been settled through customary informal negotiations. We understand that no one has been brought to trial and 15 people remain in detention.

With at least 8 million Coptic Christians in Egypt, creating tolerance between Coptic and Muslim communities is essential. The Egyptian President is personally involved in efforts to promote tolerance and inter-faith harmony, and has taken steps to promote and protect the rights of Christian, such as appointing Christians to parliament and other senior government posts (including the Head of the National Council for Human Rights). But sectarian tension and discrimination does sometimes exist at grass roots level. We regularly raise our concerns about human rights with the Egyptian government, and will continue to do so.

European Union

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial facilities his Department has made available to the EU offices of the devolved Administrations; what sums were provided; and what period elapsed between payment and cost recovery in each case in each of the last five years. [242065]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Joint Management Office (JMO) in Brussels provides management services including financial facilities to the three UK missions in Brussels: UK Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; UK Representation to the EU and our bilateral Embassy, as well as to the EU offices of the devolved Administrations.

Financial facilities are in place to provide services such as assistance with the finding of accommodation, recruitment of locally engaged staff, and sourcing health care provision.

Additionally, there is a financial facility in place for us to recover costs incurred on behalf of the devolved Administrations, such as for transport, and until last year a charge for management services provided by the JMO.

The JMO pay invoices on behalf of the devolved Administrations in Brussels. The JMO then recover the costs directly from the appropriate devolved Administration.

Information on charging is only available from 1 April 2004, and is set out in the following table.

Financial facility charges to devolved Administrations for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008 including management costs

	Amount (£)
National Assembly for Wales	45,953.82
Northern Ireland Office	4,772.63
Northern Ireland Executive	25,848.92
Scottish Executive	59,150.30

Information relating to the period elapsed between payment and recovery of costs is not available.

Gaza: Weapons

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his US counterpart, *(b)* his Israeli counterpart and *(c)* others to discuss the flow of weapons into Gaza. [253214]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* We are extremely concerned about the smuggling of arms and people into Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met US Secretary of State Clinton on 4 February 2009 and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 21 January 2009 to discuss Gaza and the Middle East Peace Process, including arms smuggling. He has frequently spoken to his US, Israeli and other counterparts on ways to help prevent smuggling.

India: Foreign Relations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet his Indian counterpart. [253372]

Bill Rammell: There are currently no arrangements for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to meet Foreign Minister Mukherjee. They do and will continue to maintain regular contact.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to seek to prevent the enforced and unlawful resettlement of residents of Ashraf city. [256111]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* I should clarify that it was the US, not the UK, who had sole responsibility for the security and administration of the camp. The responsibility for the camp was handed to the Iraqi authorities from 1 January 2009 by the US. Several hundred former residents have voluntarily returned to Iran in the recent past. Reporting leads us to understand that those who have returned have not been ill treated. Repatriations to Iran of those residents who wish to return will continue. But there is no evidence to suggest forced relocation of the residents in Iraq or elsewhere will take place. Whilst residents of the camp were treated as "protected persons", this was exercised at the good will of the US authorities in charge and was not granted through any legal obligation under international law.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made by the European Union of the financial cost of damage or destruction of EU-funded facilities in the Palestinian Territories by Israeli military action since 1998; and whether compensation has been paid by Israel to the EU. [248496]

Bill Rammell: A full assessment of the humanitarian consequences and the damage caused by the military operation has yet to be made. Relief needs are expected to be huge. Activities in the Gaza strip will be part of an early recovery plan which will follow a joint needs assessment being coordinated with multilateral and international donors. The UK will welcome any contribution made towards the reconstruction of Gaza.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on allegations of Hamas fighters *(a)* shedding uniforms, *(b)* donning civilian clothing and *(c)* hiding within the civilian population in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead; and if he will make a statement. [252968]

Bill Rammell: We have received credible reports—including from human rights non-governmental organisations and from our own staff in Gaza—that Hamas fighters attempted to blend into the civilian population, that they conducted military activities in areas where civilians were sheltering and that they booby-trapped civilian infrastructure. UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which was proposed by the UK, was emphatic in its condemnation of all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make representations to the Israeli government to fund most of the reconstruction work required in Gaza. [253108]

Bill Rammell: We would welcome an Israeli contribution to the wider reconstruction effort. The most essential Israeli action that we continue to press for is the immediate free and unhindered passage of humanitarian aid, construction materials and the staff of UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations through the Gaza crossings.

Pakistan: Marriage

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist British nationals who are in violent forced marriages in Pakistan. [243673]

Gillian Merron: Where it is known that a British national has already been forced into marriage, staff from our high commission in Islamabad will attempt to contact the individual to offer support. This can vary from a welfare visit to assistance in returning to the UK. We work closely with both the central and local authorities in Pakistan in providing this assistance.

The Forced Marriage Unit in London can also help to arrange accommodation for victims when they return to the UK and can refer victims to counselling and support groups, refuges, and legal centres.

To help support victims of Forced Marriage, the Forced Marriage Civil Protection Act was introduced in November 2008. The Act allows the court the power to protect victims who have already been forced into marriage and also to make protection orders to prevent forced marriages occurring. A number of protection orders have already been used since the act's introduction. A copy of the Act is available on the Office of Public Sector Information at:

www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070020_en_1

The delay in responding was due to an administrative error.

Russia: Georgia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the level of compliance by Russia with the terms of the 12 August and 8 September 2008 agreements on Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [242200]

David Miliband: On 12 August 2008, the EU and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) brokered a ceasefire between the parties. These points were supplemented by an implementation plan, again brokered by the EU and OSCE, and agreed on 8 September 2008.

Russia has met a number, though not all, of its commitments under the 8 August and 12 September 2008 plans. Though Russia withdrew from most of the areas adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia within 10 days of the deployment of an EU Mission to Georgia, it retains a checkpoint at Perevi, which is in the rest of Georgia outside South Ossetia. And within South Ossetia and Abkhazia it has failed to withdraw to its pre-conflict positions: Russian forces are now stationed in the Upper Kodori Valley in Abkhazia and the Akhalgori region of South Ossetia. Neither area was under Russian control before hostilities began.

Along with our partners, we continue to call on Russia to meet its commitments to the international community in full.

I will write to the right hon. Member in more detail on Russia's commitments and compliance with them, and will place copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

South Georgia: Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 884W, on Falkland Islands dependencies, how much it cost to maintain the two year-round research stations at South Georgia in the last 12 months. [256120]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands each provide the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) with annual funding of £550,000 for the operation of the research station at King Edward Point. The projected running costs for 2008-09 is £715,000.

The remainder of the annual funding is used to finance the annual resupply of the base, the costs of chartering a fisheries survey vessel, and BAS overheads such as insurance costs.

The research station at Bird Island is a British Antarctic Survey facility and its projected running costs for 2008-09 is £335,000.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts he has had with groups representing the Tamil population of Sri Lanka in 2009. [254629]

Bill Rammell: On 27 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown met a group of over 100 representatives from Tamil communities in the UK to discuss the current situation in Sri Lanka. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly meet groups representing Tamils, most recently in early February 2009.

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek to bring about a ceasefire in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [253467]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement on 29 January 2009 the UK's concerns about the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka. He urged the Sri Lankan Government to put an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in place.

The full text of that statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=12945591.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Sri Lankan Government to stop its offensive in Tamil areas and to ensure that government forces respect human rights; and if he will make a statement. [253468]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement on 29 January 2009 the UK's concerns about the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka. He urged the Sri Lankan Government to put an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in place.

The full text of that statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=12945591.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment of the security situation in Sri Lanka is; and what assessment he has made of the likelihood of an end to terrorist violence in that country. [253980]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The UK has serious concerns about the humanitarian and security situation in northern Sri Lanka. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in the house on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 209-210, we wish to see an end to the violence and agreement on the need for a ceasefire. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary repeated the Prime Minister's call in his statements on 29 and 31 January 2009 urging the Government of Sri Lanka to announce a humanitarian ceasefire. The UK has called on both sides urgently to make progress on a political solution which addresses the legitimate concerns of all of Sri Lanka's communities.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Sudan on bringing Sudan's National Security Act into line with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [254359]

Gillian Merron: Revision of the National Security Act is essential for the conduct of free and fair elections which, under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), are due in July 2009. The parties to the CPA agreed to extend the current parliamentary term until several pieces of legislation, including the National Security Act, have been enacted.

We urge the parties to the CPA to create conditions for free and fair elections through the Elections Donor Group and through the Power Sharing Working Group of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (the international body mandated under the CPA to monitor implementation). My Right Hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with the Government of Sudan during his visit to Sudan in July 2008.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS, on Tibet, what undertakings the Chinese government gave prior to his Department's change of policy on Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [249325]

Bill Rammell: We did not consult the Chinese Government on the update to our policy on Tibet in the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS.

Timor-Leste

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment of the political situation in East Timor is; and if he will make a statement. [255466]

Bill Rammell: East Timor has made slow but steady progress since the 2006 crisis. The security situation has stabilised following the February 2008 attacks on President Ramos Horta and Prime Minister Gusmao. Security sector reform, deep poverty and a weak judiciary remain key challenges. The United Nations Mission in Timor's mandate will be considered later this month and the UK will continue to encourage progress in the above key areas in order to achieve our ultimate goal of helping the people of East Timor stand on their own feet. Dr. Khare, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor, called on my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, on 21 October 2008 to discuss progress. The UK continues to provide support to East Timor, including through contributing £150,000 to the International Foundation for Electoral Systems to improve the functioning of Timorese election processes.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek to ensure that the people of Western Sahara have a referendum on self-determination before 2010. [253663]

Bill Rammell: The Government continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara which provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is best achieved under the auspices of the United Nations.

We continue to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff to secure agreement between the parties on the future status of Western Sahara. The date and terms of any eventual referendum should be agreed by all parties to the dispute.

In this respect the Government welcome the appointment of the UN Secretary-General's new personal envoy to Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, and encourages all the parties to the dispute to enter into renewed negotiations in a spirit of realism and compromise.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the declaration of an exclusive economic zone by the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic concerning the waters off Western Sahara. [254097]

Bill Rammell: The Government are aware, through press releases and media reports, that representatives of the Polisario have declared, on behalf of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, an offshore exclusive economic zone in the waters off the coast of Western Sahara.

The status of Western Sahara remains unresolved pending the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff to achieve a negotiated, lasting solution between the parties to the dispute, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [255373]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) on Wednesday 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2119W).

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [255650]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) on Wednesday 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2119W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the individuals subject to the 15 control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 on 15 December 2008 had been subject to the provisions of one or more control orders for *(a)* under six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, (c) between 12 months and two years, *(d)* between two and three years and *(e)* over three years. [255179]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The last quarterly written ministerial statement on control orders, covering the period 11 September to 10 December 2008, was published on 15 December 2008. The figures provided in this statement are the latest published figures on control orders. Of the individuals subject to control orders on 10 December 2008:

(a) One had been subject to one or more control orders for under six months.

(b) Seven had been subject to one or more control orders for between six and 12 months.

(c) Two had been subject to one or more control orders for between 12 months and two years.

(d) Three had been subject to one or more control orders for between two and three years.

(e) Two had been subject to one or more control orders for over three years.

Asylum: Sexuality

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people claimed asylum in the UK on grounds of their sexuality in each of the last five years. [255886]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is unavailable as it is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Asylum Statistics United Kingdom and the Asylum Bulletin are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding requests for *(a)* asylum and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain there are from applicants resident in Wimbledon constituency. [255952]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is unavailable as it is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Asylum Statistics United Kingdom and the Asylum Bulletin are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refused Zimbabwean asylum seekers have been forcibly removed from the UK in each of the last five years. [255893]

Jacqui Smith: The following table shows the number of Zimbabwean national asylum cases, including dependants, who were removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the United Kingdom between January 2004 and September 2008.

Figures for the fourth quarter of 2008 will be published on 24 February 2009.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of Zimbabwe national asylum cases[2], by removal type, January 2004 to September 2008

					Number of removals[3]
Period	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[7]*	*January-September 2008[7]*
Total Zimbabwe national asylum cases removed	115	295	285	210	165
Of which:					
Enforced removals including voluntary departures after enforcement action had been initiated[4,5]	60	190	65	90	85
Assisted Voluntary Returns[6]	60	105	220	115	80

[1] Includes enforced removals, port asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[4] Includes port asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls) and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[5] Excludes Assisted Voluntary Returns.

[6] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

[7] Provisional figures

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on digital media courses provided by the Internet Advisory Bureau for her Department in 2008; how many training sessions were held; and how many staff members in the Department attended at least one training session. [254598]

Mr. Woolas: Neither the Home Office, UK Border Agency or the Identity and Passport Service have used the Internet Advisory Bureau in any capacity.

Deportation: Sri Lanka

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assurances her Department has sought from the Sri Lankan government regarding the safety and well being of Tamils deported from the UK to that country; and if she will make a statement. [256509]

Mr. Woolas: All asylum claims including those from Sri Lankan Tamils are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the refugee convention and the European convention on human rights. Those identified by the decision making process and the independent appeals process not to be in need of international protection are expected to leave the UK voluntarily. Failed asylum seekers can and do voluntarily return to Sri Lanka. Those who do not leave voluntarily may have their return enforced.

Provision is made for post arrival assistance of all failed asylum seekers we remove to Sri Lanka. We have not sought assurances from the Sri Lankan government regarding the safety of returnees but we do closely monitor the respect for human rights in all countries that we return to. We do not routinely monitor foreign nationals who do not need our protection in their own country, but if specific allegations are made that any returnee has experienced ill-treatment on return from the UK, then these will followed up through our high commission in Colombo.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to decide on the participating countries in the Youth Mobility scheme; and whether any countries not currently participating are seeking to participate. [255916]

Mr. Woolas: The Tier 5 Statement of Intent published in May 2008 (copies of which are available in the House Library), sets out the eligibility criteria for a country to join the Youth Mobility Scheme. As well as agreeing to be the sponsor of its participating nationals, each country needs to:

(a) have an acceptably low level of immigration risk, and not be subject to a mandatory UK visa regime;

(b) operate satisfactory returns arrangements with the UK; and

(c) provide reciprocal opportunities for young UK nationals.

Expressions of interest from countries to join the new Youth Mobility Scheme are confidential to the UK Government and the countries concerned. Discussions need to remain confidential in order for countries to feel able to explore their possible involvement and make any appropriate adjustments to fulfil all the criteria for inclusion in the scheme before any public statements about their involvement are made.

Immigration: Offenders

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals with criminal convictions dealt with under the legacy exercise but not pursued for deportation have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused leave to remain since the exercise commenced. [256608]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the last update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 8 December 2008.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many uncleared cases there are of individuals in Peterborough constituency seeking indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [253643]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The number of applicants who have an uncleared application for indefinite leave to remain in Peterborough constituency is 185.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 284W, on deportation: Peterborough, what her estimate is of the cost to her Department of providing data on *(a)* received and *(b)* cleared cases in respect of individuals in Peterborough constituency seeking indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [253647]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The cost of providing data on *(a)* received and *(b)* cleared cases in respect of individuals in Peterborough constituency seeking indefinite leave to remain is estimated to exceed the £750 threshold for information requests being refused. This is because the information is not stored in the format requested.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the inquiry from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, of 23 October 2008, on the status documents of Mr Hassan Abdille Abdi, HO Ref. A130106Z. [254260]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency responded to the letter from the right hon. Member on 9 February 2009.

Police

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions there have been between Cambridgeshire and Norfolk *(a)* police authorities and *(b)* constabularies on cross-border working involving Wisbech and King's Lynn police stations. [254163]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is aware that discussions are taking place between Cambridgeshire and Norfolk police authorities/constabularies about the construction of a shared custody suite for Wisbech and King's Lynn police stations.

Our policy is to encourage collaboration where it is in the interests of improving the efficiency or effectiveness of the forces concerned or policing generally. We encourage police authorities to collaborate and expect them to be involved in scrutinising any proposals to collaborate.

Police Custody: Young People

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department collects on the use of appropriate adults to attend police questioning of minors. [253864]

Mr. Coaker: The use of an appropriate adult at a police station during the investigative process involving a juvenile is an operational matter based on the individual circumstances of the case. Information is not held centrally on the use of appropriate adults.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales are receiving funding *(a)* above, *(b)* at and *(c)* below the formula funding level in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [256510]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is in the following table.

All police authorities receive at least the "floor" increase of 2.5 per cent.

The damping mechanism exists to protect all authorities against financial instability and ensures all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year.

2008-09

£ million

Police authority	*Raw allocation*	*Allocation after floors and scaling*	*Difference*
Avon and Somerset	186.0	173.7	-12.3
Bedfordshire	72.3	68.5	-3.8
Cambridgeshire	81.2	78.7	-2.6
Cheshire	108.5	117.6	9.1
Cleveland	94.7	95.3	0.5
Cumbria	53.4	65.6	12.1
Derbyshire	114.7	109.2	-5.6
Devon and Cornwall	179.9	181.9	2.0
Dorset	60.6	63.7	3.1
Durham	83.6	89.2	5.5
Dyfed-Powys	46.9	53.1	6.2
Essex	176.2	173.0	-3.1
GLA - Police	1,885.5	1,930.0	44.5
Gloucestershire	55.4	57.8	2.5
Greater Manchester	462.7	445.6	-17.1
Gwent	78.3	80.6	2.3
Hampshire	203.2	202.2	-0.9
Hertfordshire	120.9	117.7	-3.3
Humberside	125.9	125.1	-0.7
Kent	188.3	187.2	-1.1
Lancashire	201.2	198.8	-2.4
Leicestershire	118.1	114.7	-3.4
Lincolnshire	65.1	62.3	-2.7
Merseyside	264.2	260.6	-3.6
Norfolk	83.3	85.4	2.2
North Wales	68.8	78.2	9.3
North Yorkshire	68.6	74.8	6.2
Northamptonshire	73.9	73.5	-0.4
Northumbria	211.7	243.8	32.1
Nottinghamshire	145.3	136.9	-8.4
South Wales	179.1	176.7	-2.4
South Yorkshire	199.8	199.1	-0.7
Staffordshire	119.6	117.4	-2.3
Suffolk	67.1	69.2	2.1
Surrey	94.7	99.3	4.6
Sussex	156.8	165.7	8.9
Thames Valley	235.1	231.9	-3.2
Warwickshire	53.0	52.8	-0.2
West Mercia	108.3	118.9	10.5
West Midlands	518.0	468.0	-49.9
West Yorkshire	349.2	328.2	-21.0
Wiltshire	60.7	63.6	2.8

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers carried firearms as a regular part of their duties in each police force area in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [256754]

Mr. Coaker: The number of authorised firearms officers in England and Wales in 2006-07 can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/police-firearms-statistics-06-1.

Figures for 2007-08 will be published before April 2009.

Police: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of employing police officers was in each police force in England as a percentage of the total force budget in 2007-08. [256694]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is in the following table.

2007-08 estimates

Police authority	*Police officer costs[1] (£000)*	*Total gross revenue expenditure (£000)*	*Police officer costs as percentage of police authority total gross revenue expenditure (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	164,236	281,069	58.4
Bedfordshire	59,632	103,959	57.4
Cambridgeshire	69,155	128,665	53.7
Cheshire	105,635	187,702	56.3
City of London	51,918	86,884	59.8
Cleveland	81,645	138,836	58.8
Cumbria	59,825	112,257	53.3
Derbyshire	101,699	172,336	59.0
Devon and Cornwall	167,553	288,259	58.1
Dorset	72,844	127,657	57.1
Durham	83,149	129,388	64.3
Dyfed-Powys	60,295	98,342	61.3
Essex	172,119	289,052	59.5
Gloucestershire	64,818	115,575	56.1
Greater Manchester	385,930	612,035	63.1
Gwent	75,149	122,204	61.5
Hampshire	180,052	324,382	55.5
Hertfordshire	105,813	192,476	55.0
Humberside	111,662	182,196	61.3
Kent	185,798	316,396	58.7
Lancashire	174,271	287,976	60.5
Leicestershire	110,494	177,979	62.1
Lincolnshire	59,825	108,166	55.3
Merseyside	223,849	355,662	62.9
Metropolitan	1,857,651	3,341,236	55.6
Norfolk	77,325	156,716	49.3
North Wales	83,596	145,150	57.6
North Yorkshire	81,605	147,613	55.3
Northamptonshire	65,872	124,424	52.9
Northumbria	198,593	317,695	62.5
Nottinghamshire	119,051	205,545	57.9
South Wales	161,272	268,595	60.0
South Yorkshire	163,232	264,662	61.7
Staffordshire	112,248	191,039	58.8
Suffolk	65,832	115,994	56.8
Surrey	95,541	205,514	46.5
Sussex	158,698	291,233	54.5

2007-08 estimates

Police authority	*Police officer costs*[1] *(£000)*	*Total gross revenue expenditure (£000)*	*Police officer costs as percentage of police authority total gross revenue expenditure (percentage)*
Thames Valley	208,356	394,881	52.8
Warwickshire	53,208	94,891	56.1
West Mercia	122,902	208,807	58.9
West Midlands	388,350	600,058	64.7
West Yorkshire	269,812	465,867	57.9
Wiltshire	58,991	112,539	52.4

[1] Estimates include pay, including overtime, employee's national insurance, and pensions contributions

Source:

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)—2007-08 Estimates (2007-08 Actuals not yet available)

Prisoners: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people being held in custody have required treatment for diabetes in each of the last five years; and what procedure is used to provide such treatment. [251528]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not held centrally. Guidance for police officers and police staff on dealing with diabetes is set out in section 2.4.6 of the "Guidance on The Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody"

> http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operationalpolicing/Safer_Detention_and_Handlin1.pdf?view=Binary.

Code of Practice C issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 provides that the custody officer at the police must make sure that a detainee receives appropriate clinical attention if required or if requested by the detainee. If a detainee has medication in their possession relating to diabetes, the advice of the appropriate healthcare professional must be obtained.

UK Border Agency: Standards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department collects to monitor the UK Border Agency's performance. [256227]

Mr. Woolas: A draft Framework Agreement for the UK Border Agency was published on the Home Office website in August 2008. That document sets out the arrangements for monitoring the performance of the agency. It places a responsibility on the agency to ensure that consistent, accurate and timely information on its performance is made available to Home Office Ministers, and to the Permanent Secretary and the Home Office Board.

The UK Border Agency's performance is monitored against the Government-wide public service agreement framework in relation to PSA three for which it has lead responsibility. It is also monitored against the targets and commitments that were set out in the 'UK Border Agency Business Plan, April 2008-March 2011'. The business plan is also available via the Home Office website. Other internal management data are also routinely collected, including on financial and commercial aspects of the UK Border Agency's performance, and data are provided on an ad hoc basis where there is a requirement to review performance in any particular area of its activity in more detail.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department will provide to local authorities in respect of their new duty to promote democracy in the next 12 months. [254853]

John Healey: The anticipated extra costs to local authorities as a result of the duty to promote democracy were set out in an impact assessment published on the Communities and Local Government website when the Bill was introduced. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House. The relevant amount will be paid to local authorities in the financial year that the duty to promote democracy is commenced by order of the Secretary of State. We anticipate this to be in the financial year 2010-11.

Council Housing: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much per year pilot local authorities planned to spend on financing the £475 million prudential borrowing expected in their business plans submitted to her Department's modelling exercise on the self-financing of council housing services; and what rate of interest was assumed for this borrowing; [256235]

(2) how much each local authority has planned to spend on *(a)* new housing stock, *(b)* sustainability improvements to their housing stock and *(c)* stock maintenance over the 30-year period of the business plans included in her Department's modelling exercise on self-financing of council housing services. [256236]

Mr. Iain Wright: The report of the findings of the modelling exercise was published on 10 March 2008 and is available on the Department's website at:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/selffinancingservices.

The exercise tested a range of scenarios and assumptions. The exercise was based on the principle that a self-financing local authority would be put in a position which broadly matched the level of resources that it would have received if it had remained within the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system.

Council Tax: Overpayments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the payment of interest in respect of overpaid council tax resulting from a Valuation Office Agency banding error. [254850]

John Healey: The legislative framework governing the administration of council tax does not include a specific provision on the payment of interest. The Government have no plans to change this.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies. [256042]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each qualifying property occupied by my Department and its agencies.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 15 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 266-69W, on departmental ICT, what the purpose is of the *(a)* XML Schemas development, *(b)* RPD National Capability Survey Geodatabase projects and *(c)* Ordnance Survey GIS Development project. [252435]

Mr. Khan: The development of a single form for planning applications to replace a myriad of existing forms used across local government in various different formats is achieving significant benefits for local and central government, stakeholder organisations and the general public. The XML Schema development is required to bring the current schemas and associated standards up-to-date to enable the single form to be widely accessible from different IT platforms and personal computers

The National Capabilities Survey (NCS) is a key part of the UK Government's programme to increase the UK's resilience. The survey aims to assess current levels of capability and readiness across England. The results will identify gaps in event preparedness and be the baseline for judging priorities for future investment, exercising and policy development.

Ordnance Survey's GIS Development Project is designed to deliver a 'state of the art' technical environment for the National Geographical Database (NGD) to allow field editing, database transaction and data production management activities to take place in a seamless environment. The new systems will replace aging technology and enable Ordnance Survey to increase efficiency, reduce costs and deliver geographic information to market more quickly, with the improved content, currency and capability that customers demand.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many equalities impact assessments her Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255078]

Mr. Khan: Over the last 12 months CLG has published one full Equality Impact Assessment for the White Paper "Communities In Control: Real People, Real Power" which is available on the Departmental website. In addition each of the thirty final Impact Assessments published by CLG in 2008 considered the impact of the proposal on race, disability and gender equality. In general the cost of Equality Impact Assessments or Impact Assessments are not distinguished from the total cost of a project.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256320]

Mr. Khan: Information on sickness absence for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

From January 2008, information is provided by departments and collated by Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis. Figures for the 12 months to 31 December 2008 will not be prepared until March 2009.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256635]

Mr. Khan: Information on sickness absence for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

From January 2008, information is provided by departments and collated by Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis. Figures for the 12 months to 31 December 2008 will not be prepared until March 2009.

Housing: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the information on domestic properties provided by the Rightmove interface to the Valuation Office Agency includes property attribute information on the number of *(a)* bathrooms, *(b)* bedrooms and *(c)* parking spaces as part of the property. [255290]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1596-97W.

Local Authorities: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 509-10W, on local authorities: debt collection, whether the local authority enforcement powers for council tax include the use of bailiffs to undertake peaceful entry to collect unpaid council tax. [254768]

John Healey: Yes.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department is providing to each local authority under the most recent round of Growth Funding *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* per capita. [254857]

John Healey: Allocations from the Growth Fund were announced in December 2008 to support the delivery of infrastructure in the growth areas (excluding Thames Gateway) and the growth points for 2009-10 and 2010-11. Allocations for 2010-11 are provisional and will be confirmed in early 2010. The Secretary of State will adopt a policy of only altering provisional allocations in exceptional circumstances, in line with the approach taken in relation to the local government settlement. A copy of the allocations has been placed in the Library of the House.

As funding from the Growth Fund is un-ringfenced, it is paid to the growth location's nominated lead authority for the payment of grant. It is for the growth area/point authorities to prioritise how the funding is divided at the local level. There is no per capita element: to the allocation methodology.

The growth fund is now being managed by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Local Government Finance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage increase was in the local government finance settlement for the London Borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [254803]

John Healey: The following table shows the increases for the London Borough of Bexley in formula grant on a like-for-like basis i.e. after adjusting for changes in function and funding.

	Prior year's adjusted formula grant[1]	*Current year's formula grant*[2]	*Change*	
	£ million	*£ million*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
1998-99	125.118	130.985	5.867	4.7
1999-2000	130.985	140.198	9.213	7.0
2000-01	140.263	146.437	6.174	4.4
2001-02	145.521	154.980	9.459	6.5
2002-03	146.360	156.610	10.250	7.0
Amended 2003-04	159.618	165.225	5.607	3.5
Amended 2004-05	164.982	172.043	7.061	4.3
Amended 2005-06	173.518	182.531	9.013	5.2,
2006-07[3]	56.490	57.671	1.181	2.1
2007-08	57.182	58.726	1.544	2.7
2008-09	62.365	63.612	1.247	2.0
2009-10	63.538	64.650	1.112	1.75

[1] The prior year's formula grant is adjusted for changes in function and funding to enable a like-for-like comparison.

[2] Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.

[3] Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was paid through formula grant. In 2006-07 funding for schools transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Local Government: Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were employed by each local authority in England in each year since 1996-97. [254761]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Dartford (Dr. Stoate) on 7 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 1360W.

Local Government: Powers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has written to local authorities on the use of their powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act in the last three months. [254772]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) by my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 644W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the combined authorities proposed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill will have powers to levy *(a)* a council tax precept, *(b)* a congestion charge, *(c)* workplace parking charges and *(d)* local road pricing charges. [254773]

John Healey: The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill allows for the establishment of combined authorities. These will be able to take on the functions of an Economic Prosperity Board (proposed in part 6 of the LDEDC Bill) and the functions of an Integrated Transport Authority (ITA).

The LDEDC Bill does not empower combined authorities to raise a levy to cover other, non-transport, costs, nor to set a council tax precept. Under the Local Transport Act 2008 the six existing passenger transport authorities in England became ITAs on 9 February 2009. These ITAs (and any new ITAs established under that Act) will have the levying powers which the PTAs have held since 1990 in order to allow them to deliver and invest in transport services in their area.

Mortgages

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of houses mortgaged in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 where the ratio of house price to earnings was (i) more than 6:1, (ii) more than 8:1 and (iii) more than 10:1, based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders. [256237]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected by Communities and Local Government. However for the UK we have made the following estimates based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Data on the total number of mortgages for house purchase during 2008 will be available from CML on 12 February 2009.

Number and proportion of mortgages by price to income ratio, UK 2007

House price to income ratio	*Number*	*Percentage*
Less than or equal to 6	819,298	80.6
Greater than 6 but no more than 8	117,305	11.5
Greater than 8 but no more than 10	42,241	4.2
Greater than 10	37,555	3.7
Total	1,016,400	100.0

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to make changes to the formula governing distribution of revenue from non-domestic rates to local authorities from 2010. [254766]

John Healey: I have already announced the provisional allocation of the 2010-11 formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and principal formula police grant, where appropriate. In line with the Government's established policy on three-year settlements, it is not intended that this allocation will change other than in exceptional circumstances.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 4.16 of the pre-Budget report 2008, whether businesses which pay their liability in instalments will be required to declare backdated business rates bills as liabilities for accounting purposes. [255055]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House advice from the insolvency service on this issue.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual businesses have been notified by the Valuation Office Agency of *(a)* an increase in their rateable value and *(b)* a rateable value which previously was not levied in each of the 55 ports in England and Wales. [255216]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency does not hold the information requested in *(a)* above in this form and to assemble it would involve disproportionate cost. The aggregate effect of the review has been to increase the total number of properties (hereditaments) within ports that are separately rated at 1 April 2005 by 605 properties in England. Statistics for Wales have not been included as rates are a devolved matter.

The effect by each port is:

Port	*Cumulative change Number of hereditaments (+/-)*
England	
Barrow	1
Blyth	13
Boston	13
Bristol	5
Dover	62
Falmouth	1
Felixstowe	8
Fleetwood	1
Folkestone	5
Great Yarmouth	2
Harwich Dock	2
Harwich International	4
Ipswich	7
King's Lynn	8
Lowestoft	5
Port of London	0
Tilbury Container Services	3
Tilbury	41
Garston	7
Liverpool	91
Manchester ship canal	0
Seaham	7
Sunderland	17
Teesport	16
Tyne	15
Heysham	11
Workington	4
Goole	21
Grimsby	15
Hull	35
Immingham	40
Newhaven	0
Ramsgate	13
Sheerness	55
Shoreham	4
Thamesport	12
Plymouth Cattedown	0
Teignmouth	1
Plymouth Millbay	3
Poole	25
Portsmouth	2
Southampton container terminal	9

Port	Cumulative change Number of hereditaments (+/-)
Southampton	16
Sharpness	5
Totals England (excl Humber sea terminal)	605

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many port businesses had paid the first instalment of their individually assessed non-domestic rates by 2 February 2009; and on what date the full rates bill will fall due for those who have not paid this instalment. [256471]

John Healey: This information is not collected centrally, as the responsibility for issuing rates bills and collecting rates lies with the local authorities.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what statutory powers payment of non-domestic rates on port businesses assessed in 2008 may be demanded retrospectively to 2005. [256472]

John Healey: Regulation 14(2) of the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/659).

Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts have been awarded by her Department to social enterprises in each of the last three years. [255695]

Mr. Khan: Changes to the Department's finance system have only allowed the identification of social enterprises since September 2007. Since then three companies have been identified as social enterprises and one contract has been awarded to an organisation identified as a social enterprise.

Official Engagements

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public engagements inherited by the Minister for Housing upon her appointment have subsequently been cancelled. [254765]

Mr. Khan: There is no such thing as an 'inherited engagement'. My right hon. Friend has accepted or declined a range of invitations since her appointment as part of her ministerial duties.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1510W, on redundancy, what estimate she has made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate she has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254461]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The information requested on payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06 is not collected centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Such schemes bring benefits beyond reducing payroll costs. They enable the Department to strengthen its capability by ensuring that the skills profile of staff remains compatible with changing business needs.

Small Businesses

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities to provide business rate relief to assist small businesses. [255291]

John Healey: Small Business Rate Relief is available for those ratepayers that meet the eligibility criteria in properties under £15,000 rateable value (or £21,500 in London). In addition rural rate relief is available for village food shops, and single petrol stations or public houses in designated rural areas, providing they meet eligibility criteria.

Local authorities also have the power to grant relief to Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs and other non-profit making organisations that may benefit the community as well as to support businesses in cases of hardship.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to ensure that local authorities pass on the reduction in the rate of value added tax to small businesses and council tax payers. [255292]

John Healey: The Government expect all councils to pass on the full cut in VAT where it makes financial sense to do so. In cases where the cost of implementing the change would outweigh the financial benefit, authorities may wish to use savings in other ways, such as to improve services or keep council tax down. In such cases authorities should be transparent about how the funds are being used.

Sustainable Development: Public Participation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on whether panels of representatives of local persons set up under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 can include elected councillors. [254769]

John Healey: Statutory guidance on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 was published in July 2008 which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers a waste collection authority has to fine households who put waste out at times other than those specified by the authority. [251826]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) provides powers to local authorities to specify the conditions of the waste collection service they operate and requires them to inform the recipients of the service of those conditions by way of a "section 46 notice".

Breach of the terms of that notice would normally be met with advice to the householder.

Only if the event of serious and persistent breach of the order causing a serious nuisance would powers provided by EPA 1990 s46(6) or the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA) be acted upon.

JUSTICE

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247374]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice, created in May 2007, has collected information on direct funding to the third sector for the financial years from 2006-08.

	£ million
2006-07	37.6
2007-08	41.1

A full breakdown of the organisations funded over the past two years is shown in the following tables. These cover a wide range of organisations helping the Department deliver services in areas such as criminal and civil court services, legal aid and services for victims and witnesses. They include grant funding and contracting arrangements.

Ministry of Justice funding to third sector organisations 2006-07[1]

Name of third sector organisation	*Funding (£)*
Addaction	10,120
Advice Services Alliance	185,000
Anawim	24,028
Arch (North Staffordshire)	28,000
Aylesbury Vale Rape Crisis	24,300
Barnardo's Bridgeway	30,000
Barnardos Ilford	28,500
Barnsley Refuge Advice and Support Service (BRASS)	22,900
Black Arts Alliance	18,820
Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	30,000
British Youth Council	9,000
Butler Trust	46,112
Catch 21	750
Cheshire Dance	26,303
Citizenship Foundation	122,000
Clinks/Alliance to Reduce Offending (ARO)	65,000
Colchester Rape Crisis Line	30,000
Community Service Volunteers (CSV) Pre-Release Volunteer Scheme	150,000
Connection at St Martin	23,000
Coroners Courts Support Service for expansion to Essex (Chelmsford) Coroners court	3,000
Coroners Courts Support Service for expansion to Walthamstow, Hornsey and Croydon coroners courts	6,000
CSV/Springboard Sunderland Trust	406,500
Dance Utd	11,150
Derby CAB	11,593
Development Education Association	4,400
Devon Youth Association	30,000
Devon Youth Association	30,000
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	30,000
Eaves Housing for Women	30,000
Gay London Police Monitoring Group (Galop)	28,084
Genesis	27,400
Gloucestershire Rape Crisis Centre	10,000
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	29,930
Hansard Society	120,000
Health and Education for all (HEAL)	13,572
Hibiscus	47,200
Incest and Sexual Abuse Survivors	28,893
Involve	32,213
Kinergy	30,000
Kings College	10,000
Leasehold Advisory Service	28,000
Lincolnshire Action Trust	31,500
Magistrates' Association	50,000
Mediation Helpline	115,000
Minorities of Europe	5,000
Miscarriages of Justice—Royal Justice CAB	104,945
Money Advice Trust	800,000
Music in Prisons/Irene Taylor Trust	13,297
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO)	2,356,777
National Children's Home (NCH) Cymru	30,000
Network for Surviving Stalking (NASS)	29,961
New Pathways	30,000
North Liverpool Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	45,140
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	30,000
One in Four	29,824
Operation Black Vote	90,000
Personal Support Unit	50,000
Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)	90,000
Prison Video Trust	50,000
Prisoners Abroad	160,126
Probecsis	9,985
Rape and Sexual Violence Project	30,000
Rape Crisis Crisis Co-ordination Group	30,000
Reigate and Redhill YMCA	25,948
Respond	28,000
Reunite	85,000
ROSA (Rape or Sexual Abuse) Support Group	30,000
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre	30,000
South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau	9,070
Southside Partnership	45,000
Step Forward (Tower Hamlets)	30,000
Support After Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM)	140,000

Ministry of Justice funding to third sector organisations 2006-07[1]

Name of third sector organisation	*Funding (£)*
Supporting Others through Voluntary Action (SOVA)	540,136
Survivors Swindon Limited	30,000
Target Housing	30,000
Terrence Higgins Trust	29,489
The Nia Project	30,000
The Phoenix Education Trust	8,000
The Survivors Trust	29,807
The Winchester Centre	30,000
Twelves Company	29,907
Tyneside Rape Crisis Centre	29,988
UK Citizens Online Democracy	11,750
Victim Support	30,025,667
Victim Support Cornwall for start up of Coroners Court support Service in Cornwall	2,000
Victim support Norfolk for Coroners Courts Support Service in Norfolk coroner courts	3,000
Victim Support Teesside for Coroners Court Support Service in Teesside coroners court	2,000
Voice UK	30,000
Wandsworth Mediation Service	86,000
Womankind	30,000
Women's Counselling & Therapy Service	29,707
Women's Support Network	30,000
Wycombe Rape Crisis	26,750
Young Foundation	10,000
Young Person's Advisory Service	23,100
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)	29,979
Total	37,591,517

[1] Figures include funding by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

Ministry of Justice funding to third sector organisations 2007-08[1]

Name of third sector organisation	*Funding (£)*
Addaction	10,000
Advance	20,000
Advice Services Alliance	195,000
Anawim	24,671
Arch North Staffordshire and Stoke City Partnership IDVA for Stoke on Trent	20,000
Bedfordshire Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA): Victim Support (providers)	20,000
Berkshire Women's Aid (and Crossing Bridges)	40,000
Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid	60,000
Blackburn and Darwen District Women's Aid	20,000
Blackpool and Fylde Advocacy Service	20,000
Blackpool Advocacy Service	20,000
Blaenau Gwent Domestic Abuse Service	20,000
Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Survivors Service	45,106
Brent Domestic Violence Advocacy Project (Advance)	20,000
Bridgend Women's Aid	20,000
Brighton and Hove IDVA Service'	30,000
Bristol DA IDVA Consortium	20,000
Butler Trust	63,969
Caerphilly County borough council	20,000
Calderdale Domestic Violence Forum	20,000
Caldmore Area Housing Association	31,485
Cambs IDVA Advocacy Service	20,000
Carmarthenshire IDDA Service (hosted by Cymdeithas Tai Hafan)	20,000
Catch 21	5,000
Centre for Peaceful solutions	17,000
Cheshire County Council Western Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit	20,000
Children Law UK	50,000
Chorley and South Ribble Service	20,000
Cis'ters	37,088
Citizenship Foundation	100,000
Clinks/Alliance to Reduce Offending (ARO)	69,720
Colchester Rape Crisis Line	21,931
Community Safety and Prevention Service	20,000
Community Service Volunteers (CSV) Pre-release Volunteer Scheme	150,000
Coroners Courts Support Service for expansion to Buckinghamshire coroner's court	3,000
Coroners Courts Support Service for expansion to Hertfordshire coroners court	3,000
Coroners Courts Support Service for expansion to Milton Keynes coroner's court	3,000
County Council Community Safety Domestic Violence Team	30,000
County Durham and Darlington Probation	20,000
Coventry Haven	20,000
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	35,424
Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI) Domestic Abuse Service	30,000
Crisis Point	15,368
Croydon Women's Aid and Family Justice Centre (FJC)	20,000
CSV Springboard	417,000
DA Resource Team (DART)	20,000
Democracy Coalition for Children & Young People	11,000
Derby CAB	11,245
Derby CSP	20,000
Derbyshire Rape Crisis	19,450
Domestic Violence Family Safety Unit and Eastern Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit	20,000
Domestic Violence Services, Keighley (and Airdale)	20,000
Domestic Violence Support Service	20,000
Doncaster Rape and Sexual abuse	44,607
Early Intervention Project	20,000
East Berkshire Womens Aid	40,000
East Riding Yorks Council: Domestic Violence Accommodation Project (DVAP)	20,000
Eaves Lilith Project	30,104
English Secondary Students Association	13,454
Essex Probation Service	40,000
Eva Women's Aid previously Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid	41,724
Exeter Women's Aid	20,000
Family Matters	20,000
Family Matters	20,000
Gay London Police Monitoring Group (Galop)	35,122
Gloucester Domestic Violence Support and Advocacy Project (GDVSAP)	20,000
Hansard Society	86,841
Harbour Central Services	20,000
Harrow Hestia Women's Aid	20,000
Heal	38,038
Health and Social Care Department/Chief Executives	20,000
Help, Advice and the Law Team (HALT)	40,000
Hibiscus	46,645
Highbury and Islington IDVA	20,000
Hillingdon IDVA	20,000
Impact Housing Association	20,000
Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service	20,000
Interactive Rhyl Ltd	20,000
Involve	70,592
Island Womens Refuge	20,000

Ministry of Justice funding to third sector organisations 2007-08[1]

Name of third sector organisation	*Funding (£)*
Its My Right; Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	40,000
Kingston upon Hull City Council: Hull DA Partnership	20,000
Knowsley Domestic Violence support service	20,000
Lancaster and District Womens Aid	20,000
Leeway Women's Aid	20,000
Leicester Domestic Violence Integrated Response Project (DVIRP)	40,000
Lincoln Womens Aid	20,000
Lincolnshire Action Trust	30,104
Luton Independent DA Advisors	20,000
Magistrates Association	55,000
Manchester Rape Crisis	25,635
Mansfield and Ashfield Womens Aid	20,000
Milton Keynes Womens Aid	20,000
Miscarriages of Justice—Royal Justice CAB	116,493
Money Advice Trust	1,000,000
Monmouthshire County Council	20,000
Move On East	22,290
Mubarek Trust	53,000
Multi Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) Team; East Lancashire Women's Refuge Association in Partnership with Burnley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)	20,000
My Sisters place:	20,000
mysociety	17,626
N Derbs WA, Derbs VS, Next Steps multi-agency IDVA service	20,000
Nacro	2,413,104
Neath Women's Aid	20,000
New Pathway	23,660
Newport City Council	20,000
No Limits (Southampton)	26,000
North Devon Womens Aid	20,000
North Eastern Prison After Care Society (NEPACS)	33,657
North Liverpool Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	61,930
North Somerset Against Domestic Abuse (NADA) and North Somerset Partnership	20,000
Northampton and Northern Sunflower Centres	30,000
Northamptonshire Rape and incest Crisis Centre	20,000
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	41,108
One in Four	48,510
Operation Black Vote	70,000
Ormiston Children and Families Trust	29,000
Partners of Prisoners and Families Support	28,275
Pathway (Stonham and Kiaura)	20,000
Pecan	28,275
Personal Support Unit	50,000
Peterborough City Council	20,000
Plymouth Rape and Sexual Abuse Line	12,450
Plymouth Womens Aid	20,000
Pontypridd Safety Unit	20,000
Positive Action Training Recruitment Agency (PATRA)	20,240
Preston Independent DA Service	20,000
Prison Video Trust	50,000
Prisoners Abroad	233,167
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire and Merseyside)	35,370
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (North Wales)	25,525
Rape and Sexual violence Project (Birmingham)	21,090
RASAC-Rape and Sexual abuse Counselling Service (Winchester)	26,000
Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse (both Oxfords)	30,000
Refuge Kent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service	80,000
Registry Trust	120,000
Respond	50,000
Reunite	131,500
Rotherham Womens Aid	20,000
Safe(5)Home	20,000
Safer Doncaster Partnership with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	20,000
Salford Foundation	10,000
Salford Women's Aid	20,000
Sandwell Organisation Against Domestic Abuse (SOADA)	20,000
Sexual & Domestic Abuse and Rape advice Centre	15,250
Sexual Abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)	17,767
Sheffield DA Forum	20,000
Sheffield Women's Counselling	18,672
Shropshire IDVA Service (Stonham)	20,000
Solent Peoples Theatre	44,868
Somerset Change	40,000
South Asian Consortium Kirklees	36,117
South Devon Womens Aid	20,000
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centres (SERICC)	49,291
Southampton IDVA Service	35,000
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	47,804
Southside Family Project	20,000
Southside Partnership	45,000
Speaker's Corner Trust	17,625
Stafford Women's Aid - also serves Stafford SDVC	20,000
Star Centre	20,000
Step Forward	32,190
Stonham	40,000
Suffolk County Council	20,000
Sunflower Centre	20,000
Support After Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM)	140,000
Supporting Others through Voluntary Action (SOVA)	548,773
Survive	20,000
Survivor's Network	10,406
Survivors Swindon Limited	35,900
Survivors UK	30,000
Swansea Women's Aid / Black Association for Women Step Out (BAWSO)	20,000
Tai Hafan	20,000
Target Housing	30,000
Telford IDVA	20,000
The Relationship Centre	20,000
The Relationship Centre	20,000
Torbay Victim Support IDVA Service	20,000
Torfaen County Borough Council	20,000
Twelves Company	35,827
UK Youth Parliament	3,000
UK Youth Parliament	12,000
Unlocking Democracy	7,938
Vale of Glamorgan IDA	20,000
Victim Support	30,028,000
Victim Support (York and Selby)	20,000
Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight	20,000
Victim Support Wiltshire	40,000
Victim Support: Barnsley SDVC	20,000
Victim Support: Dudley SDVC	20,000
Victim Support: North East Hants (Alton) SDVC	20,000
Victim Support: South Cumbria (Barrow and Kendal)	20,000
Victim Support: West Cumbria (Workington and Whitehaven)	20,000
Voice UK	28,000

Ministry of Justice funding to third sector organisations 2007-08[1]

Name of third sector organisation	*Funding (£)*
Walsall Domestic Violence Forum	30,000
Walsall Street Teams	30,000
Wandsworth Mediation Service	104.000
Warrington DA Support Service	20,000
Wearside Women in Need	20,000
Wirral Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)—Community Safety Team	20,000
Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum	20,000
Womankind	41,202
Womans Trust	20,000
Womans Trust (Domestic Violence Advocacy Service)	20,000
Women Against Violence Europe (W.A.V.E) Domestic Abuse Centre	20,000
Women Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cornwall	32,416
Womens Aid (Previously North Yorks Victim Support)	20,000
Women's Aid Advice Centre	20,000
Womens Aid Leicestershire Limited (WALL)	20,000
Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre IDVA Service	20,000
Women's Safety Unit	20,000
Women's Support Network	28,038
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	28,445
Worst Kept Secret	20,000
Wrexham IDVA Service (Community Safety Partnerships)	20,000
Total	41,118,268

[1] Figures include funding by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since its inception. [251428]

Maria Eagle: Expenditure by Departments on agency and temporary staff costs has been disclosed in departmental resource accounts since 2005-06.

The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. The Ministry's first set of resource accounts for 2007-08 reported expenditure for the whole of the new Department as if it had existed since 1 April 2007 i.e. for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). Expenditure prior to 2007-08 is disclosed within the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and Home Office resource accounts. It is only possible to disaggregate expenditure by NOMS and OCJR from the Home Office's accounts at disproportionate cost.

On this basis, expenditure on agency and temporary staff is as follows:

2007-08: Ministry of Justice—£137.4million (including NOMS and OCJR)

2006-07: DCA—£53.4 million

2005-06: DCA—£67.6 million

Expenditure on agency and temporary staff costs in the financial year 2008-09 has not been reported as the Ministry does not yet have full year audited figures to report. The use of temporary staff is something that the Ministry considers appropriate to cover short-term needs on a temporary basis.

HM Courts Service: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 512W, on HM Courts Service: finance, what assessment he has made of the accuracy of his Department's *(a)* estimate and *(b)* assumptions against the actual volume of cases handled. [254287]

Mr. Straw: The assessment of the accuracy of the assumptions and estimated income is revisited in the current financial year and is based on recent volatility of and identifiable trends in the volumes of cases in past and current years. Using prior year volumes, based on historical actuals, and multiplying the total by the fee charge provides the basis of the fee income forecast for the financial year. In addition the impact, on the forecasted fee income, is adjusted to take into account known impacts from proposed changes to fee policy in the coming year, for example new fee charges. Throughout the year the fee income forecast and the assumptions against volume are revisited on a monthly basis, using actual data captured. Any substantial changes to volume trends, that can be identified, are factored in and adjustments made to the income forecast.

Legal Services Commission: Wales

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the future of the Legal Services Commission in Wales with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Wales and *(b)* the First Minister; and if he will make a statement. [255543]

Mr. Malik: My noble Friend Lord Bach, Minister for Legal Aid, has briefly discussed this matter with the First Minister for Wales. He has also corresponded with Brian Gibbons AM, the relevant Welsh Assembly Minister, as well as with Wales Office Ministers.

My noble Friend and I will continue to work closely with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Wales Office and the Legal Services Commission to ensure that the final decisions on the Commission's efficiency savings take full account of the needs of Wales.

Monarchy: Succession

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the status of the UK's reservation to Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on the legal status of children born out of wedlock is in respect of matters relating to succession to the Crown; what attempts were made to renew the reservation in or prior to September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [253843]

Mr. Straw: The reservation referred to is in fact a declaration. When renewing other UK reservations to this convention, we have also taken the opportunity to reaffirm our understanding of the meaning of Articles 9 and 10. The UK reservations to the Convention were originally made in 1981, and were renewed in 1986, 1994, 1991 and 2002.

Offences against Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders *(a)* aged 18 years or over and *(b)* aged 21 years or over received a caution for sexual activity with a child under 13 in the last year for which data are available; [252812]

(2) what proportion of offenders *(a)* aged 18 years or over and *(b)* aged 21 years or over convicted of sexual activity with a child under 13 received (i) immediate custody, (ii) a suspended sentence, (iii) a community sentence, (iv) a fine, (v) a conditional or absolute discharge and (vi) other treatment in the last year for which data are available; [252813]

(3) what the average custodial sentence for those convicted of *(a)* rape of a female aged under 16 years, *(b)* rape of a male aged under 16 years, *(c)* rape of a female aged under 13 years and *(d)* rape of a male aged under 13 years was in the last 12 months. [252828]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of offenders aged 18 to 20 and aged 21 and over cautioned for sexual activity with a child under 13 in England and Wales in 2007 (latest available) is contained in the following table.

The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Number of offenders aged 18 to 20 and 21 years and over cautioned for offences relating to sexual activity with a child aged under 13[1], England and Wales, 2007[2,3]

	Number
Aged 18-20	20
Aged 21 and over	64

[1] Includes the following statutes under the Sexual Offences Act 2003: Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 (1)(2) and (3), 9 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) and (2) and (3). 10 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) and (3), 11 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(ii) and (2). 12 (1)(a)(b)(c)(ii) and 2, 25 (1)(e)(ii) and (2)-(4)(a)(b). 49 (1)(a)(b)(ii) and (2)

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

The following table shows the proportion of offenders *(a)* aged 18 or over and *(b)* aged 21 years or over convicted of sexual activity with a child under 13.

Proportion of offenders given disposals for sexual activity with a child under 13, by age of offender, 2007

Age of offender	*Immediate custody (percentage)*	*Suspended sentence (percentage)Age*	*Community sentence (percentage)*	*Fine (percentage)*	*Conditional or absolute discharge (percentage)*	*Otherwise dealt with (percentage)*	*Total sentenced*
Offenders aged between 18 and 20	72.7	9.1	16.0	0.0	1.2	0.9	581
Offenders aged 21 or over	74.3	8.8	15.3	0.0	0.8	0.8	498

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The proportion of those given various disposals is shown as a percentage of those sentenced. Lags in time between conviction and sentencing may mean that the total numbers convicted and sentenced in a year may not match.

The average custodial sentence for the rape of males and females under the age of 16 and 13 is contained in the following table.

Average custodial sentence length (ACSL)[1] and number of determinate and indeterminate custodial sentences for rape of females and males under 13 and 16, 2007

	ACSL (months)	*Indeterminate custodial sentences*	*Determinate custodial sentences*
Rape of a female under 16	108.2	38	193
Rape of a male under 16	88.5	5	15
Rape of a female under 13	73.5	21	52
Rape of a male under 13	50.3	15	13

[1] ACSL excludes life/indeterminate sentences.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

When calculating average custodial sentence length only determinate custodial sentences are included. This may have the effect of making the ASCL appear lower for offences where a larger proportion of offenders are given indeterminate sentences.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Costs

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the monthly updates on the Criminal Justice System produced for the Prime Minister by the Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit of the Office of Criminal Justice Reform cost to produce in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will publish each of the monthly performance updates produced in 2007 and 2008. [247168]

Maria Eagle: This regular monthly report is no longer produced. The last report was submitted in March 2008. The reports will not be published as they contain policy advice which is covered by an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act Section (s36 2 (b) (i)).

Production costs are only available in respect of staff time undertaken each month to produce the report and as such it is not possible to provide an accurate or precise breakdown of these amounts.

Prisons: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date his Department plans to open the new prison in Caernarfon; [256474]

(2) how many prison places there will be in the new prison at Caernarfon. [256475]

Mr. Hanson: Decisions on the size of the new prison at Caernarfon and the operational date will be taken at a later date.

Negotiations with the owner, confirmation that contamination on the site will not impede a prison development, and a successful application for outline planning permission will be the key issues on panel time scales.

Rape: Civil Proceedings

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many rape cases *(a)* reached court and *(b)* ended in the acquittal of the defendant in each of the last five years. [255435]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and acquitted at all courts for offences relating to rape, in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and acquitted at all courts for offences relating to rape, in England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	Proceeded against	*Acquitted at all courts*	*Proceeded against*	*Acquitted at all courts*	*Proceeded against*	*Acquitted at all courts*	*Proceeded against*	*Acquitted at all courts*	*Proceeded against*	*Acquitted at all courts*
Absolute rape	2,550	1,023	2,453	966	2,558	1,021	2,335	982	2,138	885
Attempted rape	231	117	236	96	267	91	232	101	224	102
Total	2,781	1,140	2,689	1,062	2,825	1,112	2,567	1,083	2,362	987

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes:
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.l and 5

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004 and repeals previous Sexual Offences Acts.

[5] Acquitted at all courts refers to:
Proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn, and dismissed at magistrates courts, and acquitted at crown court

[6] The number acquitted may include those prosecuted in previous years

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Re-offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rates in the 12 months following release were of inmates from *(a)* Oakhill, *(b)* Medway, *(c)* Rainsbrook and *(d)* Hassockfield secure training centre in the latest period for which information is available. [256470]

Mr. Hanson: Data are not available for the re-offending rates of young offenders released from individual secure training centres. Individual establishment names are not included in the datasets used to produce the re-offending statistics.

However, information on the rate of re-offending for all young offenders released from custody (either from Young Offender Institutions, Secure Training Centres or Secure Children's Homes) is available, covering the period 2000 to 2006. These data are shown in the following table.

Quarter 1 each year:	*Number of offenders*	*Proportion of offenders re-offending (one year)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders (one year)*
2000	912	75.7	482.1
2002	959	72.9	465.9
2003	786	73.8	442.5
2004	815	76.4	414.8
2005	844	73.1	409.5
2006	817	77.0	404.0

The latest re-offending statistics for juveniles, 'Re-offending of juveniles: results from the 2006 cohort', were published in September 2008 and can be obtained from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

Secure Training Centres: Young People

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons under 16 years old were released from secure training centres in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many of those returned to full-time education upon release in each such year. [256503]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the numbers of sentenced young people aged under 16 who have been released from secure training centres in the last three years. These statistics have been provided by the YJB.

Sentenced young people under 16 released from STCs

	Number
2006	309
2007	293
2008	321

Data on the number of young people aged under 16 who return to full-time education on release from secure training centres are not available.

Youth Custody

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons aged 16 to 21 were released from custody other than from secure training centres and secure children's homes in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what percentage of those *(a)* entered employment and *(b)* returned to education or training upon release in each such year. [256505]

Mr. Hanson: Data of this nature are only available by entire establishment type and it is not possible to separate out specific age groups.

The National Offender Management Service did not start recording employment and education/training data separately until April 2007. The following table shows data for 2007-08 and for April 2008 to December 2008 (latest available figures[1]).

[1] Data is provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

Counting rules for discharge data changed in 2007-08 and are not comparable with previous years

	Number of prisoners discharged[1]		*Percentage of prisoners discharged with employment*		*Percentage of prisoners discharged with education or training*	
	April 2007 to March 2008	*April 2008 to December 2008*	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to December 2008*	*April 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to December 2008*
Prisons holding 15 to 17-year-olds	3,028	2,185	5.2	5.4	54.9	53.1
Prisons holding 18 to 20-year-olds	5,372	4,590	26.3	26.9	14.2	14.5
Prisons holding both 15 to 17-year-olds and 18 to 20-year-olds	4,040	3,220	17.8	17.8	26.4	30.3

[1] Exclude temporary releases or prisoners that are deported upon release.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital spending has been brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 for (i) Building Schools for the Future and (ii) all other capital spending; and if he will make a statement. [255266]

Jim Knight: The Department is bringing forward capital allocations from 2010-11 to 2009-10 as part of its contribution to the £3 billion government-wide stimulus programme described in the pre-Budget report.

BSF typically involves the design and build of entire new schools which are less suitable for bringing forward quickly for construction in a 12 month period. The pipeline of business for BSF, however, continues to increase as planned. The Department is already committed to ensure build takes place as rapidly as possible, and it has not been practicable to accelerate this further.

It is planned to bring forward other capital allocations amounting to approximately £800 million from 2010-11 to 2009-10. The mix of programmes making this up will be determined by replies received from local authorities.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 January, *Official Report*, columns 833-34W, on children: databases, how much of such spending was incurred in each local authority area in each year. [255625]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I will make available a document which sets out grants provided to local authorities covering the period 2005/06 to 2009/10. Grants have yet to be decided for the financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12. This document will placed be in the Libraries.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in child care settings have achieved GCSE English grade C or above. [249699]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information about the qualifications held by all paid staff working for child care and early years providers. The questionnaire is designed to pick up only qualifications that were relevant to working with young people and children. Qualifications are grouped together in the levels that they have been accredited with by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Level 2 (intermediate level) refers to GCSE A*-C, Intermediate GNVQ, and Level 2 NVQ. Separate data for GCSE English A*-C is not available.

Tables 1 and 2 show the proportion of all paid staff qualified to at least Level 2, by type of provision, for 2007.

Table 1: Staff qualified to at least Level 2 for all paid staff

	Percentage
Full day care	88
Full day care in children's centres	92
Sessional	79
After school clubs	75
Holiday clubs	75
Childminders	49

Base: All paid childcare staff 2007. All childminders 2007.

Table 2: Staff qualified to at least Level 2 for all paid staff

	Percentage
Nursery schools	91
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	85
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	82

Base: All paid early years staff 2007.

Children: Protection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* child protection and *(b)* looked-after children reviews were held within the required timescales in the last 12 months. [247386]

Beverley Hughes: In the year ending 31 March 2008, 99 per cent. of child protection cases were reviewed within required timescales. This figure has been taken from the statistical first release "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—year ending 31 March 2008", which can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml.

In the year ending 31 March 2007, 85.3 per cent. of looked-after children reviews were held within the required time scales. This figure have been taken from the statistical first release "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007", which can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml.

This figure for the year ending March 2008 is not yet available and will be published as soon as possible in the following location on the DCSF website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 837W, on children: protection, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter. [255636]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The letter has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Beverley Hughes, dated 29 January 2009:

I have seen the final Annual Performance Assessment (APA) letter for Birmingham, which was published by Ofsted on 17 December 2008.

I was very concerned to see that inspectors have identified a number of issues around safeguarding services for children and young people in Birmingham and judged the "Staying Safe" strand to be inadequate. I am also concerned that four out of five Serious Case Reviews have recently been judged to be inadequate by Ofsted.

I recognise that you have taken a series of actions since April 2008 to address weaknesses in your children's social care service. I welcome that you have decided to personally chair a Task Force to address the weaknesses identified and to drive forward improvements in children's social care. I would like your Children's Services Adviser in the Government Office for the West Midlands, Kay Whyte-Bell, to be a member of this Task Force. She will report to me monthly on progress. I am also pleased that you are receiving support from your Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to appoint an Assistant Director to your new management structure.

However, given the critical importance of managing risks to children's safety and the need to ensure that progress is made swiftly and decisively, I have instructed my officials to work with Birmingham to provide a package of intervention support. This package will consist of:

Bringing in an additional two interim Assistant Directors for your safeguarding service, as per your new management structure, through my Department's Children's Services Improvement Framework. The Department will contribute 50% of the costs towards these interim posts. GOWM will quality-assure the procurement process. I have also requested that they quality-assure the potential candidates for your Service Director post and your third Assistant Director post, for which you have received funding from your Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

A small team of external consultants to conduct a root-and-branch review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and provide recommendations on its operation and structure. This review will look closely at the organisation of Serious Case Reviews and whether changes need to be made to the handling of such cases. This team will also work with middle managers in your Duty and Assessment team and other front-line social care teams to develop performance management systems to ensure current work is on track and meeting requirements that will lead to the improvements necessary.

Enhanced monitoring from GOWM. I understand the Children's Services Adviser and Social Care Specialist Support Manager are receiving fortnightly progress reports regarding your Serious Case Reviews and the Secretary of State's commission to review SCRs judged inadequate by Ofsted. I have asked for progress on SCRs to be included in the monthly reports that will be provided to me by the Children's Services Adviser.

I am keen to see swift improvements in Birmingham and for children, young people and families to receive the service they deserve. I have decided therefore to underpin the improvement measures and progress I expect with an Improvement Notice. This will give Birmingham City Council twelve months to demonstrate robust and sustained progress, with a review after six months. Should improvement not be sufficient at either six or twelve months, I will need to consider the use of statutory powers to direct a solution. I am sure you will understand the necessity of this course of action, given we are dealing with safeguarding provision for vulnerable children and young people. My officials will be in touch shortly to discuss a draft Improvement Notice before I formally issue the Notice to the Council.

I know that we share a commitment to delivering improved outcomes for Birmingham's children and young people. It is vital now that we work together in order to achieve that goal.

I am copying this letter to Councillor Les Lawrence (Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families), Stephen Hughes (Chief executive) and the Director of Children's Services (Tony Howell). A copy will also be circulated to local MPs.

Connexions Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Catholic schools host the Connexions service; and if he will make a statement. [256728]

Beverley Hughes: The provision of Connexions services in schools is the responsibility of local authorities. We do not keep a central record of what advice is provided by Connexions Services to any particular school.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Telephone Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a dedicated telephone line for hon. Members to call regarding the education maintenance allowance. [256260]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has given no consideration to establishing a dedicated telephone line for hon. Members to call regarding issues with the education maintenance allowance. issues that are raised directly with the Department for Children, Schools and Families by hon. Members are referred to the Learning and Skills Council. The Learning and Skills Council has operational responsibility for the education maintenance allowance.

Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is the Government's policy that education spending should continue to rise as a share of gross domestic product; and if he will make a statement. [255287]

Jim Knight: The proportion of GDP being spent on education across the current period, 2008-11, was determined during comprehensive spending review 2007. There are no plans to change current levels of funding. The proportion of GDP to be committed to education thereafter will be determined by the next spending review.

Educational Psychology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many educational psychologists there were in each local authority in 2008; how many children aged 18 years or under there were per educational psychologist; and how many children and young people aged 18 years or under with (i) statemented and (ii) non-statemented special educational needs there were per educational psychologist. [252674]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by each local authority in England in January 2008, the number of these per child aged 18 or under and the number per pupil in local authority maintained schools with statemented and non-statemented special educational needs at that date.

Full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by local authorities, and the number of these per child aged 18 or under, per child in local authority maintained school with statemented and non-statemented special educational needs, 2008, England

	FTE educational psychologists[1,2]	Children aged 18 or under per EP[3]	Pupils with statement of SEN per EP[3]	Pupils with SEN but without statement per EP[3]
England	2,123	4,830	90	580
Darlington	7	3,200	60	420
Durham	23	4,420	100	690
Gateshead	11	3,730	70	460
Hartlepool	4	5,300	80	770
Middlesbrough	7	4,850	130	550
Newcastle upon Tyne	12	4,280	70	620
North Tyneside	9	4,730	100	560
Northumberland	16	3,890	90	420
Redcar and Cleveland	6	5,420	110	850
South Tyneside	6	5,650	130	710
Stockton on Tees	10	4,170	90	400
Sunderland	13	4,650	90	660
Blackburn with Darwen	12	3,160	50	440
Blackpool	5	6,410	110	930
Bolton	10	6,480	120	850
Bury	8	5,340	110	520
Cheshire	23	6,480	140	550
Cumbria	15	6,860	130	810
Halton	6	5,060	120	720
Knowsley	8	4,480	90	690
Lancashire	40	6,360	150	590
Liverpool	16	5,580	90	1,040
Manchester	17	5,660	130	800
Oldham	10	5,600	80	670
Rochdale	9	5,670	120	650
Salford	9	5,320	90	590
Sefton	22	2,720	40	330
St. Helens	9	4,470	60	480
Stockport	11	5,410	110	550

Full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by local authorities, and the number of these per child aged 18 or under, per child in local authority maintained school with statemented and non-statemented special educational needs, 2008, England

Full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by local authorities, and the number of these per child aged 18 or under, per child in local authority maintained school with statemented and non-statemented special educational needs, 2008, England

	FTE educational psychologists[1,2]	*Children aged 18 or under per EP*[3]	*Pupils with statement of SEN per EP*[3]	*Pupils with SEN but without statement per EP*[3]
Tameside	12	4,220	70	470
Trafford	7	6,430	120	700
Warrington	6	7,260	190	780
Wigan	26	2,590	50	300
Wirral	13	5,390	140	670
Barnsley	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bradford	19	6,480	100	1,000
Calderdale	7	6,240	120	750
Doncaster	9	7,340	130	870
East Riding of Yorkshire	13	5,140	90	510
Kingston upon Hull, City of	10	5,810	120	710
Kirklees	24	3,980	80	440
Leeds	24	6,480	90	780
North East Lincolnshire	3	10,700	250	1,840
North Lincolnshire	8	4,350	110	610
North Yorkshire	17	7,360	100.	690
Rotherham	11	5,130	100	770
Sheffield	18	6,100	120	900
Wakefield	11	6,460	120	820
York	7	5,120	60	500
Derby	10	5,350	100	720
Derbyshire	29	5,490	90	590
Leicester	15	4,670	100	640
Leicestershire	21	6,380	120	570
Lincolnshire	24	5,970	160	740
Northamptonshire	33	4,690	100	620
Nottingham	16	3,440	30	630
Nottinghamshire	25	6,490	50	790
Rutland	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Birmingham	43	5,820	140	800
Coventry	16	4,290	80	620
Dudley	11	6,200	130	790
Herefordshire	7	5,640	90	680
Sandwell	16	4,300	60	620
Shropshire	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Solihull	12	3,990	90	510
Staffordshire	30	5,740	120	520
Stoke on Trent	13	3,940	90	620
Telford and Wrekin	17	2,320	60	280
Walsall	11	5,290	90	580
Warwickshire	17	6,580	130	770
Wolverhampton	20	2,640	60	300
Worcestershire	22	5,510	110	640
Bedfordshire	14	6,440	130	680
Cambridgeshire	3	46,430	950	4,810
Essex	42	7,120	130	690
Hertfordshire	42	5,860	100	620
Luton	9	5,010	80	710
Norfolk	24	6,980	160	880
Peterborough	8	5,100	150	820
Southend on Sea	7	5,000	120	570
Suffolk	17	9,100	160	940
Thurrock	8	4,770	110	660
Camden	12	3,220	70	350
City of London	0	7,700	40	940
Hackney	13	3,830	70	470
Hammersmith and Fulham	7	4,150	90	580
Haringey	12	4,050	80	620
Islington	13	2,550	50	430
Kensington and Chelsea	6	4,730	40	230
Lambeth	15	3,390	70	470
Lewisham	11	5,060	100	720
Newham	12	5,190	40	830
Southwark	17	3,140	80	500
Tower Hamlets	17	2,840	70	440
Wandsworth	14	3,250	90	510
City of Westminster	9	3,680	70	520
Barking and Dagenham	17	2,590	n/a	n/a
Barnet	13	5,700	100	710
Bexley	10	5,340	120	760
Brent	13	4,230	90	680
Bromley	13	5,150	120	500
Croydon	13	5,930	90	760
Ealing	15	4,260	80	590
Enfield	18	3,720	60	600
Greenwich	16	3,250	90	560
Harrow	11	4,450	80	530
Havering	10	5,170	80	470
Hillingdon	11	5,440	100	790
Hounslow	13	3,700	80	610
Kingston upon Thames	14	2,280	40	200
Merton	7	5,470	100	550
Redbridge	8	7,500	160	770
Richmond upon Thames	7	5,780	100	430
Sutton	10	4,410	100	500
Waltham Forest	12	4,290	110	810
Bracknell Forest	4	6,460	120	660
Brighton and Hove	7	6,290	120	860
Buckinghamshire	22	5,130	100	430
East Sussex	19	5,490	100	610
Hampshire	48	5,790	90	660
Isle of Wight	5	5,500	90	540
Kent	48	6,560	120	980
Medway	7	9,200	190	1,620
Milton Keynes	11	5,080	110	530

Full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists (EPs) employed by local authorities, and the number of these per child aged 18 or under, per child in local authority maintained school with statemented and non-statemented special educational needs, 2008, England

	FTE educational psychologists[1,2]	Children aged 18 or under per EP[3]	Pupils with statement of SEN per EP[3]	Pupils with SEN but without statement per EP[3]
Oxfordshire	26	5,260	80	510
Portsmouth	7	5,270	110	840
Reading	5	5,430	90	610
Slough	10	3,000	70	460
Southampton	11	3,930	50	660
Surrey	37	6,480	120	610
West Berkshire	9	4,260	100	480
West Sussex	36	4,550	80	550
Windsor and Maidenhead	7	4,490	80	380
Wokingham	3	10,550	230	830
Bath and North East Somerset	7	4,890	110	450
Bournemouth	8	3,720	60	450
City of Bristol	40	1,950	40	200
Cornwall	23	4,610	80	510
Devon	35	4,190	80	470
Dorset	16	5,320	80	630
Gloucestershire	23	5,480	90	570
Isles of Scilly	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Somerset	10	4,280	50	480
Plymouth	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poole	8	3,390	50	410
Somerset	28	4,000	30	400
South Gloucestershire	9	6,210	110	600
Swindon	6	6,580	130	820
Torbay	4	7,340	230	860
Wiltshire	23	4,510	70	440

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] EPs in service including those on secondment for in service and other training.

[2] Local authorities showing no EPs may acquire these services from neighbouring authorities.

[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Form 618g survey, School Census and ONS population estimates.

English Language: Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of primary school children in England did not have English as a first language in each year since 1997. [255722]

Jim Knight: The table shows the numbers and percentages of primary school children in England who did not have English as a first language in each year since 1997.

Number and percentage of primary school[1] children of compulsory school age and above whose first language is known or believed to be other than English, England, 1997-2008, position in January each year

	Number	Percentage[2]
1997	276,248	7.8
1998	303,635	8.5
1999	301,800	8.4
2000	311,512	8.7
2001	331,512	9.3
2002	350,483	10.0
2003	364,937	10.5
2004	376,600	11.0
2005	395,270	11.6
2006	419,600	12.5
2007	447,480	13.5
2008[3]	470,080	14.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed and excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] The percentage is the number of children whose first language is known or believed to be other than English expressed as a percentage of the total number of children. First language was classified as English or other than English from 1997 to 2002 and English or other than English or unclassified from 2003.

[3] Provisional

The figures for 2003 onwards are not directly comparable with those for 1997 to 2002 because of changes to the classification.

Equality

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* steps his Department has taken and *(b)* guidance his Department has issued to schools to meet the needs of pupils who are left-handed; and if he will make a statement. [256605]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has made no specific provision for left-handed children, but does issue handwriting guidance that applies equally to left and right-handed children. This includes:

The National Strategies Primary Framework launched in October 2006 which includes a strand dedicated to presentation skills, including handwriting. This provides objectives for every year group from reception to year 6.

The letters and sounds materials (our phonics resource) which contains general guidance on the teaching of handwriting to young children.

These materials are guidance only and it is for schools to decide when to introduce joined-up script. There is no nationally prescribed scheme and no requirement to teach a particular style or script.

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who left care in 2008 in each local authority area had had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 40 and *(g)* 50 foster placements whilst they were in care. [255711][1]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children who left care in 2008 in each local authority who had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 40 and *(g)* 50 foster placements while they were in care in England can be found in the following table.

1.*[Official Report, 11 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 3-10MC.]*

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1,2,3,4,5] *year ending 31 March 2008, Coverage: England*

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
England	5,200	2,100	420	60	20	—	—
North East	310	120	30	—	—	0	0
Darlington	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	55	20	—	—	—	0	0
Gateshead	25	5	—	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	50	25	—	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	30	—	—	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	15	10	—	—	—	0	0
South Tyneside	25	10	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	20	—	—	0	0	0	0
North West	750	310	50	10	10	—	0
Blackburn with Darwen	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	25	—	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	35	10	—	0	0	0	0
Bury	20	5	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	65	25	5	—	—	—	0
Cumbria	50	25	5	—	0	0	0
Halton	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	30	15	5	—	—	0	0
Lancashire	115	55	10	—	—	0	0
Liverpool	60	25	—	—	—	0	0
Manchester	85	40	—	0	0	0	0
Oldham	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	20	5	0	0	0	0	0
Salford	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Sefton	10	5	—	0	0	0	0
St. Helens	20	—	—	0	0	0	0
Stockport	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
Tameside	25	10	0	0	0	0	0
Trafford	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Warrington	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Wirral	40	20	—	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	530	210	40	—	0	0	0
Barnsley	15	—	—	0	0	0	0
Bradford	65	25	—	0	0	0	0
Calderdale	25	15	—	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	30	15	5	0	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	55	25	—	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	20	5	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds	105	50	10	—	0	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	35	10	—	—	0	0	0

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1,2,3,4,5], year ending 31 March 2008, Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
Rotherham	40	15	—	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	50	20	—	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
York	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	360	150	40	—	0	0	0
Derby	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	45	20	10	—	0	0	0
Leicester	45	20	5	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	30	10	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	60	20	—	—	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	65	30	10	—	0	0	0
Nottingham	45	25	—	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	40	15	—	0	0	0	0
Rutland	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	610	230	70	20	—	—	—
Birmingham	150	55	15	—	0	0	0
Coventry	50	20	—	0	0	0	0
Dudley	30	15	—	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwell	45	15	10	—	0	0	0
Shropshire	10	—	—	0	0	0	0
Solihull	20	—	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	65	20	5	0	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	35	15	—	0	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	10	5	—	—	0	0	0
Walsall	45	10	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	60	30	15	5	—	—	0
Wolverhampton	30	20	10	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire	45	15	—	—	0	0	0
East of England	530	250	50	—	—	0	0
Bedfordshire	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Essex	160	85	25	—	—	0	0
Hertfordshire	60	20	—	0	0	0	0
Luton	45	20	5	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	85	35	—	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	40	20	—	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	25	15	—	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	60	25	10	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	30	15	—	—	0	0	0
London	800	260	40	—	0	0	0
Inner London	360	120	20	—	0	0	0
Camden	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Haringey	35	10	—	0	0	0	0
Islington	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	35	10	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Newham	40	15	—	0	0	0	0

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1,2,3,4,5], year ending 31 March 2008, Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
Southwark	65	25	—	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	25	10	—	—	0	0	0
Westminster	25	5	—	0	0	0	0
Outer London	440	140	20		0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	30	15	—	—	0	0	0
Barnet	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Bexley	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Brent	45	15	—	0	0	0	0
Bromley	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	30	10	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	35	10	—	0	0	0	0
Enfield	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	40	—	0	0	0	0	0
Harrow	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Havering	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	35	10	—	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	30	—	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Merton	10	—	—	—	0	0	0
Redbridge	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	15	10	5	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
South East	730	320	60	10	—	—	0
Bracknell Forest	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	50	30	10	—	—	—	0
Buckinghamshire	20	5	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	45	15	—	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	140	60	10	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	30	15	—	0	0	0	0
Kent	115	50	5	—	0	0	0
Medway Towns	25	5	—	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	35	25	—	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Reading	10	5	—	—	—	0	0
Slough	15	—	—	—	0	0	0
Southampton	30	20	—	0	0	0	0
Surrey	60	30	—	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	65	35	5	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
South West	610	280	50	10	—	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Bristol, City of	75	35	10	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	70	30	—	—	0	0	0
Devon	75	30	—	0	0	0	0

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1,2,3,4,5]: year ending 31 March 2008, Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
Dorset	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	50	20	10	—	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	30	15	—	—	0	0	0
Plymouth	60	25	—	—	—	0	0
Poole	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
Somerset	60	25	—	—	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Swindon	50	30	10	0	0	0	0
Torbay	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	25	10	—	0	0	0	0

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures shown are cumulative.

[3] The number of foster placements excludes any episodes of care where children were looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Children who were, at the time they ceased to be looked after, were not in a foster care placement but who had previously been placed in foster care, have been included.

[5] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five and numbers at region level have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers of five or less have been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen (—) except where the number is zero.

GCE A-level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students who gained an A-Level in *(a)* history and *(b)* geography at each grade was educated in (i) the independent sector and (ii) the state sector in each year since 2005. [illegible]

Jim Knight: The information requested is presented in the following tables:

Proportion of 16-18 year old candidates gaining each grade in A-level history who were educated in the state and independent sectors, 2005-08

	Grade						
History	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*Other*	*Total*
2005							
Number of candidates	9,143	10,243	9,731	6,454	2,918	709	39,198
Percentage educated in state sector	65	79	88	94	97	96	82
Percentage educated in independent sector	35	21	12	6	3	4	18
2006							
Number of candidates	9,909	10,658	9,839	6,650	2,896	721	40,673
Percentage educated in state sector	67	79	89	94	97	96	82
Percentage educated in independent sector	33	21	11	6	3	4	18
2007							
Number of candidates	10,178	10,843	9,708	6,562	2,661	590	40,542
Percentage educated in state sector	67	80	89	94	96	98	82
Percentage educated in independent sector	33	20	11	6	4	2	18
2008							
Number of candidates	10,456	11,828	10,568	6,370	2,396	457	42,075
Percentage educated in state sector	67	80	89	94	96	97	82
Percentage educated in independent sector	33	20	11	6	4	3	18

Proportion of 16-18 year old candidates gaining each grade in A-level geography who were educated in the state and independent sectors, 2005-08

	Grade						
Geography	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*Other*	*Total*
2005							
Number of candidates	6,976	7,367	6,872	4,662	2,072	434	28,383
Percentage educated in state sector	66	79	86	92	94	92	81
Percentage educated in independent sector	34	21	14	8	6	8	19
2006							
Number of candidates	7,367	7,464	6,808	4,425	1,874	345	28,283
Percentage educated in state sector	67	79	86	92	94	94	81
Percentage educated in independent sector	33	21	14	8	6	6	19
2007							
Number of candidates	7,687	7,308	6,431	4,100	1,657	311	27,494
Percentage educated in state sector	68	79	88	93	95	93	81
Percentage educated in independent sector	32	21	12	7	5	7	19
2008							
Number of candidates	8,187	7,495	6,509	3,872	1,488	304	27,855
Percentage educated in state sector	67	79	88	92	95	87	80
Percentage educated in independent sector	33	21	12	8	5	13	20

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals achieved *(a)* a modern language GCSE at grades A* to C and *(b)* five GCSEs at grades A* to C including a modern language GCSE in the latest year for which figures are available. [243854]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

Figures for year 2008

	Pupils eligible for free school meals[1]	
Achievement	*Number*	*Percentage*
(a) GCSE at A*-C or equivalent[2] in a modern foreign language[3]	10,035	13.4
(b) 5 or more GCSE at A*-C or equivalents[2] including a modern foreign language[3]	8,498	11.4
Total	7,4684	100.0

[1] Only pupils at maintained schools and those at the end of their Key Stage 4 have been counted.

[2] Examinations equivalent to a GCSE at A*-C have also been counted.

[3] Pupils not entered for any modern foreign language examination have been counted in the percentage denominator.

Source:
National Pupil Database

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who gained a GCSE at each grade in *(a)* applied business, *(b)* applied science, *(c)* health and social care and *(d)* leisure and tourism were educated in (i) the maintained sector and (ii) the independent sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [246084]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries.

Home Schooling: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the academic attainment of home-schooled pupils in the London Borough of Bexley. [250744]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information about the academic attainment of home-schooled pupils.

Israel: Arms Trade

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what military equipment has been exported from the UK to Israel in the last three years; if he will take steps further to restrict UK exports of military equipment to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [249882]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

The Government's annual reports, published since 1997, and quarterly reports, published since 2004, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1.

The Government do not approve any defence related exports if they judge that there is a clear risk that they will be used in contravention of the Consolidated Criteria, including for external aggression or internal repression. We routinely refuse export licences where we believe there is a risk of this, and have refused a number of licences to Israel on this basis.

Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants his Department and its predecessors have made in respect of the Luton Borough Council area in each year since 1997. [252646]

Jim Knight: The tables showing the grants made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to Luton borough council for each year since 1997-98, broken down between revenue and capital funding, will be placed in the Library.

The revenue grant totals for 2006-07 onwards are not comparable with figures in 2005-06 and before, because the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded for education services.

Before 2006-07 local authorities were funded through Education Formula Spending (EFS). This formed part of the annual Local Government Finance Settlement. EFS comprised school functions and local education authority (LEA) central functions, whereas DSG only covers the school functions. The DSG is based on each local authority's spend on schools in 2005-06, uprated each year for cost pressures and adjusted for changes in pupil numbers. LEA central functions are still funded through the Local Government Finance Settlement but cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. For information the EFS figures for Luton borough council for 1997-98 to 2005-06 were:

	£ million
1997-98	78
1998-99	83.6
1999-2000	87.6
2000-01	92
2001-02	96.5
2002-03	101.9
2003-04	111.1
2004-05	118.3
2005-06	124.9

Notes:
1. Before 2003-2004, called Education Standard Spending (ESS).
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of ESS/EFS settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC
3. Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an authority, related funding no longer appears in the series.

The Reducing Class Size revenue grants and the Nursery Education Grant were transferred to Education Formula Spending in 2003-04.

The Teachers Threshold and Performance Pay Grant was transferred to Dedicated Schools Grant in 2006-07.

Children's Services grant transferred to the Formula Grant paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2008-09.

Capital figures exclude PFI credit allocations, and supported borrowing allocations as part of Building Schools for the Future. Allocations for targeted capital projects are shown in the year the project started.

The tables do not include children social care services grants before 2004-05 as responsibility for children social care services was transferred to this Department, from the Department of Health, in 2004-05.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 16 December 2008 on the NSPCC's submission to Lord Laming's review of the Child Protection System in England. [254712]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families has no record of having received the hon. Member's letter. If the hon. Member would like to send me a copy of the letter I will be happy to respond.

Music: Teachers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people qualified as music teachers in each of the last five years. [255918]

Jim Knight: The number of teachers gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) via secondary Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses in Music for each of the last five years is given in the table.

Information on primary ITT courses by subject is not available.

Teachers gaining QTS via secondary ITT courses in music: Years 2002-03 to 2006-07, England

	200203	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Mainstream	460	510	500	560	510
Employment based routes	50	80	120	130	150

Notes:
1. Mainstream figures include universities, other higher education institutions, SCITT and open university but excludes employment based routes and cases where QTS was granted on assessment-based teacher training.
2. Employment based ITT excludes cases where QTS was granted on assessment-based teacher training.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

National Strategies Annual Plan Summary 2008-09

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the core subjects referred to in the second bullet point of page 4 of the National Strategies Annual Plan Summary 2008-09 document published by his Department are. [253939]

Jim Knight: The definition of core subjects referred to in the second bullet of page 4 of the National Strategies 2008-09 Annual Plan Summary, is to raise achievement of: literacy and numeracy in the early years and primary school phases; and English, mathematics and science in the secondary phase.

Nurseries

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of children who will be in nursery care for the period 2010 to 2015. [256462]

Beverley Hughes: Estimates of the number of children who will be in nursery care for the period 2010 to 2015 are not produced centrally.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessments published by each local authority are helping to identify and address any gaps in the provision of child care appropriate to the needs of working parents and those looking to work in their areas. The assessment process is helping local authorities in their strategic planning of child care services by giving them the evidence and information they need to facilitate and shape a child care market that is flexible, sustainable and responsive to parents' needs. It will also help providers to plan by giving them improved market information.

Offences Against Children: Haringey

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the membership is of the panel for the second serious case review of the child known as Baby P. [255712]

Beverley Hughes: The membership of the second serious case review panel is available on Haringey council's website.

Parents: Personal Income

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of parental income on educational attainment. [250443]

Jim Knight: While parental income does not determine the educational attainment of any individual child, there is a clear correlation between low income and average attainment, as is shown for example in the data published annually by my Department showing differences in attainment at ages 11 and 16 between children eligible for free school meals and the rest of the cohort. In a public service agreement for the current spending period the Government have set an ambition to narrow these gaps by 2011 and beyond.

Primary Education: Finance

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional capital grant funding is available during the 2007 comprehensive spending review period for local authorities facing a funding shortfall owing to an unexpectedly high increase in demand for new pupil places in reception years; and if he will make a statement. [255437]

Jim Knight: The Government's strategy for supporting capital expenditure includes allocating as much of its capital resources as possible before the commencement of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period, currently 2008-09 to 2010-11. This provides authorities with certainty of funding, which schools and authorities tell us they value when planning capital programmes. It also avoids the danger of the lost opportunity represented by national underspends.

We are providing £21.9 billion of capital funding across the CSR period to local authorities and schools for use on schools. This was announced in October 2007. Some £1.2 billion of the funding was allocated as basic need funding for new pupil places, with the allocations largely determined by local authorities' own forecasts of growth in pupil numbers.

We also give authorities significant flexibility within their other allocations to prioritise locally, including for new pupil places. We expect local authorities to give high priority to the provision of school places for their school-age population since this provision is a fundamental duty placed on authorities.

We do not hold any reserves for special situations and are not planning any additional funding for this spending review period.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Manpower

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are employed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority; and how many work for *(a)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and *(b)* Ofqual. [254544]

Jim Knight: The average number of people employed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) up to the period for which the most recent figures are available (31 January 2009) was 614[1].

Ofqual has been established in interim form under existing legislation since April 2008. Prior to this, regulation was the responsibility of the Regulation and Standards division of QCA, which has now formed the basis of interim Ofqual. The average number of people employed by Ofqual up to the period for which the most recent figures are available (31 January 2009) was 123[1].

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will seek to evolve QCA into a Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA), and establish Ofqual on a statutory basis as the new independent regulator of qualifications and assessment.

[1] Source: Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA): February 2009.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Pay

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority incurred on salaries in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much was spent on *(a)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and *(b)* Ofqual. [254545]

Jim Knight: The total salary cost for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as disclosed in the 2007-08 annual accounts was £28.698 million.

Ofqual has been established in interim form under existing legislation since April 2008. Prior to this, regulation was the responsibility of the Regulation and Standards division of QCA, which has now formed the basis of interim Ofqual. The total salary cost for the Regulation and Standards division of QCA in 2007-08 was £4.324 million.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will seek to evolve QCA into a Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA), and establish Ofqual on a statutory basis as the new independent regulator of qualifications and assessment.

Schools: Armed Forces

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding provision his Department makes for schools in England where the proportion of children of service personnel is over 90 per cent; and if he will make it his policy to ensure that such schools receive funding on a basis similar to that applicable to schools serving HM Forces bases overseas. [253814]

Jim Knight: The Government do not have specific funding arrangements for pupils attending service schools. We allocate revenue funding to local authorities via the dedicated schools grant according to the number of pupils they have on roll at the spring school census. It is then for the local authority to apply their local funding formula, which will have been approved by the Schools Forum, to allocate funding to the schools in their area and it is for the authority to ensure that their formula takes account of the individual needs and pressures of their schools.

We are currently undertaking a review of the formula for distributing dedicated schools grant. The aim is to develop a funding system that supports schools and local authorities to raise the educational achievement of all pupils and to narrow the gap in educational achievement between all children, including those from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds. As part of this work we will be looking at the issues for particular groups of pupils, including service children. We will consult fully on proposals before taking final decisions.

Schools: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many zero-carbon schools have been built since 1 May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [256459]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information about the carbon use of all schools built since 1 May 2005. We are not aware of any schools that have yet been built in England that would be defined as zero carbon.

In December 2007 we announced an ambition for all new school buildings to be zero carbon by 2016 and we have appointed a taskforce to advise on how this goal can be achieved.

Last year we set a requirement that newly constructed schools meet a carbon emissions reduction of 60 per cent. relative to the energy efficiency standards in 2002 Building Regulations. To enable this requirement to be met, we have provided additional funding for more than 200 schools in Building Schools for the Future and the Academies programme to fund the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites. We have developed a 'carbon calculator'—a software tool which allows users to compare the likely effectiveness of various energy solutions, and to demonstrate how they would achieve the 60 per cent. reduction. We have received completed carbon calculators for 53 school projects currently in design.

Schools: Gloucestershire

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each eligible school in Gloucestershire received from the National Challenge Fund allocation to the county. [256264]

Jim Knight: The total amount of National Challenge support that schools in the National Challenge programme in Gloucestershire will benefit from in 2008/09 is £754,500. This breaks down as follows:

	£
Bishop's college	196,000
Brockworth Enterprise school	140,250
Cheltenham Kingsmead	97,250
Maidenhill school	79,750
Heywood Community school	67,250
Christ college	52,250
Beaufort Community school	48,250
Vale of Berkeley college	41,250
Pittville school	32,250

Schools: Inspections

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many legal cases have been brought against Ofsted in relation to inspections it has conducted of *(a)* secondary schools, *(b)* primary schools and *(c)* nursery schools; [250495]

(2) how many legal cases have been won by nursery schools against Ofsted in relation to inspections undertaken by Ofsted; [250496]

(3) how many out-of-court settlements Ofsted has made with nursery schools in relation to legal claims brought by such schools against Ofsted in relation to inspections; [250497]

(4) how many nursery school inspectors have been made redundant by Ofsted since June 2007; [250498]

(5) what procedures apply to the retention by Ofsted of documents which it holds relating to the inspection of a nursery school after the inspection has taken place; [250682]

(6) what procedures govern the placing by Ofsted of its reports on a nursery school on its website in circumstances where the school has made a formal complaint about the inspection; and if he will make a statement. [250683]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilberts, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted uses the term nursery school to denote a maintained school for children of nursery age, inspected under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5). Children of nursery age may also attend childcare provision, within the categories of childcare on domestic premises' and 'childcare on non-domestic premises', such as a private day nursery. This response includes data relating both to maintained nursery schools and other nursery provision.

The current maintained school inspection framework took effect from September 2005 and I consider this to be an appropriate timeframe to cover this provider type for this response. Since that point, Ofsted's records of litigation show no instances of legal cases brought against Ofsted for secondary, primary or nursery schools inspected under the school inspection framework.

The previous inspection arrangements for childcare took effect from 1 April 2005 and I consider this to be an appropriate timeframe to cover this provider type for this response. Since that point, Ofsted's records of litigation show one legal challenge brought by a registered nursery against Ofsted that was directly related to a scheduled inspection.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

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The previous inspection arrangements for childcare took effect from 1 April 2005 and I consider this to be an appropriate timeframe to cover this provider type for this response. Since that point, Ofsted's records of litigation show no instances of legal cases being won by a registered nursery against Ofsted that was directly related to a scheduled inspection. The single legal case brought against Ofsted in relation to the inspection of a registered nursery resulted in a consent order agreed between both parties.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

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The current maintained school inspection framework took effect from September 2005 and I consider this to be an appropriate timeframe to cover this provider type for this response. Since that point, Ofsted's records of litigation show no instances of out-of-court settlements against Ofsted for secondary, primary or nursery schools inspected under the school inspection framework.

The previous inspection arrangements for childcare took effect from 1 April 2005 and I consider this to be an appropriate timeframe to cover this provider type for this response. Since that point, Ofsted's records of litigation show one instance of a legal cases brought by a registered nursery against Ofsted's inspection activity that led to an out-of-court settlement, or consent order.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

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No inspectors that might inspect either maintained nursery schools or other nursery provision have been made redundant by Ofsted since June 2007.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted uses the term nursery school to denote a maintained school for children of nursery age, inspected under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5). Children of nursery age may also attend childcare provision, within the categories of 'childcare on domestic premises' and 'childcare on non-domestic premises', such as a private day nursery. This response relates to inspection of both maintained nursery schools and other nursery provision.

The two most recent reports of the inspections of maintained nursery schools inspected under the current inspection framework are published on Ofsted's website. Earlier reports are retained within Ofsted's internal database as public documents. Other documents relating to these inspections are retained by Ofsted for a period of three months following the inspection. Where a complaint has been made about an inspection, documents are retained until three months after the complaint has been closed, provided that no further complaint is received.

The most recent inspection report relating to childcare providers is published on Ofsted's website. Earlier reports are retained within Ofsted's internal database as public documents. Other documents relating to the inspection of childcare providers are retained by Ofsted for a period of six months after the inspection report is published. Where a complaint has been made about an inspection, the evidence base is retained until six months after the case is resolved or any appeal period has passed.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 January 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted uses the term nursery school to denote a maintained school for children of nursery age, inspected under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5). Children of nursery age may also attend childcare provision, within the categories of 'childcare on domestic premises' and 'childcare on non-domestic premises', such as a private day nursery. This response relates to inspection of both maintained nursery schools and other nursery provision.

Ofsted would not normally delay the publication of an inspection report of any maintained school or other nursery provision when a formal complaint has been received about the inspection. If, having considered the complaint, Ofsted believes that the evidence gathered during the inspection does not support the judgments reached, it will declare the inspection 'null and void' and carry out a re-inspection. In such cases, the original inspection report is removed from the website and replaced. These instances are rare.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Schools: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Leeds West constituency have broadband access. [255476]

Jim Knight: All the maintained schools with the constituency of Leeds, West have broadband access.

Skills Funding Agency

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual budget of the proposed Skills Funding Agency will be. [256228]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The total planned DIUS spend for adult skills through the Learning and Skills Council is £4.5 billion for 2009-10.

The Skills Funding Agency will be in operation from April 2010. Decisions on the allocation of the DIUS adult skills budgets for 2010-11, including the budget of the Skills Funding Agency, will be made later this year.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Key Stage 4 pupils who had *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs attended academies in each year since 2003. [253440]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Academies: number of pupils in key stage 4 who had a statement of special educational needs and who had unstatemented special educational needs[1,2]—Position in January each year 2003 to 2008: England

		Number of pupils who had a statement of special educational needs		*Number of pupils who had unstatemented special educational needs*	
	Number of schools	*Year Group 10*	*Year Group 11*	*Year Group 10*	*Year Group 11*
2003	3	10	10	150	140
2004	12	60	60	540	520
2005	17	80	80	670	610
2006	27	110	110	980	1,000
2007	46	210	170	1,920	1,670
2008	83	340	310	3,550	3,300

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] Includes pupils in national curriculum year groups 10 and 11.

Notes:

These figures do not include Academies that opened after January 2008.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Special Educational Needs: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of inmates in young offender institutions have special educational needs. [247854]

Beverley Hughes: Data on the number of people in young offender institutions (YOIs) assessed as having special educational needs (SEN) are not collected centrally. However, the Learning and Skills Council report the number of young people in juvenile accommodation in YOIs referred to special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) for the period between August 2007 to July 2008 was 3,320. A referral to a SENCO does not necessarily mean that the young person has SEN.

Specialised Diplomas: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much expenditure under each budget heading his Department has incurred on the introduction of diploma courses and qualifications in each year since 2005; [249971]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on diplomas in each of the next three years; and under what budgetary headings such expenditure is expected to be incurred. [249973]

Jim Knight: Expenditure for 2005-06 to 2008-09 on diplomas was made under the following categories:

development costs for diploma qualifications;

preparation funding to support consortia to deliver diplomas;

funding for local delivery and capacity building, including the diploma specific grant;

work force development to prepare the work force for the delivery of diplomas; and

supporting transport arrangements in the most rural areas.

The total spend on diploma qualifications for each financial year is:

Expenditure on diplomas for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08

£

	Developmental	*Preparation*	*Direct and indirect*	*Work force development*	*Transport*
2005-06	2,479,000	0	0	0	0
2006-07	5,000,000	0	0	4,400,000	0
2007-08	9,612,000	15,203,000	2,195,582	19,501,000	0

The estimated funding levels for diplomas from 2008-09 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2008-09	117.6
2009-10	113.1
2010-11	78.1

Specialist Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* arts, *(c)* sport, *(d)* science, *(e)* music, *(f)* technology, *(g)* business, *(h)* engineering and *(i)* humanities schools there were at the start of each of the last three school years. [255917]

Jim Knight: The following table provides details of the numbers of schools that have been designated as specialist mathematics, arts, sport, science, music, technology, business, engineering and humanities schools in the last three school years.

	Number of specialist schools as at 1 September each year		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Arts			
Main Specialism (a)	408	451	489
Second Specialism (b)	31	31	31
Combined Specialism (c)	28	38	45
Arts totals	467	520	565
Business and Enterprise			
Main Specialism (a)	217	240	257
Second Specialism (b)	7	7	7
Combined Specialism (c)	19	21	23
Business and Enterprise totals	243	268	287
Engineering			
Main Specialism (a)	45	52	57
Second Specialism (b)	0	0	0
Combined Specialism (c)	12	12	12
Engineering totals	57	64	69
Humanities			
Main Specialism (a)	81	110	130
Second Specialism (b)	31	32	32
Combined Specialism (c)	19	24	30
Humanities totals	131	166	192
Maths and Computing			
Main Specialism (a)	240	260	282
Second Specialism (b)	29	51	51
Combined Specialism (c)	23	25	29
Maths and Computing Totals	292	336	362
Music			
Main Specialism (a)	20	24	30
Second Specialism (b)	15	16	16
Combined Specialism (c)	7	9	10
Music totals	42	49	56
Science			
Main Specialism (a)	287	307	324
Second Specialism (b)	31	64	63
Combined Specialism (c)	41	48	49
Science totals	359	419	436
Sports			
Main Specialism (a)	336	359	396
Second Specialism (b)	26	28	28
Combined Specialism (c)	18	27	25
Sports totals	380	414	449
Technology			
Main Specialism (a)	500	547	554
Second Specialism (b)	3	3	3
Combined Specialism (c)	15	19	19
Technology totals	518	569	576

Specialist Schools: Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 186W, on specialist schools: languages, how many and what percentage of pupils in each of the 220 schools with language as a first specialism achieved a modern language GCSE at grades A* to C in the last year for which figures are available. [244903]

Jim Knight: The information is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

The information is also available in the Library.

Sure Start Programme: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on funding Sure Start centres in Blackpool since 1997. [253966]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs) were introduced in 1999-2000. Details of expenditure on SSLPs and children's centres since that time, which totals £19.8 million, are shown in the following table.

Blackpool CC and SSLP spend

	Expenditure									
Programme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Mereside & Clifton SSLP Revenue	85,546	382,699	431,661	505,371	475,229	482,556	497,981	—	—	2,861,043
Mereside & Clifton SSLP Capital				1,043,245				—	—	1,043,245
Grange Park SSLP Revenue	—	—	0	315,960	498,372	511,503	430,739	—	—	1,756,574
Grange Park SSLP Capital	—	—			957,925			—	—	957,925

Blackpool CC and SSLP spend

	Expenditure									
Programme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Talbot & Brunswick SSLP Revenue	—	—	—	131,117	383,251	656,785	672,812	—	—	1,843,965
Talbot & Brunswick SSLP Capital	—	—	—	1,000,000				—	—	1,000,000
Children's Centre Revenue	—	—	—	—	50,000	67,740	643,179	3,058,124	2,877,500	6,696,543
Children's Centre Capital	—	—	—	—	0	320,111	838,800	1,282,119	1,239,446	3,680,476
Total	85,546	382,699	431,661	952,448	1,406,852	2,038,695	6,084,681	4,340,243	4,116,946	19,839,771
Sub Total (Revenue)	85,546	382,699	431,661	952,448	1,406,852	1,718,584	2,244,711	3,058,124	2,877,500	13,158,125
Sub Total (Capital)	0	0	0	0	0	320,111	3,839,970	1,282,119	1,239,446	6,681,646

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers of *(a)* physics, *(b)* biology, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* mathematics, *(e)* history and *(f)* foreign languages did not hold a degree-level qualification in that subject in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [254513]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of secondary school teachers in maintained schools in England, their qualifications and the subjects they are teaching is collected in the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS). The most recent survey was carried out in February 2007; this is an occasional survey that does not provide a full time series.

The 2007 SSCSS survey estimated the following number of teachers teaching at least one period a week of the requested subjects, and the proportions holding different levels of qualifications:

Highest post A-level qualifications held by full-time equivalent teachers in the subjects[2] they taught to year groups 7 to 13 in 2007

	Number of teachers	*Degree[3]*	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other qual.*	*No qual.*	*Percentage without a degree, BEd or PGCE[4]*
Mathematics	30,800	47	9	14	2	3	25	30
Biology	8,900	85	5	4	1	1	4	6
Chemistry	8,000	83	4	7	1	1	4	5
Physics	7,300	72	6	8	1	2	10	13
History	15,700	64	5	6	1	1	24	26
Foreign Languages:								
French	14,900	57	5	10	3	2	23	28
German	6,600	61	2	7	1	2	28	30
Spanish	5,200	50	1	10	—	—	40	40
Other modern languages	2,100	25	—	6	—	—	69	69

[1] Where a teacher had more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level was determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE had a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree were shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Totals may not sum to components due to rounding.

Note:

Number of teachers are rounded to the nearest hundred the nearest 100.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007

The full SSCSS report can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR026.pdf

Teachers: Training

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage teachers to take responsibility for planning their own continuing professional development. [254704]

Jim Knight: Since September 2007 the revised professional standards for teachers provide clear career pathways for teachers from qualified teacher status to advanced skill teachers. These clarify what is expected at each career stage, including expectations about teachers' ongoing engagement in their own continuing professional development (CPD).

To support this we have introduced revised and robust performance management arrangements in September 2007 which will ensure that teachers' performance is regularly reviewed and that all teachers have clear and robust development plans which take account of their own individual needs and the school's improvement priorities. Teachers play a key role in this process through engaging with their line mangers to agree their professional development plans.

The new performance management arrangements introduced in September 2007 are part of the broader cultural change agenda that has been transforming the school workforce since “Raising standards and tackling workload: a national agreement” was signed in 2003. They are a key part of the drive to create a “”new professionalism” and are designed to help schools raise standards even further by tying teacher performance with their professional development needs and a school's own improvement priorities.

Teenage Pregnancy: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on measures to reduce levels of teenage pregnancy in Nottingham in the last 12 months. [255583]

Beverley Hughes: Each local authority receives funding within its Area-based Grant to support delivery of its local teenage pregnancy strategy. The amount each local authority receives is based on a formula that takes account of the number and rate of teenage pregnancies, ensuring that areas which face the greatest challenges receive the most funding. In 2008-09, Nottingham received £295,000 within its Area-based Grant to support its local teenage pregnancy strategy.

Regional teenage pregnancy co-ordinators based in Government offices provide support and challenge to the local areas within each region. £100,000 is allocated to each Government office to support that function. While only a proportion of this £100,000 will be used to support activity in Nottingham, Government offices have been directed to differentiate the support and challenge they provide so that support is targeted on areas—like Nottingham—which have made least progress.

As one of the 21 local areas with high and increasing rates of teenage pregnancy, Nottingham has also received support from the Department of Health's national support team (NST). In monetary terms, the support received from NST is estimated to be around £20,000.

In addition, mainstream delivery partners within the local area—PCTs, schools, youth services and social services—use a proportion of their budgets to provide services that support local teenage pregnancy strategies. For example, schools support local teenage pregnancy strategies through their provision of sex and relationships education and targeted work with vulnerable young people to raise aspirations. It is not possible, however, to put a monetary value on these contributions.

Young Offenders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what process is employed in issuing a youth conditional caution. [256500]

Beverley Hughes: We propose to introduce the Youth Conditional Caution in stages. Pilots for 16 and 17-year-olds will begin in summer 2009. Evaluation of the pilot schemes will inform implementation decisions on national roll out of the Caution for 16 and 17-year-olds nationally and its application to 10 to 15-year-olds. The draft statutory code of practice governing use of the Youth Conditional Caution for 16 and 17-year-olds is in the final stages of preparation and consultation on it will begin shortly. I will ensure that the hon. Member receives copies of the consultation documents.

Young People: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* Exchequer and *(b)* lottery funding will be spent on the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People in each of the next four years; and how much will be allocated to the Youth Sport Trust. [255727]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* £783 million of Exchequer funding has been committed to deliver the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People over the three years to 2010-11. This works out at £261 million per year. This does not include any lottery funding. However, lottery funding may support sporting programmes locally.

Total grant of £13,460,576 has been allocated to the Youth Sport Trust for 2008-09 to fund their work in helping to deliver the strategy and other related policy areas. Funding for the Youth Sport Trust beyond the current financial year is currently under consideration.

Young People: Unemployment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the planned pilot of the variant of the Activity Agreement to offer personalised learning to young people as soon as they become not in education, employment or training has commenced. [247253]

Jim Knight: The White Paper 'New Opportunities—Fair Chances for the Future', published on 13 January 2009, announced the extension of activity agreements to March 2010. We will use this period to gather further information that will inform what support and incentives might be needed as we raise the participation age from 2013. From April 2009, therefore, the Activity Agreement offer will be targeted on engaging the very hardest to reach.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Charities: Finance

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to promote the work of the Charity Research Support Fund in the context of the current national economic situation. [254703]

Mr. Lammy: HEFCE's quality related (QR) block grant for research to higher education institutions includes a "charity support element". This element is calculated by reference to charitable research income, but is distributed as part of the annual QR block grant rather than as a separate fund. It is for institutions that receive QR to determine how to use that funding in line with their own research priorities.

OLYMPICS

Apprentices: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people are undertaking *(a)* trainee apprenticeships and *(b)* work placements at Olympic venues. [256096][1]

Tessa Jowell: In addition to the existing commitment for 2,000 trainee, apprenticeships and work placements over the life of the project (of which 180 would be apprenticeships), the Prime Minister announced last month that 250 additional apprenticeships would be created on the Olympic Park and Village.

At the end of December 2008, of the 303 people undertaking training on the Olympic Park site:

(a) 27 people were registered as apprentices (on a recognised framework)

(b) 41 were on trainee work placements.

Contracts: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether an independent value for money audit of the bid by Lend Lease to build the Olympic Village was conducted prior to the award of the contract. [256116]

Tessa Jowell: Lend Lease was selected to be the preferred developer for the Olympic Village as a result of a competitive *Official Journal of the European Union* procurement. The detailed contract is still under negotiation. Before the contract is finalised, an assessment of the value for money of the proposed deal will be considered by the ministerial Funders Group.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which of the public appointments for which her Office is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records her Office keeps in respect of such appointments. [254248]

Tessa Jowell: Information on public appointments to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD) is published in the DCMS Annual Report and also on the DCMS website:

www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/public_appointments

The ODA and OLD also provide detailed information about appointments in their own annual reports. Public appointments vacancies are advertised on the DCMS website and the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication 'Making and Managing Public Appointments'. For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the 'Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies'. Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Fairtrade Initiative: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Moore: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will bring forward plans to ensure that the 2012 London Olympics sources all relevant products on a fair trade basis; if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for International Development on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [255734]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 115W, in which I set out the action that my officials and I had undertaken with other Government Departments, including DFID, in this regard.

In November 2008 the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) published a sustainable sourcing code setting out that it will seek to procure products and services for London 2012 that have been certified as ethically sourced, where they represent value for money and do not compromise other sustainability objectives. This code will be kept under review and DFID is one of many organisations which LOCOG will consult in that process.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) also seeks to work with suppliers which have a good track record in human rights and use goods and materials produced ethically.

Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she last visited the London borough of Havering. [256568]

Tessa Jowell: I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the London borough of Havering in my position as Minister for the Olympics. I would be delighted to hear about ways in which the hon. Members constituents are engaging with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

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[1] *[Official Report, 5 March 2009, Vol. 488, c. 11MC.]*

Mass Media: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics who the owner of the media centre planned for the London 2012 Olympics will be once it has been completed. [255363]

Tessa Jowell: The International Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre are being built on land owned by the London Development Agency, which will retain ownership after completion of the buildings.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reason problems with the foundations and ground conditions for the Olympic velodrome were not identified earlier; and if she will make a statement. [256480]

Tessa Jowell: Initial site investigation studies on the site of the Velopark were carried out throughout 2007 and continued into 2008, when the poor ground conditions were identified. As part of the review of the Masterplan for the Olympic Park, undertaken in 2007, the Velodrome was moved slightly to the west to help with the design and layout of the wider cycling facilities to be built in legacy. This movement exacerbated the ground conditions problem.

The July 2008 London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games update report identified a £40 million cost pressure against other Olympic park venues, part of which was for the Velopark. The level of contamination on this site was more extensive than originally assessed and this contributed to the overall increase of £25 million in the Velopark budget to £105 million. Once the full extent of the ground conditions was known, design and ground modelling studies were undertaken which produced an accurate estimate of the potential costs.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are for the use of the *(a)* handball venue, *(b)* sailing facilities and *(c)* aquatics venue after the end of the London 2012 Olympic games. [256569]

Tessa Jowell: Business plans are currently being developed for the legacy use of all permanent London 2012 sporting venues.

The handball venue will be a flexible, multi-use sports venue in legacy, with a capacity of up to 6,000. Through the provision of retractable seating, it will be possible to increase the field of play and reduce the seating capacity to 3,000. Facilities will include a field of play able to accommodate up to three basketball courts or 12 badminton courts, and a health and fitness centre. The venue will have the capacity to be used for a variety of indoor sports including volleyball, handball, ba[illegible]on, netball, football and basketball at both co[illegible]d high performance level. Further sporting use[illegible] also being pursued.

The Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA) will benefit from the improved facilities that the games will leave behind, providing a state-of-the-art facility for elite training, competition and local community use. Enhancements—which were completed in November 2008—include a new 250m slipway, race-boat parking, and lifting and mooring facilities. These provide an early legacy of world-class facilities for elite athletes and the local Dorset community to use.

The Aquatics Centre will have a capacity of 2,500 in legacy, increasing to 3,500 for major events. It will provide two 50m pools (for which there is an identified strategic need in London), a dive pool with multiple level dive tower, and facilities such as a crèche, cafe and dry side training. This is a state of the art building that will make use of sophisticated technology including moveable floors and booms. It will be a permanent elite and community swimming resource for east London that will be used by an estimated 600,000 visitors a year after the games.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are for the use of the North Greenwich Arena *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 after the end of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [256572]

Tessa Jowell: North Greenwich Arena 1 is an existing privately owned arena and will be used for a temporary period to stage 2012 Olympics events. Post-games it will continue to be operated by the owners. North Greenwich Arena 2 was intended to be a new, temporary arena. Further to the recommendations of a report in December 2008 by KPMG, a review is being undertaken to consider suitable alternative existing venues and Arena 2 is part of that review. It is anticipated that decisions will be taken on remaining venue locations in March 2009.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are for the use of the Olympic Stadium after the end of the London 2012 Olympic games. [256573]

Tessa Jowell: A business plan is currently being developed for the legacy use of the stadium. The stadium will be converted from an 80,000 to a 25,000 seat venue in legacy. Athletics will provide the core sporting legacy use, as promised to the IOC, at both community and high performance level. The stadium will be used to host domestic athletic events and as a world-class facility will enable the UK to bid for international events. This will be complemented by a range of other educational and sporting uses including a school with a sporting focus, the National Skills Academy for Sport and Leisure, and a high performance centre operated by the English Institute of Sport (including sport science and sport medicine services).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are for the use of the velopark after the end of the London 2012 Olympic games. [256574]

Tessa Jowell: A business plan is currently being developed for the legacy use of the Velopark. The Velopark will be a unique cycling hub, incorporating all cycling disciplines and hosting events from world-class to community level. The Velodrome will retain its Olympic seating capacity of 6,000 in legacy. Other facilities on the Velopark will include a mountain biking track, BMX track, one-mile road cycle circuit and a cycle speedway, used for community and high performance level activities. The venue will be operated in legacy by the Lee Valley Regional Park

Authority. British Cycling has been involved in the development of the Velopark and will use the facilities available.

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much had been spent on the handball venue at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the estimated final cost of the venue is. [256586]

Tessa Jowell: The contractor that will build the handball arena has not yet been selected and so it is not appropriate to announce budget or cost details while the procurement process is continuing.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what cancelled expenditure items are contained under the headings *(a)* other transport capital projects and *(b)* other transport operating expenditure, in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report 2009, Table 2, page 49; and if she will make a statement. [256412]

Tessa Jowell: The two potential reductions in transport forecast expenditure included in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report 2009, Table 2, page 49, represent opportunities for savings—not reductions, omissions or cancellations of work.

These potential savings have been identified during contract negotiations and will be confirmed in due course once terms have been fully concluded. Due to the commercial element of the ongoing discussions, it is not possible to provide further details at this time.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Art Works: Loans

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of those who have taken advantage of the Own Art loan scheme fall into each of the scheme's eligibility criteria. [255904]

Barbara Follett: The Own Art scheme is run by Arts Council England and is open to all UK residents over the age of 18. The scheme aims to support, in particular, the following priority groups:

First-time buyers of contemporary art or craft

Those on income levels equivalent to or below the national average of £22,500 who might otherwise be unable afford to buy original works of art.

The Arts Council has advised that the percentage of customers who fall into each priority group is as follows.

				Percentage
Priority group	*2004-05 to 2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
First-time buyers	29	27	25	25.4
Lower incomes	26	26	25	27.2

[1] April - December 2008

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have taken out loans as part of the Own Art scheme in each of the last three years; and what the total value of the loans was in each year. [255905]

Barbara Follett: The Own Art scheme is run by Arts Council England and launched in April 2004. The Arts Council advises that over 12,000 customers have used the scheme for the purchase of work of contemporary art and craft valued in excess of £8.2 million. Sales for the current financial year to date total £1.67 million (2,041 loans). Figures for the preceding three full financial years are detailed in the following table.

	Number of loans	*Value of loans (£)*
2007-08	2,596	2,217,584.25
2006-07	2,815	2,420,100.98
2005-06	2,725	2,066,068.46

Arts Council of England: Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land are leased by Arts Council England; and what estimate has been made of the value of these assets. [250256]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that it owns the freehold on a section of land in the London Southbank area covering the area of the Southbank Centre (SBC) and British Film Institute (BFI), and an area covering the Royal National Theatre (RNT). All the land is leased to the Southbank Centre, British Film Institute and Royal National Theatre at no cost to them. Arts Council England, as freeholder, has no development rights and cannot derive any revenue for the duration of the 150 years leases. They therefore advise that the land on the South Bank therefore has no realistic or bankable value to them, and that they have made no estimate of the value of these assets.

Where leaseholders sublet space and generate revenue, as in case of the Southbank Centre, information on the revenues received is primarily a matter for the body in question. Further information can be found in the relevant annual accounts. The most recent published annual accounts for the Southbank Centre are available at the following link:

http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/about-southbank-centre

Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of which projects *(a)* the Arts Council, *(b)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(c)* Sport England and *(d)* English Heritage (i) received ring-fenced funding in 2008-09 and (ii) are planned to receive such funding in each of the next three years; and what estimate he has made of the cost of funding each such project in each year. [254592]

Andy Burnham: At the conclusion of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07) negotiations, the following funding depicted as being ring-fenced was approved:

Body	*Purpose*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£ million* *2010-11*
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	Renaissance in the regions	46.21	47.46	48.74
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	Government indemnity scheme	0.15	0.15	0.15

Additionally, the following amounts were agreed for project-specific work during the current CSR period (2008-09 to 2010-11):

Body	*Purpose*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*£ million* *2010-11*
Arts Council England	Find your talent programme	Up to 2.50	0	0
Arts Council England	Two year programme of free theatre	0	Up to 2.50	0
Arts Council England	Museums and galleries education programme	0.30	tbc	tbc
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	Museum strategic commissioning programme; regional museum education development and professional development programme	2.24	tbc	tbc
Sport England	Five-hour school sport offer	14.5	13.5	11.5
Sport England	English Institute of Sport high performance facility development and scientific equipment maintenance	2.70	0.70	0.70

Funding in 2011-12 for the four bodies in question falls outside of the current spending review period, and will be decided at a later date following detailed negotiation.

British Film Institute: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Arts Council England provided to the British Film Institute in each of the last five years; and how much came from (i) Exchequer funding and (ii) the National Lottery in each such year. [249418]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) The British Film Institute is funded by the UK Film Council from its annual grant in aid allocation awarded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

(i) The UK Film Council provided the following grant-in-aid funding to the British Film Institute in each of the last five years:

	Exchequer funding (£)
2003-04	16,000,000
2004-05	16,000,000
2005-06	16,000,000
2006-07	[1]18,500,000
2007-08	16,000,000

[1] Included a £2.5 million one-off grant towards refurbishment and conversion of National Film Theatre and Museum of the Moving Image into BFI Southbank

(ii) The British Film Institute has bid for and received the following Lottery funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the UK Film Council for specific projects:

	Lottery Funding (£)
2003-04	—
2004-05	1,954
2005-06	785,423
2006-07	30,140
2007-08	76,109

(b) Arts Council England

Arts Council England has advised that it provided the following funding to the BFI in each of the last five years:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
(i) Exchequer funding:					
Regular funding	—	—	—	—	—
Managed funds	—	74,500	44,000	25,000	—
Creative partnerships	—	—	—	—	2,500
(ii) Lottery Funding: Grants for the arts	—	—	100,000	100,000	—

Broadband

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase access to broadband for *(a)* lower income households with children of school age, *(b)* pensioner households and *(c)* people with a disability. [250605]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 January 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister appointed the Secretary of State for Wales, as Minister for Digital Inclusion last year because the Government recognise this as a very important challenge facing the UK.

Since taking on the role, the Digital Inclusion Minister has formed a dedicated Cabinet committee, MISC 34, he has established a cross-government coordination unit, and Government have engaged a wide range of stakeholders in developing the cross-government report "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action plan for Consultation"

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveringdigitalinclusion

in order to have a coherent and concerted drive to address digital inclusion and increase access to broadband/digital technologies for *(a)* lower income households with children *(b)* pensioners households *(c)* people with disabilities.

The action plan details over 70 Government actions taking place to advance digital inclusion and future actions being considered by Government to facilitate access and skills to digital technologies for disadvantaged groups and individuals in The annex:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/digitalinclusionannex

of the report. The consultation was launched on 27 October 2008 and was meant to close on 19 January but has been extended to 26 January at the request of stakeholders. Government are currently analysing responses to inform further progress.

Government are working with industry and Ofcom towards ensuring the right environment for the creation of innovative broadband content. We will set out guidance on broadband content procurement by the public sector, informed by an industry perspective. The Digital Britain report is looking at the issue of media literacy, future access to digital communications, availability of information, and the ability to interact with vast communities of people, regardless of location so the UK can remain a world leader in digital services. An interim report will be published in late January, early February which will lay out the road of travel. A full report will be published in the summer 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agency. [256040]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by my Department and its agency, as soon as they are available.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255077]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has carried out seven equality impact assessments over the year 2008. Six have been published on our website; and one is awaiting publication.

We do not monitor the cost of carrying out assessments.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254236]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on DCMS public appointments is published in the DCMS Annual Report and also on the website:

www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/public_appointments

DCMS public bodies also provide detailed information about appointments in their individual Annual Reports. DCMS public appointments vacancies are advertised on the DCMS website and on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at: www.publicappointments.gov.uk. The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256321]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Staff on sick leave	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Over 30 days	11	11	14	7	0
Over 50 days	7	8	8	5	0
Over 100 days	4	3	4	4	1
Total	22	22	26	16	1

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256633]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of DCMS staff on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years is zero.

Music: Young People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* peer mentors have been appointed as part of the Music Mentoring scheme in each of the last three years. [255906]

Barbara Follett: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1551W.

Musical Instruments: Loans

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have taken out loans for musical instruments as part of the Take It Away scheme in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value of the loans was in each year. [255899]

Barbara Follett: The Take it Away scheme is run by Arts Council England and was launched in July 2007. Sales statistics are therefore available only for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

The Arts Council has advised that in 2007-08, a total of 5,962 loans were taken out for the value of £3,934,235. In 2008-09 (to December 2008), a total of 10,163 loans have been taken out for the value of £6,603,773.

Since the scheme's launch, more than 16,000 customers have used Take it Away for the purchase of over £10.5 million worth of musical instruments and equipment.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of those who have taken advantage of the Take It Away instrument loan scheme fall into each of the eligibility criteria. [255900]

Barbara Follett: The Take it Away scheme is run by Arts Council England and is open to all UK residents over the age of 18. The scheme aims to support, in particular, the following priority groups:

Those buying an instrument for a child or young person under 18;

Those buying an instrument for the first time (of any age);

Those on income levels equivalent to or below the national average of £22,500 per annum who might otherwise be unable to acquire an instrument appropriate to their needs.

The Arts Council has advised that the percentage of customers who fall into each priority group is as follows.

Priority group	2007-08	Percentage 2008-09[1]
Young person under 18	28.2	25.9
Beginner/adult re-starter	46.4	45.0
Income less than £22,500	46.4	45.0
Customers that fall into one or more priority group	82.40	80.80

[1] 2008-09 figures are to the end of September 2008 only

National Lottery

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue has been raised from *(a)* all National Lottery games and *(b)* the Olympic scratch card game in each year since the launch of the latter. [256159]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The National Lottery Commission have provided the following table which shows total sales from all National Lottery games and separated out the total sales of all Olympic Lottery designated games (including Scratchcards) in each year since the launch of the letter.

Financial year	Total sales	£ million Total sales of Olympic Lottery designated games
2005-06[1]	3,504.0	61.5
2006-07	4,911.4	438.7
2007-08	4,966.3	540.4
2008-09[2]	3,797.7	410.2

[1] Eight months.
[2] Year to December 2008.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Olympic scratch card game on Lottery contributions to the National Lottery good causes since its launch; and if he will make a statement. [256160]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The National Lottery Commission have advised that it is not possible to assess the impact of Olympic designated games on overall returns to good causes as it would not be possible to predict what sales would have been without a successful Olympics bid.

The best way to minimise the impact of Olympic Lottery games sales on The National Lottery Distribution Fund is therefore to maximise overall sales.

Public Libraries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 255-6W, on public libraries, to what factors he attributes the difference between the number of libraries open for more than 10 hours in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [256645]

Barbara Follett: Although the number of libraries open more than 10 hours a week (excluding mobile ones) decreased by 17 between 1996-97 and 2006-07, the proportion of libraries open for more than 44 hours per week increased by 79 per cent. (369). A large increase in the number of static libraries open for less than 10 hours per week (from 0 to 86) during this period compensates for a reduction in the number of mobile libraries (-12 per cent.) and results in the total number of libraries (static plus mobile) increasing by eight between 1996-97 and 2006-07. These changes indicate that authorities have altered their library opening hours in accordance with the needs of their communities. This information is set out in the following table.

	Libraries open 60+ hrs per week	*Libraries open 45-59 hrs per week*	*Libraries open 30-44 hrs per week*	*Libraries open 10-29 hrs per week*	*Mobile libraries*	*Libraries open 10+ hrs per week (incl. mobiles)*	*Libraries open <10 hrs per week*	*Libraries open (all hours)*
1996-97	7	462	1,316	1,298	489	3,572	—	3,572
2006-07	97	741	1,132	1,096	428	3,494	86	3,580
Difference	90	279	-184	-202	-61	-78	86	8
Percentage change	1,286	60	-14	-16	-12	-2	—	0

Source:
Public Library Statistics (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA))

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 255-6W, on public libraries, what consideration his Department has given to the central collection of information on the number of public library openings. [256647]

Barbara Follett: Information on the number of public libraries is published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in Public Library Statistics. This is the most comprehensive source of data on public library services in the UK. In order to avoid excessive data burdens on local authorities, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not collate additional information about library service provision centrally.

Tourism

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to promote the UK as a tourist destination to those overseas. [255562]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain is currently formulating its new three-year strategy based on the many recommendations of the recent British Tourism Framework Review. This sets out the steps that VisitBritain will take between 2009-2012 to increase the visitor economy to £133 billion by 2018. The strategy was launched on 11 February.

VisitBritain announced a new marketing campaign 'Value for Money' at the Liverpool Tourism Summit on 8th January 2009 costing £6.5 million. This will include the promotion of London as a more affordable destination at the present time. In addition, the Government will continue to invest in skills and in tourism product itself. This will include the quality of accommodation; the Olympics and Paralympic games; the Cultural Olympiad; free museums and galleries; heritage and seaside resorts, which are all critical to meeting visitor expectations and their demand for an exceptional experience.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

AWE Aldermaston

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the decision was taken to transfer RWE Aldermaston to Jacobs. [249572]

Ian Pearson: After consultation between BERR (then DTI) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the decision to undertake the process of selling the British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) one-third stake in AWE Management Limited (AWEML) was taken at the end of June 2007 and was announced to Parliament on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WS, before the process commenced.

AWEML is the consortium of BNFL, Serco and Lockheed Martin) that has the 25-year contract with the MOD to manage and operate the Atomic Weapons Establishment on MOD's behalf. The Government have not transferred or sold any of its stake in the Atomic Weapons Establishment itself, which remains entirely owned by the MOD and in which UK sovereignty remains protected.

It became clear during the summer of 2008 that the bid from Jacobs Engineering Group was the most attractive and the decision to accept that bid was agreed by BERR Ministers on 25 September 2008 subject to finalisation of various contractual matters. The contract confirming the deal was finally signed by BNFL and Jacobs on 17 December 2008.

Bankruptcy

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals were declared bankrupt in *(a)* St Albans constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England and Wales in each of the last 12 months for which information is available. [254226]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 following shows the number of bankruptcies in *(a)* St. Albans constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England and Wales in each month of 2007, derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1,2].

Table 1

2007	*St. Albans constituency*	*Hertfordshire*	*East of England*	*England and Wales*
January	13	117	646	5,600
February	8	111	636	5,637
March	11	121	716	6,700
April	7	88	630	5,305
May	3	96	566	5,647
June	11	107	597	5,537
July	8	93	597	5,453
August	12	104	571	5,309
September	12	101	524	4,838

Table 1

2007	St. Albans constituency	Hertfordshire	East of England	England and Wales
October	5	92	573	5,416
November	4	100	629	5,408
December	4	75	449	3,630
Total	98	1,205	7,134	64,480

[1] Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the aforementioned table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have applied for *(a)* bankruptcy and *(b)* an individual voluntary arrangement in (i) North West Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iiii) the East of England and (iv) England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [254863]

Mr. McFadden: The following tables show the number of bankruptcies (table A) and individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) (table B) in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England and Wales in each year between 2000 and 2007. This information is derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1,2]. Earlier figures are not available on this basis and figures for 2008 are not yet available.

Table A: Bankruptcies

	North West Cambridgeshire constituency	Cambridgeshire	East of England	England and Wales[1]
2000	41	193	2,014	21,550
2001	54	252	2,471	23,477
2002	42	216	2,463	24,292
2003	58	294	2,998	28,021
2004	74	391	3,854	35,898
2005	88	527	5,346	47,291
2006	114	661	7,015	62,956
2007	140	686	7,134	64,480

Table B: IVAs

	North West Cambridgeshire constituency	Cambridgeshire	East of England	England and Wales[1]
2000	13	81	616	7,978
2001	18	73	532	6,298
2002	16	61	547	6,295
2003	7	70	617	7,583
2004	26	113	991	10,752
2005	57	257	2,200	20,293
2006	116	469	4,761	44,332
2007	109	424	4,445	42,165

[1] Figures for England and Wales are the official, published totals.

[1] Classifying bankrupts and IVAs into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the insolvent individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Bankruptcy: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in Cambridgeshire were declared bankrupt in each of the last 12 months. [250238]

Mr. McFadden: Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)), however, registered companies are the subject of liquidation (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation (CVL)).

It is not currently possible, from information held centrally in electronic format, to count the number of insolvent companies in Cambridgeshire. However the following table shows the number of self-employed bankrupts in each month of 2007 (the latest for which information is currently available for Cambridgeshire), derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1,2].

Cambridgeshire self-employed bankrupts in 2007

	Number
January	7
February	9
March	10
April	3
May	2
June	7
July	5
August	3
September	5
October	0
November	7
December	5

[1] Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Similar information is not available for individual voluntary arrangements entered into by the self-employed.

Broadband

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects broadband internet access to be available for everybody who wants it nationwide. [249017]

Mr. McFadden: Broadband internet is available now to over 99 per cent. of households connected to a broadband enabled telephone exchange and broadband via satellite is geographically available nationwide.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on enabling broadband internet access in each year since 1997. [249210]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has directly spent around £47 million on enabling broadband internet access since 1997, this excludes spending by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. This funding was to encourage '1st generation' broadband take up. The breakdown of the spending is set out as follows.

UK Broadband Fund: £30 million for projects to encourage broadband roll out in the regions across the UK from 2002-05

Broadband Task Force: £86,000 from 2004-05

Broadband Aggregation: £17 million from 2003-05

Community Broadband Network: Part funding of £30,000 in 2004

Broadband Awareness Portal Project: £40,000 in 2004-05

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and *(b)* Ofcom on NESTA's proposal to extend the geographical scope of provision of high-speed broadband. [251207]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* I have not had recent discussions with the NESTA or Ofcom on NESTA's proposal to extend the geographical scope of provision of high-speed broadband.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the economy of nationwide access to high-speed broadband. [251210]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* As part of the Digital Britain report the Department has made interim assessments of the likely effects on the economy of nationwide access to high-speed broadband by reviewing the range of reports and analysis available on this subject.

I recognise the potential importance of high-speed broadband and its potential to positively affect the UK's competitiveness. The Government believe that investment in new broadband networks opens the way to a whole range of job opportunities, both during and post construction of the new networks. The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) estimates that universal super-fast broadband in the UK could directly create 600,000 new ICT jobs and add £18 billion to GDP over four years with even larger indirect benefit. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation published a similar study of the impact investment in network infrastructures could have in the USA.

It is important therefore for the Government, under the Digital Britain Report to examine the impact of network improvements can have on the UK's employment and competitiveness in the digital economy.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure high speed broadband provision in rural areas, with specific reference to East Devon; and if he will make a statement. [242160]

Mr. McFadden: The Government recently published the interim report on Digital Britain, which aims to help accelerate the rate of growth, and cement the UK's position as a world leader in the knowledge and learning economy. This set out our intention to develop plans for a digital Universal Service Commitment to be effective by 2012. Alongside the interim report, the Government also published their response to the Caio Review on broadband, agreeing to the recommendations in that report and setting out how we will act to implement them.

In addition, Ofcom is continuing to consult on the appropriate regulatory framework for next generation broadband.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the extension of provision of high-speed broadband access to rural areas. [251206]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 January 2009]:* Since the announcement of the Digital Britain Report on 17 October, the Department has received representations on extension of provision of high-speed broadband access to rural areas in the form of correspondence from a Member of the Scottish Parliament and Members of Parliament, on behalf of constituents and from their own interest, as well as a parliamentary questions.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which websites are operated by his Department in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for those websites is. [251422]

Mr. McFadden: Below is a list of websites operated by the Department in addition to the main www.berr.gov.uk site.

Regarding operating budgets, the Department does not hold this information centrally, and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. As of April 2009, all Government Departments will measure website costs in line with guidance from the Central Office of Information.

Auto Industry

www.autoindustry.co.uk

Competitiveness Indicators 2002

csdata4/competitiveness/

E-Commerce Awards

www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk

Electronic Payments

www.electronic-payments.co.uk

Security health check

www.securityhealthcheck.berr.gov.uk/

Better regulation executive portal

www.betterregulation.gov.uk

Economic and Statistics

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/statistics

(old URL—www.dtistats.net)

Goods checker

www.ecochecker.co.uk/goodschecker/

OGEL export licence system

www.ecochecker.co.uk/OGELchecker/

Spire export licence system

www.spire.berr.gov.uk/
Oil and Gas
www.og.berr.gov.uk/
www.og.dti.gov.uk
Shareholder Executive
www.shareholderexecutive.gov.uk
Agriculture and Environment Bio-technology Commission (AEBC)
http://www.aebc.gov.uk/
Enemy Property Payment Scheme
www.enemyproperty.gov.uk
Queen's Awards
www.queensawards.org.uk
Constructionline
www.constructionline.co.uk/
Firework Safety
www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks/

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which websites were operated by his Department in addition to its main website since its inception. [251482]

Mr. McFadden: Following is a list of websites operated or formerly operated by the Department for Business. Many of the sites listed are no longer in operation or have been transferred to other Government Departments as a result of machinery of government changes.

Auto Industry
www.autoindustry.co.uk
Competitiveness Indicators 2002
www.esdata4/competitiveness/
E-Commerce Awards
www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk
Electronic Payments
www.electronic-payments.co.uk
Security health check
www.securityhealthcheck.berr.gov.uk/
Better regulation executive portal
www.betterregulation.gov.uk
Economic and Statistics
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/statistics (old URL www.dtistats.net)
Goods checker
www.ecochecker.co.uk/goodschecker/
OGEL export licence system—
www.ecochecker.co.uk/OGELchecker/
Spire—export licence system
www.spire.berr.gov.uk/
Oil and Gas
www.og.berr.gov.uk/www.og.dti.gov.uk
Shareholder Executive
www.shareholderexecutive.gov.uk
Agriculture and Environment Bio-technology Commission (AEBC)
http://www.aebc.gov.uk/
Enemy Property Payment Scheme
www.enemyproperty.gov.uk
Queen's Awards
www.queensawards.org.uk
Construction line
www.constructionline.co.uk/
Firework Safety
www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks/

Closed or content moved to other Government Departments:

Corporate Social Responsibility
www.csr.gov.uk
Accounting for People
www.accountingforpeople.gov.uk
Basic Technologies for Industrial Applications Programme
www.basictechnologies.gov.uk
Bio-Wise
www.biowise.org.uk
Cabinet Office Better Regulation Executive
www.bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/
Communications White Paper
www.communicationswhitepaper.gov.uk/
e-Science
www.escience-grid.org.uk
Global Watch Online
www.globalwatchonline.com
OSDA (LINK Optical Systems for the Digital Age)
www.osda.org.uk/www.photonics.org.uk/
Pay on time (aka Better payment practice campaign)
www.payontime.co.uk
Photonics (LINK Information Storage and Displays Program)
www.linkisd.org.uk/
http://www.photonics.org.uk/ (2 URLS for same website)
Quality Mark
www.qualitymark.org.uk
Security at Work
www.securityatwork.org.uk
Security survey results site
www.security-survey.gov.uk
Society and Business
www.societyandbusiness.gov.uk
UK Information Society Programmes
www.ukishelp.co.uk
British National Space Centre
www.bnsc.gov.uk
Foresight
www.foresight.gov.uk
Future and Innovation Unit
www.innovation.gov.uk/
www.berr.gov.uk/innovation/
ICT Carrier Programme
www.ictcarrier.co.uk/
www.ictcarrier.co.uk/indexB.html
Inspired leadership
www.inspiredleadership.org.uk
National Weights and Measures Laboratory
www.nwml.gov.uk
Near Earth Objects
www.nearearthobjects.co.uk
GM Science Review
www.gmsciencedebate.org.uk

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254229]

Mr. McFadden: Information on appointments made by the Department is published online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/publicappointments/index.html

More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's Annual Report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each year since it was established. [251263]

Mr. McFadden: The Department spent the following via the Central Office of Information (COI) and directly with public relations agencies in the last full financial year 2007-08:

Geronimo Communications, Enterprising Britain: £172,630.27

Gavin Anderson (UK) Ltd, Renewable energy: £109,326.38

GCI London, Employing People: £30,030

Highlight PR, Queen's Awards: £17,254.61

Trimedia Harrison Cowley Ltd, Fireworks safety: £15,000

Trimedia Harrison Cowley Ltd, Consumer Protection Regulations: £73,000.

This includes spend by the former DTI before the establishment of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in June 2007.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste was produced by his Department in each year since its establishment; and what proportion of such waste was recycled. [252871]

Mr. McFadden: Since it was formed on 28 June 2007, BERR has produced the following weights of paper, plastics and other waste on its HQ estate, with the proportion recycled shown in brackets:

Tonnes

	Paper	*Recycled (%)*	*Plastics*	*Recycled (%)*	*Other waste*	*Recycled (%)*
2007-08	335.7	(100)	6.9	(100)	378.6	(1.2)
2008-09 (Apr-Dec)	305.0	(100)	9.4	(100)	220.7	(5.8)

It is not possible to separate out the waste recycling figures for BERR and DIUS at Kingsgate House, since they are co-located.

Departmental Secondment

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have (i) met and (ii) talked on the telephone to representatives of (A) Anglo American plc, (B) BHP Billiton plc, (C) Rio Tinto plc, (D) Vedanta plc and (E) Xstrata plc since April 2007; and how many staff from each such company have been seconded to his Department in that period. [245899]

Mr. McFadden: There were two meetings and one telephone discussion between BERR Ministers and Rio Tinto plc over this period. In addition we have identified two meetings and one telephone discussion between the Permanent Secretary and Rio Tinto. He also met with BHP Billiton pc on one occasion.

The Chief Executive of Anglo American plc is a member of the Business Council for Britain and has attended two meetings since her appointment at which BERR Ministers were present. The Permanent Secretary was also at one of these meetings. In addition, there has been one-face-to face meeting between the Chief Executive of Anglo American and BERR Ministers over this period.

No meetings or discussions with Verdanta plc or Xstrata plc have taken place since April 2007 involving BERR Ministers or the Permanent Secretary.

There has been regular contact between BERR officials and companies in the mining sector, but to identify all these discussions would incur disproportionate cost as this information is not held centrally. No staff from these companies have been seconded to the Department over this period.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish each of the producer compliance schemes established under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations; and how much waste equipment *(a)* is required to be collected and *(b)* was collected in the latest period for which figures are available under each scheme. [251757]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The Environment Agency in England and Wales and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) are responsible for approving Producer Compliance Schemes (PSC) under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. A list of approved PCSs is available at

www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

The collection data requested are not available as they are commercially sensitive.

EU Internal Trade

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide equal rights in employment for UK nationals in the United Kingdom to those afforded under *(a)* the EU Posted Workers Directive and *(b)* other EU legislation. [255449]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Such legislation is already in place: all workers in the UK, whether they are UK citizens, migrant or posted workers have the same key employment rights.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the European Commission has taken since the Forum on Workers' Rights and Economic Freedom in October 2008 to safeguard the rights of posted workers within the UK. [255450]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Council of Ministers and the European Commission have invited the social partners to analyse the challenges posed by the expansion in the various forms of labour mobility in the Union and in particular of their impact on the European Union's competitiveness, protection of workers' rights, the functioning of national labour markets, and the various modes of industrial relations, taking account of recent rulings of the European Court of Justice. The Commission's high level committee of experts will examine ways to improve the implementation of the directive and to exchange information, experience and good practice.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the expert committee on the posting of workers established after the meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 9 June 2008. [255663]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* After the Council meeting on 9 June 2008, the Commission was asked to set up an expert committee to examine questions and difficulties which might arise in the practical application of the posting of worker legislation. The Commission published details of the Committee's remit on 18 December 2008 (Commission document C (2008) 8640 final). I look forward to the conclusions of this group.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential effect of levels of fire cover provided by retained firefighters of the provisions of the EU Working Time Directive. [255388]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Government recognise that losing the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week as set by the working time directive, would have a detrimental effect on the hours which firefighters working the retained duty system could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full-time for their primary employer. Many other workers also use this important flexibility and so and we remain firmly of the view that this right should remain. We, along with a majority of other member states will be fighting for the retention of the opt-out as this dossier progresses through the European negotiation process.

Official both from my Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked very closely with the Retained Firefighters' Union and will continue to keep them informed throughout the process.

Israel: Arms Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which arms export licences for arms sales to Israel have been approved in each of the last five years; and which of those licences were for components intended to be incorporated into larger equipment for onward export to third countries. [254161]

Ian Pearson: The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. Information on export licences issued for incorporation before onward export is given separately for each destination in the Reports.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, and Quarterly Reports, published since 2004, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controlsl

Manufacturing: Government Assistance

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what financial assistance the Government is providing to *(a)* commercial vehicle manufacturing companies and *(b)* JCB; and if he will make a statement. [254441]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement I made on the support for the automotive sector on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 165-67.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses to letters received in his Department from hon. Members were outstanding in each month since September 2008. [253813]

Mr. McFadden: To date the Department has the following letters from hon. Members outstanding:

	Number
September 2008	7
October 2008	18
November 2008	67
December 2008	281
January 2009	240

The majority of letters outstanding from December 2008 and January 2009 are concerns around the current economic difficulties faced by consumers and small businesses and are being answered as quickly as possible.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter of 22 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M. Gutteridge. [253873]

Mr. McFadden: The issue raised by my right hon. Friend falls within the portfolio of Her Majesty's Treasury, your letter was transferred on 5 February and you will receive a response in due course.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Woking of 25 November 2008 on Cookson Electronics. [254707]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The matter raised by the hon. Member fell within the portfolio of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The letter was officially transferred and the hon. Member was informed on 22 December 2008.

Minimum Wage: Social Security Benefits

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have had their benefits uprated as a result of the national minimum wage in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [252561]

Mr. McFadden: The answer given relates directly to the number of workers affected by the national minimum wage uprating in the form of higher wages and does not take account any change in state benefit.

Information on earnings is taken from the ONS' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) dataset for 2008. Information for individual parliamentary constituencies is not readily available in the ASHE dataset, however, information is available on a Government office region basis.

(a) The number of workers in the UK that stand to benefit directly in the form of higher hourly wages from the October 2008 national minimum wage upratings is estimated to be around 1,125,000.

(b) The number of workers in England that stand to benefit directly in the form of higher hourly wages from the October 2008 national minimum wage upratings is estimated to be around 906,000.

(c) In the North East, 64,000 workers are estimated to benefit directly from higher hourly wages as a result of the October 2008 national minimum wage upratings.

Mobile Phones: Contracts

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the decision of Ofcom not to require the UK's telecommunications sector to reduce its mobile termination rates, with particular reference to the likely effect of the decision on consumers. [250340]

Mr. McFadden: I do not intend to review Ofcom's action on mobile termination rates. In March 2007 Ofcom published a market review statement for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2011 following a two-year market review and extensive industry consultation. This statement is currently subject to two appeals before the Competition Appeal Tribunal and the Competition Commission. The outcome of these appeals will determine the appropriate mobile termination rates in the near term.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the cost to UK consumers of *(a)* maintaining the current mobile termination rate regime and *(b)* introducing the new rates proposed by the European Commission. [250389]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* Mobile termination rates are regulated by Ofcom and the benefit to consumers has a central place in reaching decisions on the appropriate rates. The Commission have issued a draft Recommendation for consultation and Ofcom and other European regulators are in discussion with the Commission about the approach taken. If the recommendation is issued, Ofcom will take the utmost account of the recommendation.

Mobile Phones: Rural Areas

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to require mobile telephone companies to maintain high standards of signal coverage in rural areas. [253822]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* There are currently no regulatory requirements for the mobile network operators or constraints under the terms of their 2G and 3G licences for provision of signal coverage in rural areas. Although a population coverage requirement is a condition of their licences, Ofcom are satisfied that this has in all cases been met. The Government believe that competitive pressure between each operator is fed by information about the markets in which they operate, providing the best basis upon which they can decide whether or not to build mast base stations in areas where signal coverage is poor.

However, the Government are keen to ensure that the benefits of digital technology are enjoyed by as many people as possible. As part of the Digital Britain Interim Report, published on 29 January 2009, we propose a universal service commitment for broadband data. By the publication of the final Digital Britain Report, we will develop plans for a universal service, which will include the role of mobile technologies. We will additionally consider further network, spectrum or carrier-sharing proposals from the operators, particularly where these can lead to greater coverage levels throughout the country.

Motor Vehicles

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide credit guarantee support for the purchase of vehicles to provide support for the motor industry. [248019]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made in the House on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-67.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Statement of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-67, on the automotive industry, on support for the automotive industry, if he will ensure that the plan to be drawn up by Lord Davies on access to finance will include commercial vehicle financing. [253249]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: Financing for commercial vehicles will be included in the discussions on access to finance for the automotive industry.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the support package for the automotive industry includes elements of support for the development of *(a)* plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and *(b)* vehicle to grid smart charging technology. [255207]

Ian Pearson: The package I announced on 27 January 2009 will provide loan guarantees to Britain's automotive manufacturers and large suppliers to support investment in low carbon plant and research and development. The criteria of the schemes need to be agreed with the European Commission, however it is intended that projects could include support for the development of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

On 15 January 2009, Secretary of State for Transport announced £250 million funding to encourage consumers to buy ultra-low carbon cars and electric vehicles and targeted support for electric vehicle charging infrastructure provision. In addition, the Department for Transport's £20 million public procurement programme will help demonstrate lower carbon and all-electric vans and the Technology Strategy Board's £10 million competition will showcase ultra low carbon cars.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what cars of what engine cubic capacity are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department. [250032]

Mr. McFadden: BERR currently holds five leased vehicles, details of which are as follows:

	Engine cc
Peugeot 207 Diesel Hatchback 1.4	1398
Peugeot 207 Diesel Hatchback 1.4	1398
Peugeot 307 Diesel Hatchback 1.6	1560
Renault Clio Hatchback 1.2	1149
Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.25	1242

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Overseas Companies: EU Countries

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what UK-owned *(a)* companies and *(b)* construction companies are taking part in major infrastructure projects in each other EU member state; and if he will make a statement. [254947]

Ian Pearson: The Department does not collect this information.

Post Offices

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions the Ministerial Committee on the Post Office Network has met since its formation; and if he will make a statement. [256084]

Mr. McFadden: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when, how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed; as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many notifications his Department and its predecessor received of businesses making redundancies of 20 employees or more in each *(a)* year since 1997 and *(b)* month of the last two years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [252920]

Mr. McFadden: Employers who propose to make 20 or more redundancies at one establishment are required to notify the Secretary Of State of the proposal under provisions contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Information on those notifications is only held from January 2006. I have detailed in the following table the number of notifications received for each month from January 2006 to December 2008. The records are not maintained in the format the hon. Member have requested so I regret that I am unable to break them down by region, local authority areas, or parliamentary constituencies.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
January	35,133	32,325	29,626
February	32,038	21,205	19,875
March	27,288	67,232	34,149
April	21,635	18,055	30,222
May	33,578	20,688	26,387
June	23,950	26,919	18,720
July	21,122	23,985	37,505
August	27,971	62,960	18,177
September	35,031	40,068	30,691
October	26,247	33,360	42,829
November	48,754	17,034	45,855
December	19,248	36,434	69,660
Total	351,995	400,265	403,696

Regional Development Agencies: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each of the regional development agencies has spent on external public relations in the last 24 months; and what firms each contracted to provide such services. [250217]

Mr. McFadden: The following figures refer specifically to the corporate promotion of each RDA and their respective projects during the 24 month period of January 2007 to December 2008. They do not include expenditure on tourism initiatives, marketing of the region, printing, graphic design, or the production of required documentation such as annual reports or accounts.

During the past 24 months YF, EEDA, EMDA and ONE have spent nothing on external PR firms. These agencies manage their corporate promotion in-house.

RDA	*PR firms*	*Total spend on external PR in the last 24 months (£000)*
AWM	Various independent freelance photographers[1]	83
LDA	Freud Communications Forster Caro Communications	461
NWDA	Creative Concern Tamesis Business Comms	20
SEEDA	2therefore Ltd. Bottle PR Ltd. Colman Getty London Ltd. Dr. Baumer Consultants Murray-Hayward Communications Serco Group Ltd. Steven Associates The Twelve Consultancy	249
SWRDA	Deborah Clark PR Aylesworth Fleming Golley Slater Carmargue Caroline Harris PR GCI London Trimedia Harrison Cowley Financial Dynamics	706

[1] AWM does not retain external support for corporate PR activities although AWM does incur photography costs associated with the delivery of its corporate PR function.

Renewable Energy: Export Credit Guarantees

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to increase take-up of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's £50 million annual underwriting fund for the renewable energy industry. [255205]

Ian Pearson: ECGD cover remains available for UK renewables exporters and the Department continues to work with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, UK Trade and Investment and renewables trade associations to raise awareness of the support available. ECGD's engagement with, and research into, the market indicates that very few UK renewables companies currently plan to export to markets where ECGD support is relevant. The Department is, however, following up a number of potential longer-term prospects with the companies concerned.

Retail Trade: Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many retail enterprises were in operation in *(a)* the area covered by Hambleton and Harrogate councils and *(b)* Yorkshire in each of the last 10 years. [254259]

Ian Pearson: Statistical data relating solely to retail enterprises are not available at regional or district level. The estimated number of businesses in Standard Industrial Classification Group G (wholesale, retail and repair) registered for VAT at the end of each calendar year in Hambleton, Harrogate and the Yorkshire and The Humber region is set out in the following table. 2007 is the latest year for which data are available.

VAT stocks at year end in SIC Group G (wholesale, retail and repair)

	Local authority district Hambleton	*Local authority district Harrogate*	*Yorkshire and The Humber Region*
1998	720	1,420	33,035
1999	735	1,415	32,750
2000	735	1,410	32,555
2001	735	1,400	32,135
2002	735	1,385	31,905
2003	745	1,390	32,290
2004	750	1,390	32,570
2005	765	1,430	32,980
2006	780	1,455	33,150
2007	800	1,480	33,445

Note:
VAT figures do not give the complete picture of the number of businesses in the economy. Businesses operating below the VAT threshold are not automatically included, although some businesses do voluntarily register for VAT even though their turnover is below the threshold. It is estimated that at UK level 42 per cent. of businesses are registered for VAT.
Source:
Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register via NOMIS.

Retirement: Age

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* prohibit employers from operating a mandatory requirement age and *(b)* remove the national default retirement age provided for in the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. [254950]

Mr. McFadden: The UK does not have a national mandatory retirement age. Employers do not have to retire employees once they reach 65. They are free to continue to employ them as long as they like, and employees are entitled to request to continue working beyond 65. The default retirement age allows employers to use retirement at 65 as a tool for workforce planning. If an employer wishes to operate a normal retirement age that is lower than 65 they must objectively justify it.

We are monitoring the legislation as we said we would when it was introduced. We will take due account of all the up to date information available in ensuring we arrive at an appropriate outcome in our review planned for 2011.

Royal Mail

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Royal Mail has set aside for modernisation projects. [256074]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

The Government have made available £1.2 billion of loan facilities to enable Royal Mail to implement its modernisation plans.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of Royal Mail's Strategic Plan. [256076]

Mr. McFadden: Royal Mail's strategic plan is a commercially confidential document and it would therefore not be appropriate to place a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of Royal Mail the Government plan to sell to a private sector partner; and what price the Government intends to charge for that stake. [256080]

Mr. McFadden: Government will maintain our manifesto commitment to a Royal Mail which remains in public ownership and will therefore retain a majority stake to safeguard the vital services it provides.

However, it is too early at this stage to speculate as to what the precise details of any minority share sale will be as they are subject to negotiations with the potential partner. Once we are in a position to announce such details we will do so.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much will be paid annually to the new Chairman of Royal Mail in *(a)* salary, *(b)* pension contributions and *(c)* other expenses and allowances; and what the equivalent remuneration figures for his predecessor were. [256083]

Mr. McFadden: The new Chairman, Donald Brydon, will receive remuneration of £200,000 per year. There is no pension associated with this non-executive Chairman post. There is no set amount for expenses. This will be determined on an actual basis.

This overall package is the same as that for Allan Leighton.

Small Businesses: Bankruptcy

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses have closed in each quarter of the last five years. [249700]

Ian Pearson: Quarterly data on business closures are not available.

Data on enterprise closures from the Office for National Statistics Business Demography publication are available on an annual basis. Data for the years 2003 to 2007 are shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in late 2009.

Thousand

	Enterprise closures, UK
2003	232
2004	244
2005	228
2006	209
2007	228

Source:
ONS Business Demography 2007. Available at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=15186&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

These data cover enterprises of all sizes since data for small enterprises only are not available.

Wind Power: Steel

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the opportunities which exist for the manufacture of wind turbines from steel made in the United Kingdom; and whether he has made an assessment of the implications for the United Kingdom steel industry of an expanded capacity of the on and off-shore wind power industry. [253327]

Ian Pearson: The UK steel industry is a key supplier of steel to wind turbine sector. Corus has supplied steel to the renewable energy sector for a number of years, including for the production of onshore and offshore wind towers. The Government anticipate strengthening demand for steel from this sector as our policies place target an increased use of renewable energy sources alongside reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation.

The UK has the largest potential wind energy in Europe and the technology for both onshore and offshore wind power is currently one of the most developed and cost effective of all renewable technologies. Corus has key customers through the supply chain—from the tower fabricators to the wind turbine manufacturers. Corus will continue to work with its key customers and the Government to identify opportunities to maximise the value that can be obtained from the sector for the UK.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255069]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) undertook 11 Equality Impact Assessments. No estimate has been made of the cost of these assessments, as they were carried out by staff as part of their everyday duties.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253267]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the Civil Service Pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator. In addition to this, a notice outlining the added pension facility was displayed on the Department for International Development's (DFID) internal web pages on a number of occasions throughout January.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1319-20W, on redundancy, what estimate he has made of the annual payroll savings accruing to his Department as a result of staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [254427]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No estimates have been made of DFID's annual payroll savings as a result of staff exit schemes.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252020]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of days off in lieu granted to staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) cannot be provided since the information is not centrally recorded.

Developing Countries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much of his Department's budget for 2008-09 has been spent on addressing the effects of climate change in developing countries; [256602]

(2) how much of his Department's budget for 2008-09 has been spent on combating *(a)* AIDS, *(b)* malaria, *(c)* cholera and *(d)* polio; [256600]

(3) how much of his Department's budget for 2008-09 has been spent on education in developing countries; [256590]

(4) how much of his Department's budget for 2008-09 has been spent on providing access to clean water in developing countries; [256595]

(5) how much of his Department's budget for 2008-09 has been spent on providing emergency *(a)* food and *(b)* shelter. [256594]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of DFID's 2008-09 spending are not yet available but will be published in our 2009 annual report in July. The most recently available data can be found in Statistics on International Development 2008, which was published in November 2008 and is available online:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2008/contents.asp

Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what proposals his Department has brought forward for a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security; how much funding his Department plans to provide to such a partnership; and if he will make a statement; [253991]

(2) what discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* G8 counterparts on the proposed Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security; which of these counterparts have (i) indicated a willingness to join the partnership and (ii) committed funds to it; and if he will make a statement. [253992]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In June 2008 at the Rome Food Summit, the Secretary of State called for an international partnership for agriculture and food to deliver an ambitious and sustained increase in our collective efforts to tackle world hunger.

Subsequently DFID has worked intensively with other donors, the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security and other stakeholders to take this forward. The UK worked within the G8 to secure food security as a key priority for the Toyako summit in July. G8 leaders called for the establishment of a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food and established a G8 Working Group on Global Food Security in which the UK has been proactive. We have also engaged closely with the European Commission through the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV). The result is sold donor consensus on the need for more and better support for food security, social protection and agricultural development and for a global mechanism to help deliver a comprehensive and co-ordinated international response to hunger.

The recent "High Level Meeting on Food Security for All", hosted by Ban Ki Moon and President Zapatero in Madrid, agreed to launch a formal consultation process for the establishment of a "Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition" (GPAFSN) which will fully engage all relevant stakeholders.

Given the existence of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank's multi-donor trust fund for rapid response to countries badly affected by the recent food crisis, the GPAFSN is not conceived as a new global fund. A small secretariat is envisaged, with its main role being to co-ordinate among the various UN agencies, donors, partner countries and other stakeholders who are serious and ambitious in stepping up joint efforts to reduce global hunger.

Over $15 billion of new funding has already been announced since the food crisis began last year. G8 leaders announced some $10 billion of new commitments at their summit in Toyako. A further $1.75 billion to tackle food security was announced at the UN High Level Meeting on the MDGs in New York in September. This included one billion euros from the European Commission. Spain pledged one billion euros over the next five years at the recent Madrid meeting. The World Bank has pledged to increase its annual spending on agriculture by some $2 billion per year. Within these figures, during 2008 DFID has committed over £900 million to addressing agriculture and food security, of which over £230 million has already been disbursed.

The GPAFSN will have a crucial role in promoting the co-ordination of this funding at country level where partner governments are willing to give sustained priority to this agenda. GPAFSN will also be a forum for identifying and addressing emerging international issues, such as global grain price volatility, not appropriate for other international forums.

HIV Infection: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has credited to the Global Fund for AIDS in each year since the fund's inception; and if he will make a statement. [254216]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) was established in 2002. Between 2002-08, the UK Government provided a total of £359 million as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2002-03	50
2003-04	25
2004-05	33
2005-06	51
2006-07	100
2007-08	100

In September 2007, the UK made an unprecedented long term commitment of up to £1 billion for 2008-15, on the condition that the Global Fund receives good quality demand, continues to perform well, and is demonstrating sustainable impact.

Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the UK's contribution to the work of humanitarian organisations. [256034]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) undertook a detailed expenditure review last year—the "DFID Humanitarian Spend Report", showing where DFID humanitarian funds have been spent and through which partner organisations. This has been shared with non-governmental organisations. Copies of the report have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

We regularly assess the humanitarian organisations that we fund in order to verify the impact of our contributions. This includes monitoring their performance through telephone conversations and meetings, usually supplemented by a field visit to assess work on the ground.

DFID's core humanitarian contributions to United Nations relief agencies are accompanied by Institutional Strategies agreed with each agency. New Institutional Strategies include a performance framework which we use to assess annual performance and guide us in releasing funds.

Palestinians: Education

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the operation of the staging area in Israel for the transfer of humanitarian aid into Gaza; and what account he has taken of the effect of the recent conflict and lack of accessibility on the delivery of this aid. [255047]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Access to Gaza is a long-standing humanitarian issue which has been exacerbated by the recent conflict.

Staging areas are operating efficiently and have the capacity to scale up should access to Gaza and subsequent service demand from humanitarian agencies increase. As of 6 February the logistics cluster had dispatched 1,980 pallets of cargo to the Gaza strip through Kerem Shalom border crossing, for 22 humanitarian organisations. For example, the UN reports that only 20-25 types of relief items out of 4,000 needed are getting in.

The UK Government will continue to press for improved access so that humanitarian aid is able to reach those that most need it.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent assessment he has made of the distribution of aid in Gaza; [255926]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on the distribution of aid in Gaza; [255927]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to increase access to aid in Gaza; [255928]

(4) to what projects his Department has allocated the £27 million funding committed to meet the needs of the Palestinian people in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [255950]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to my hon. Friend the Member for City of Chester (Christine Russell) on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1351.

Further information on the allocation of the £26.8 million of funding is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support the opening of crossing points to facilitate the movement of aid into Gaza. [256033]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government, together with the EU and other actors, continues to call for immediate and unhindered access to Gaza for humanitarian aid and personnel. We continue to discuss the issue with the UN, as well as press the Government of Israel to open the crossings.

Peace Negotiations: Women

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the UK National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, what steps the Government is taking to ensure the needs of Afghan civil society, with particular reference to local and national women's organisations, are taken into account in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. [246213]

Bill Rammell: I am aware of the difficult situation many women in Afghanistan still face. Our embassy officials regularly discuss women's rights with members of the Afghan government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Afghan parliamentarians.

The Government work to enhance the status of women in three main ways: through policy engagement with the Afghan government; through support for national programmes and services, which benefit women; and through bilateral programmes. Despite the challenges, progress has been made: over a third of children now in school are girls and we have committed over £35million to support the Afghan government's micro-finance programme, giving women in particular better access to finance. 27 per cent. of seats in the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament are held by women.

Our main support is channelled through the Afghan government, since gender inequality is a deeply embedded and long-term problem which needs a strategic approach. We have worked, for example, with the government to ensure that gender equality is integrated into the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

We are giving £500,000 to support a five-year Women's Empowerment programme (2005-10), implemented by the NGO Womankind. The programme focuses on promoting women's equal participation in governance; building awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers; and on providing educational, health, community and psycho-social support to women affected by violence and conflict. Womankind implements its programmes through local Afghan women's NGO's, helping to build Afghan capacity.

Since its establishment in 2002, we have given over £1.75 million to support the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), including £200,000 this year to support its 2009-10 Action Plan. The Commission is a cornerstone of Afghan civil society, with over 500 staff working to improve respect for human rights across Afghanistan. A large part of the Commission's work focuses on women's rights, including documenting and tackling violence against women.

The AIHRC now has representatives in Helmand province, who are helping support the new Women and Children's Justice group, established in Lashkar Gah in August 2008. Run by prominent female members of the community, the Group is developing and implementing practical programmes on the ground to support women and children's rights and justice issues.

More information on progress against the UK's National Action Plan, in Afghanistan and elsewhere, can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website, which is updated periodically:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/unscr-1325-uk-action-plan.

Peers Interests

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255232]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Ministers at the Department for International Development received no representations from Lord Moonie, Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Snape or Lord Truscott in the last seven months.

United Nations: Climate Change

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* in-kind contribution his Department made to the United Nations Adaptation Fund in 2008-09; what allocation he plans to make to the Fund in each of the next three financial years; whether such contributions are earmarked for specific projects; and whether such contributions will be repaid. [256622]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided an advance of £500,000 to support the set-up of the Adaptation Fund (AF) in 2008-09 and has pledged up to £500,000 more if needed for the same purpose, making the UK the biggest contributor to the AF Board so far. Decisions on how our contributions are used are taken by the AF Board. The fund's main source of income will be from a 2 per cent. levy on proceeds from Certified Emissions Reductions generated by the Clean Development Mechanism. Decisions on contributions beyond the 2 per cent. levy to the AF will be made when it becomes operational, and when its future role and scale becomes clearer through the climate change negotiations. DFID is also providing advisory support with 20 per cent. of a senior adviser's time as the UK alternate member of the AF Board, and support by other DFID and DECC staff working on climate change.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 28 January 2009

TRANSPORT

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234694]

[Official Report, 17 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 27W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick:

An error has been identified in a written answer given to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 17 November 2008. The answer given was as follows:

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport itself uses Airwave handsets. The following of the Department's executive agencies and sponsored non-departmental bodies are also users of Airwave handsets:

Highways Agency
Marine and Coastguard Agency
British Transport Police.

The following two executive agencies have been made 'approved sharers' of Airwave by Ofcom, the radio spectrum regulator, but do not currently use Airwave handsets:

Government Car and Despatch Agency
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

The correct answer should have been:

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport itself uses Airwave handsets. The following of the Department's executive agencies and sponsored non-departmental bodies are also users of Airwave handsets:

Highways Agency
British Transport Police.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency uses a fixed set.

The following two executive agencies have been made 'approved sharers' of Airwave by Ofcom, the radio spectrum regulator, but do not currently use Airwave handsets:

Government Car and Despatch Agency
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 29 January 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey: Visits Abroad

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Ordnance Survey has spent on overseas travel for its staff in the last 12 months; and which *(a)* cities and *(b)* countries have been visited. [230917]

[Official Report, 29 October 2008, Vol. 481, c. 1148-49W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Iain Wright:

Errors have been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 29 October 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey's total expenditure on overseas travel in the 12 months to 30 September 2008, was £180,320 on overseas travel. The cities and countries visited were as follows:

Country	*City*
Australia	Melbourne
Austria	Graz Vienna
Bahrain	Bahrain
Belgium	Brussels
Canada	Toronto Vancouver
China	Beijing
Croatia	Dubrovnik
Denmark	Copenhagen
Eire	Dublin Shannon
Estonia	Tallinn
Finland	Helsinki Juankoski
France	Paris Montpellier Nice
Germany	Berlin Bonn Bremen Düsseldorf Frankfurt Freiberg Hamburg Hanover Stuttgart
Hungary	Budapest
Italy	Milan Catania
India	Chennai Delhi
Japan	Tokyo
Latvia	Riga
Libya	Tripoli
Luxembourg	Luxembourg
Malta	Valetta
Netherlands	Amsterdam Delft Ensehede Rotterdam
New Zealand	Auckland
Norway	Oslo
Poland	Warsaw
Portugal	Lisbon
Romania	Bucharest Sibiu
Slovenia	Maribor
Spain	Barcelona Madrid
Sweden	Norrköping Stockholm
Switzerland	Heerbrug Zurich
USA	Baltimore Boston Chicago Denver Detroit

Country	*City*
	Orlando
	Salt Lake City
	San Diego
	San Francisco
	Savannah
	Seattle
	St. Louis
	Washington

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 3 February 2009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

St. Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many inhabitants of St Helena have taken up residence in the United Kingdom in the last five years. [240849]

[Official Report, 17 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 879W.]

Letter of correction from Gillian Merron:

It has been brought to my attention that the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 17 December 2008 was incorrect. The full answer given was as follows:

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any meetings with officials from St. Helena in the last two years. However, I had a constructive meeting with Councillor William Drabble during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in October this year, and my hon. Friend, Meg Munn, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, met with Brian Isaacs at the same event in December 2007. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government officials are in regular contact with St. Helena officials.

The correct answer should have read:

Gillian Merron: The British Overseas Territories Act 2002 conferred British citizenship on British Overseas Territories citizens with the exception of those who are a British overseas territories citizen by virtue only of a connection with the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.

British citizens are free from immigration control in the UK. As such, the Government do not keep records of the movements of these citizens to and from the UK.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what alternative sources of funding for the athletes' village *(a)* she and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority is considering; and if she will make a statement. [246120]

[Official Report, 12 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 260W.]

Letter of correction from Tessa Jowell:

It has been brought to our attention that, because the response to PQ 246120 was written in 2008, but published in 2009, the answer is misleading. A correction to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 260W, is required. The full answer given to the question and the required change are as follows:

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what alternative sources of funding for the athletes' village *(a)* she and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority is considering; and if she will make a statement. [246120]

Tessa Jowell: As a consequence of recent turmoil in the global financial markets, less private sector investment is available than originally envisaged, meaning that the Olympic Village deal needs to be restructured and additional public sector investment will need to be made. The details of that restructured deal are being worked through between the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and Lend Lease under the terms of an exclusivity agreement and it would not be appropriate to reveal the details until that deal is concluded in the spring of 2009. Under the exclusivity agreement, the ODA may not negotiate with alternative development partners.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 9 February 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which codes of conduct to be issued under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 the Government is currently working on; and which bodies have been appointed to advise on each code. [243291]

[Official Report, 12 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 207-08W.]

Letter of correction from Jane Kennedy:

An error has been identified in the final paragraph of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) on 12 January 2009. The final paragraph was as follows:

> Gamebirds: Animal Health, British Association for Sport Shooting, Countryside Alliance, Country Landowners Association, Game Conservancy Trust, Game Farmers Association, League Against Cruel Sports, National Gamekeepers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and two independent advisers. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government will act as observers.

The correct answer should have been:

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is currently consulting on three draft codes of practice to be made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006—cats, dogs and equines. We are also proposing to draft codes on the private keeping of primates and on the rearing of gamebirds for sporting purposes.

DEFRA has had the assistance and co-operation of the following stakeholders in the preparation of these codes:

> Cat: British Small Animal Veterinary Association, Companion Animal Welfare Council, Feline Advisory Bureau, Pet Care Trust, Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals, Pet Food Manufacturers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and an independent veterinary adviser. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government acted as observers.
>
> Dog: Companion Animal Welfare Council, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust, Kennel Club, Pet Care Trust, Pet Food Manufacturers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and an independent veterinary adviser. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales acted as observers.
>
> Equine: DEFRA is consulting on a similar code of practice prepared by the Welsh Assembly Government. This code was prepared by Welsh Assembly Government in consultation with a number of horse interest bodies.
>
> Primates: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and a combination of animal keepers, dealers, with an interest in primates. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government will act as observers.
>
> Gamebirds: Animal Health, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Countryside Alliance, Country Landowners Association, Game Conservancy Trust, Game Farmers Association, League Against Cruel Sports, National Gamekeepers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and two independent advisers. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government will act as observers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensioner Poverty

Mr. Roger Gale (North Thanet) (Con): The Minister will be aware that there are a significant number of expatriate pensioners living in France and other European countries who are suffering considerable poverty as a result of the Government's inability to honour the European Court's findings and to pay to them the disability living allowance and other benefits to which they are entitled. When are the Government going to make a decision on that issue?

[Official Report, 2 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 564-65.]

Letter of correction from Ms Rosie Winterton:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale) Oral Questions on 2 February 2009. The full answer given was as follows:

Ms Winterton: We have been clear that if people claimed the benefit before they moved abroad, they are entitled to continue to claim it. For people who are eligible for it, it is frozen at the limit at which they received it before they left.

The correct answer should have been:

Ms Winterton: We have been clear that if people claimed the benefit before they moved abroad they are entitled to continue to claim it for people who are eligible for it. It is not frozen at the limit at which they received it before they left.

DEFENCE

United States Missile Defence Shield

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): .....All I can say is that up to now—this information has been in the public domain—there have been quite a number of firings by the Americans of their anti-ballistic missile systems. There have been 47 successes so far, as against 37 failures.

[Official Report, 4 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 949-52.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

An error has been identified during the end of day adjournment debate on the US missile defence shield on 4 February 2009. The answer given stated:

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): .....All I can say is that up to now—this information has been in the public domain—there have been quite a number of firings by the Americans of their anti-ballistic missile systems. There have been 47 successes so far, as against 37 failures.

The correct answer should have been:

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): .....All I can say is that up to now—this information has been in the public domain—there have been quite a number of firings by the Americans of their anti-ballistic missile systems. There have been 37 successes so far, as against 10 failures.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 10 February 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 302-3W, on departmental procurement, what the breakdown is of the associated costs of Euro RSCG London Ltd in relation to the fire campaign. [252791]

[Official Report, 29 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 768W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Sadiq Khan:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 29 January 2009. In the table of the breakdown of costs the figures cited for the press and radio narratives were incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Khan: The breakdown of the costs paid to Euro RSCG London Ltd. (and associated companies) in relation to the fire campaign in 2007-08 is as follows:

Breakdown	*£*
Euro RSCG 4D Digital	
Transmission costs for Fire Kills national advertising and usage fee for advertisements	166,468
Press narrative for research carried out for Fire Kills advertising	5,507
Radio narrative for research carried out for Fire Kills advertising	4,727
Creative for campaign support materials	26,077
Agency commission on Media Advertising	145,113
TV production costs for Fire Kills advertising	188,845
Euro RSCG London Ltd	370,269

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 11 February 2009

JUSTICE

Coroners and Justice Bill

Mr. Dominic Grieve (Beaconsfield) (Con): I am most grateful to the Secretary of State for his kind words of welcome.

Conservative Members welcome the appointment of a victims' champion, but would the Secretary of State care to comment on the fact that the victims' champion appears to be a temporary substitute in the absence of a victims' commissioner? I seem to recollect that a commissioner was first promised as far back as 2003 or 2004, yet we still do not have one. Is not the appointment of the champion an admission that the Government have not got their act together on this matter?

[Official Report, 26 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 27.]

Letter of correction from Jack Straw:

During the Second Reading debate of the Coroners and Justice Bill on the 26 January 2009, I inadvertently indicated in my response to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve), that "The Criminal Justice Act 2003 made provision for a victims' commissioner".

In fact the office of the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner was established by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 12 February 2009

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Conferences

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department will attend the forthcoming Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Global Conference on establishing resource transparency; what his Department's objectives for the conference are; and if he will make a statement. [252866]

[Official Report, 3 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 1008W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Michael Foster:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore), *Official Report*, 3 February 2009. The figures cited for the funds committed to the EITI were incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have been a leading supporter of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). DFID has committed over £14 million to EITI and has so far provided over £8 million of this since November 2002. Increasing transparency and knowledge of revenues from the extractive sector empowers citizens to hold Governments to account, so that mismanagement of funds away from sustainable development purposes becomes more difficult. In line with the EITI Global Conference's objectives, we will work with other stakeholders to take stock of EITI's progress; to address the challenges which EITI faces; to consider the next steps for taking forward the initiative.

The composition of the UK's delegation to the EITI Global Conference is yet to be finalised.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care in each local authority area have had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20 and *(e)* 30 foster placements. [251849]

[Official Report, 3 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 1055-58W.]

Letter of correction from Beverley Hughes:

An error has been identified in the written answer to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton), *Official Report*, 3 February 2009. My email of 9 February alerted the hon. Member to data errors in the answer my Department gave. I am now writing to provide the hon. Member with the revised figures.

I am assured by officials that these figures are now correct. Quality assurance procedures have been reviewed and improved to ensure that the chances of this happening again are minimised.

The revised tables are published below. The effect of the correction has been to reduce substantially the number of looked-after children who have a number of foster placements during the year.

A copy of my response will be placed in the Library.

Once again, please accept my apology on behalf of myself and officials in the Department.

The correct answer is as follows:

Beverley Hughes: Information showing the number of children in care in each local authority that have had more than *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10, *(d)* 20 and *(e)* 30 foster placements in England during the year ending 31 March 2008 is shown in the following table.

Number of looked after children at 31 March by foster placements during the, year[1 2 3]
Year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

					Number of placements
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*
England	1,100	200	10	-	0
North East	60	-	-	0	0
Darlington	-	0	0	0	0
Durham	10	-	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	5	-	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	-	-	0	0	0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	-	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	5	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	5	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	-	0	0	0	0
South Tyneside	-	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	-	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	-	-	-	0	0
North West	140	20	-	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen	-	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	-	-	0	0	0
Bolton	10	-	0	0	0
Bury	5	-	0	0	0
Cheshire	10	-	0	0	0

Number of looked after children at 31 March by foster placements during the, year[1,2,3]
Year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

Number of placements

	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*
Cumbria	10	-	0	0	0
Halton	0	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	-	-	-	0	0
Lancashire	25	-	0	0	0
Liverpool	15	-	0	0	0
Manchester	20	-	0	0	0
Oldham	-	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	-	0	0	0	0
Salford	-	0	0	0	0
Sefton	-	-	0	0	0
St. Helens	-	0	0	0	0
Stockport	-	-	0	0	0
Tameside	-	-	0	0	0
Trafford	5	0	0	0	0
Warrington	10	0	0	0	0
Wigan	-	0	0	0	0
Wirral	5	-	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	110	30	-	0	0
Barnsley	10	0	0	0	0
Bradford	10	-	0	0	0
Calderdale	-	-	0	0	0
Doncaster	10	-	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	5	-	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	15	-	0	0	0
Kirklees	5	0	0	0	0
Leeds	20	10	-	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	-	-	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	-	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	10	-	0	0	0
Rotherham	-	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	-	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	-	-	0	0	0
York	-	-	0	0	0
East Midlands	70	10	0	0	0
Derby	5	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	10	-	0	0	0
Leicester	-	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	-	-	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	10	-	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	15	-	0	0	0
Nottingham	-	-	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	10	-	0	0	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	160	20	-	0	0
Birmingham	40	-	0	0	0
Coventry	5	0	0	0	0
Dudley	10	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	-	-	0	0	0
Sandwell	-	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	-	-	0	0	0
Solihull	-	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	20	5	-	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	5	-	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	-	0	0	0	0
Walsall	10	-	0	0	0
Warwickshire	30	5	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	5	-	0	0	0
Worcestershire	10	-	0	0	0

Number of looked after children at 31 March by foster placements during the, year[1,2,3]
Year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

					Number of placements
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*
East of England	100	10	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	-	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	-	-	0	0	0
Essex	25	-	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	10	0	0	0	0
Luton	10	-	0	0	0
Norfolk	15	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	10	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	10	-	0	0	0
Suffolk	10	-	0	0	0
Thurrock	-	-	0	0	0
London	160	40	-	0	0
Inner London	75	10	-	0	0
Camden	5	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	-	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	-	0	0	0	0
Haringey	-	-	0	0	0
Islington	10	-	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	-	-	-	0	0
Lambeth	5	-	0	0	0
Lewisham	-	0	0	0	0
Newham	15	-	0	0	0
Southwark	5	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	5	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	-	0	0	0	0
Westminster	-	0	0	0	0
Outer London	90	30	-	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	10	5	0	0	0
Barnet	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley	5	-	0	0	0
Brent	15	-	0	0	0
Bromley	-	0	0	0	0
Croydon	5	-	0	0	0
Ealing	-	0	0	0	0
Enfield	-	-	0	0	0
Greenwich	-	-	0	0	0
Harrow	-	0	0	0	0
Havering	10	-	0	0	0
Hillingdon	10	-	0	0	0
Hounslow	-	-	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	-	-	0	0	0
Merton	-	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	-	-	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	-	-	0	0	0
Sutton	-	-	-	0	0
Waltham Forest	5	0	0	0	0
South East	160	40	-	0	0
Bracknell Forest	-	0	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	10	-	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	10	-	0	0	0
Hampshire	40	10	-	0	0
Isle of Wight	-	-	0	0	0
Kent	35	10	-	0	0
Medway Towns	5	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	10	-	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	-	-	0	0	0
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0

Number of looked after children at 31 March by foster placements during the, year[1,2,3]
Year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

Number of placements

	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*
Reading	5	0	0	0	0
Slough	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	5	-	0	0	0
Surrey	5	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	-	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	10	-	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	-	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	-	0	0	0	0
South West	100	20	-	-	0
Bath and North East Somerset	-	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	-	0	0	0	0
Bristol, City of	15	-	0	0	0
Cornwall	10	-	-	-	0
Devon	-	-	0	0	0
Dorset	5	-	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	10	-	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	5	-	0	0	0
Plymouth	15	-	0	0	0
Poole	-	-	0	0	0
Somerset	5	-	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	-	0	0	0	0
Swindon	-	0	0	0	0
Torbay	10	-	0	0	0
Wiltshire	5	0	0	0	0

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short—term placements.

[2] Based on children looked after at 31 March 2008 and the number of foster placements during the 2007-08 financial year

[3] Rounding and suppression—to ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. At local authority level the England totals have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, and the numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published table by a (-).